A Comparative Grammar of the Early Germanic Languages

R. D. Fulk

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Volume 3

A Comparative Grammar of the Early Germanic Languages

by R.D. Fulk
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List of abbreviations

acc. accusative
act. active
adj. adjective
adv. Adverb
Alban. Albanian
CG Central German (§1.20)
comp. comparative
conj. conjunction
dat. dative
dem. demonstrative
EWS Early West Saxon (§1.16 n. 1)
esp. especially
fem. feminine
gen. genitive
Gk. Greek
Gmc. Germanic
Go. Gothic
IE Indo-European
imp. imperative
ind. indicative
inf. infinitive
instr. instrumental
intrans. intransitive
Lat. Latin
Lith. Lithuanian
loc. locative
LWS Late West Saxon (§1.16 n. 1)
masc. masculine
ME Middle English
MHG Middle High German
neut. neuter
NGmc. North Germanic
NHG New High German
NLG New Low German
nom. nominative

num. numeral
NWGmc. Northwest Germanic
OCS Old Church Slavonic
OE Old English
OEN Old East Norse (§1.14)
OFris. Old Frisian
OHG Old High German
OLcel. Old Icelandic
OLr. Old Irish
ON Old Norse
OLF Old Low Franconian
OPruss. Old Prussian
opt. optative
orig. original(ly)
OS Old Saxon
OWN Old West Norse (§1.14)
part. participle
pass. passive
PDE Present-Day English
PGmc. Proto-Germanic
PIE Proto-Indo-European
pl. plural
pp. past/passive participle
pres. present
pret. preterite
pron. pronoun
refs. references
sg. singular
sj. subjunctive
Skt. Sanskrit
superl. superlative
trans. transitive
UG Upper German (§1.20)
vb. verb
voc. vocative
WGmc. West Germanic
WS West Saxon
Preface

The present work was undertaken in response to the recognition that there exists no introduction of very recent date to the comparative study of the earliest Germanic languages and the reconstruction of Proto-Germanic suitable for student use (see §1). It is especially remarkable that there exists none in English of more recent date than 1939. Later works generally have less comprehensive aims. Moreover, even the available handbooks tend to offer limited bibliographical guidance, with the result that their prescriptions seem, at times, oracular, though in fact there are relatively few topics in early Germanic linguistics that are uncontroversial. Accordingly, the aim of this book is twofold: to provide students with an overview of early Germanic phonology and inflectional morphology and to furnish such bibliographical references as may be required in the pursuit of further research on any given topic. Naturally, given the enormous volume of published research in this area, bibliographical coverage is constrained; the aim was, rather, to provide students with sufficient references to locate the totality of the relevant literature by referral to more specialized studies. The older literature, in particular, is often left uncited in the assurance that it will be readily discoverable by reference to more recent work.

One generalization that may be gleaned from the following pages is that, as remarked above, there is hardly any topic in early Germanic linguistics about which scholarship is entirely unanimous. An effort has thus been made to refer the reader to alternative views, often without favoring a particular analysis. It would, however, be unhelpful to present every competing explanation as equally probable, and so usually it will be plain which the present writer finds most plausible. Nonetheless, it is not the aim of the present work to offer the last word on any given topic. Moreover, few new analyses are offered. It is the author’s hope that this handbook will be used instead to enable future studies to probe competing hypotheses for their relative probability and to establish what is most credible, even if the preferences indicated herein prove to be unfounded.

Like most comparable works in Indo-European linguistics, the present manual confines itself to considerations of phonology and inflectional morphology, without any systematic attempt to explain derivational morphology. There are already available some excellent guides to derivational morphology in Germanic; for references to these, see §1.

The typescript was submitted to the editors at the end of July 2017, and the referees’ reports were returned in the middle of March 2018. With few additions, the bibliography remains as it was nearly a year ago, since the author’s present circumstances rendered it impracticable to attempt in any concerted fashion to bring it up to date. An exception is that references to Ringe 2006a have for the most part been replaced by references to the revised edition (Ringe 2017), though it was not feasible to do more with the revised edition than to update citations.

One referee for the press recommended that transliterations be supplied for Greek words. Students should be advised that it is not feasible to undertake the study of early Germanic phonology without prior acquaintance at least with the Greek alphabet, if not greater familiarity with the language. Those in need of guidance may consult any grammar of Ancient Greek (e.g. Sihler 1995) or, for the most basic information, any one of a number of Web pages devoted to the topic may be referred to, for example https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_orthography.
A book such as this could not have been compiled without the generous assistance of many individuals. Grateful acknowledgment must go first to Mary Richards, now emerita of Delaware, who probably does not remember the occasion, many years past, on which she planted the germ of an idea out of which this project sprouted. The author’s sincerest thanks are also extended to the board of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for providing the fellowship in 2013–14 that enabled work to begin on this project. It is to be hoped that the final result adequately, if belatedly, repays the debt. Anatoly Liberman, who lent vigorous support in the (otherwise anonymous) fellowship selection process, has over the years been a generous interlocutor and an inspiration. Colin J. Grant provided welcome assistance on some particular points (see §6.15 n. 8). Kari Ellen Gade, who has been the author’s closest colleague and a sustaining influence over the years, lent much-appreciated encouragement and practical support.

Warmest thanks are due to David Fertig, who identified himself as one of the two referees who vetted the typescript for the publisher and who provided a meticulous, substantial, and singularly helpful set of recommendations, from which the book has benefited immensely. Any remaining deficiencies are, of course, attributable solely to the author. At John Benjamins, the editors of the Studies in Germanic Linguistics series, B. Richard Page, Mike Putnam, and Laura Catharine Smith, have provided invaluable help. The Acquisitions Editor at Benjamins, Anke de Looper, showed patience and latitude in the face of the challenges that a book such as this poses to the Studies in Germanic Linguistics series, and for that, sincere gratitude is due her.

Finally, it should be apparent on every page of this book that it owes its existence to the intellectual care devoted to comparative Germanic and Indo-European linguistics by countless teachers—most, though not all, long since reduced to words on a page—from whose instruction the author has benefited these many years. It is his great privilege to have known not a few of them.

R.D.F.
New York City
May 2018
CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Early Germanic phonology and morphology: general bibliography

Handbooks of early Gmc. in general, with varying attention to the reconstruction of PGmc., include Ramat 1981, van Coetsem & Kufner 1972, Krahe & Meid 1969 (succeeding Loewe 1933), Guchmann et al. 1962–6, Prokosch 1939, Hirt 1931–4, Boer 1924, Kluge 1913, Paul 1900–9, Dieter 1900, and Streitberg 1896. Euler 2013 is devoted to the WGmc. protolanguage and its development into the attested older languages. Ringe 2017, not a grammar but a narrative, traces developments from PIE to PGmc.; likewise Ringe & Taylor 2014 from PGmc. to OE, both with copious lists illustrating sound changes. More theoretical is Voyles 1992. Hutterer 1975 may be useful for general external history. Of these, Paul 1900–9 and Hirt 1931–4 are notable for attempting to provide extensive bibliographical coverage of individual topics.

Specifically devoted to PGmc. phonology is Noreen 1894. For an excellent guide to derivational morphology, see Krahe & Meid 1969: III, and on both inflectional and derivational morphology, see Bammesberger 1986a (verbs) and 1990 (nominals). The derivational morphology of Gmc. nominals is also covered thoroughly in Kluge 1926, and specifically for Gothic in Casaretto 2004. For bibliography on Gmc. morphology, consult Seymour 1968. For the Gmc. lexicon, some useful sources are Kroonen 2013a, Orel 2003, and Torp & Falk 1909. On PGmc. syntax, see Walkden 2014, Hopper 1975, Lehmann 1972.

A very substantial bibliography will be found in Markey, Kyes, & Roberge 1977. The most thorough bibliographical source covering the period from 1948 to the present is the annual Linguistic bibliography for the year..., with supplement for the years 1939–47.

See further §§1.11–20 for general bibliography on the individual languages.

1.2 The Indo-European background of Germanic

The Germanic languages are a subgroup of the Indo-European family of languages. It is a well-defined subgroup, showing a number of distinctive traits that differentiate it from other IE languages, such as the results of Grimm’s law (§6.4), the development of a distinction between the strong and weak inflection of adjectives (§9.7), and the rise of verb preterites marked by a dental suffix (§12.32). In conceptualizing the relation between Germanic and other IE languages, the comparative method whereby Proto-Indo-
European has been reconstructed very nearly demands a genealogical model like a family tree, with each language or language group represented by a node on a branching diagram. Such a representation as a branching tree, or Stammbaum, was first proposed by Schleicher (1860: 81), as shown in Figure 1. In such a model, the protolanguage is assumed to have developed dialects which eventually diverged sufficiently to be regarded as separate languages, which in turn underwent the same process repeatedly. An assumption underlying such a Stammbaum is thus that once languages diverge in this manner, each develops separately, without the influence of one upon another. It has frequently been pointed out that this is not a realistic model of language development, for a variety of reasons, the most obvious of which is that languages do not generally develop in isolation, but changes may affect more than one language at once, proceeding diatopically in a wave-like pattern (as described in the so-called Wellentheorie ‘wave theory’, first posited by J. Schmidt 1872). An example of this is umlaut, which affected West Germanic after the rise of recognizably different West Germanic languages, perhaps affecting Old English first (§4.7). Changes may also affect different languages in identical ways, often because related languages contain identical structures that are ripe for particular kinds of alterations (in the ‘drift’ model first proposed by Sapir 1921: 160–82). Tree diagrams do encode

Fig. 1. The Indo-European Stammbaum of Schleicher (1860: 81). Here PIE lies at the base of the tree, and the uppermost branches represent the living IE language families known to Schleicher (Germanic, Baltic, Slavic, Celtic, Italic, Albanian, Hellenic, Iranian, Indic). The letter a marks a branch labeled Asiatic-South European, b North European, c Asiatic, d South European, e Balto-Slavic, f Italo-Celtic.
useful information in a convenient, memorable form. For example, Schleicher’s tree reveals at a glance that there are greater similarities between the Baltic and the Slavic languages than are detectable between these and any other language group. But trees also by their nature make specific claims about issues that may in fact be controversial, such as the robustness of the affinity between Italic and Celtic, and the precise relation of Albanian to the other IE languages. The proper position of Germanic within such a tree is particularly difficult to determine.4 When the wave theory and the Stammbaum theory are viewed properly, however, i.e. as necessarily inadequate models of language development, the two are not fundamentally incompatible: “the former is a model of how sound-changes can spread; the other a model of the general results of successive sound-changes” (Hines 1995: 35–6).5

The Stammbaum model (or ‘cladistic model’ in some recent treatments) also appears to proceed from the premise that any protolanguage was at first uniform in nature, whereas the study of modern languages shows that protolanguages are likely from the start to have had dialects, perhaps both regional and social. Moreover, some such dialects might be difficult to classify as belonging to just one of two languages with which it shares features. These observations have some relevance to the much-disputed question of when and where Proto-Indo-European was spoken.6 A particular complication is that the Anatolian languages are so markedly different from the other Indo-European languages that on any branching tree their divergence should be placed well before the differentiation of the remaining languages, and so the problem of identifying the date and place of IE origins depends on how the relation of Anatolian is to be recognized.

Although there is no scholarly consensus about these issues, the predominant view now is that the IE languages originated in the steppeland of Ukraine and southern Russia, in the so-called Pontic area north of the Black and Caspian Seas, in the second half of the fourth millennium BCE.7 Although many parts of Europe and Asia are compatible with the place of origin suggested by the reconstructible PIE vocabulary of flora and fauna, what is known of PIE burial practices and wheeled vehicles is especially associable with steppeland cultures of that period known as ‘kurgan peoples’ for their use of funerary tumuli known as ‘kurgans’, a term based on the Russian word for such.

The chief competing hypothesis today is that of Renfrew (1987, along with Gamkrelidze & Ivanov 1995), who would place the IE homeland in Anatolia and the Caucasus in the seventh millennium BCE, as part of an argument that it was agriculture rather than warfare that made the Indo-Europeans so successful. This hypothesis is not as widely credited by archaeologists and linguists.8 The linguistic objection has often been raised that it is difficult to reconcile with lexical evidence such as the shared IE vocabulary of wheeled vehicles. Such vehicles seem first to have been used in the second half of the fourth millennium, supporting the steppeland hypothesis, though Renfrew (e.g., 2002: 8–9) has responded that after the differentiation of the IE language branches they could all have borrowed the relevant terms along with the technology. It has been argued, moreover, that Renfrew’s alternative, earlier dating can be associated with the period during which Anatolian developed as a discrete branch (Gray & Atkinson 2003, Atkinson et al. 2005).9

On the distinction between centum- and satem-languages, see §6.1.


3. A third approach, the Entfaltungs-theorie ‘developmental theory’ of Höffer (1955–56, supported by, e.g., Penzl 1988a, 1988b), calls for more carefully calibrated reconstruction within the framework of the Stammbaum-theorie and posits nondistinctive features in the protolanguage developing in divergent fashion in the daughter languages (hence their Entfaltung).


6. For a wide-ranging discussion of the scholarship on the date and place of IE origins, see Mallory 1989. More concise, with more recent information, is Fortson 2010: §§2.50–73.


8. One important archaeological critique of Renfrew’s argument is that of Gimbutas (1997: 338–44). For an enlightening overview of various theories about the original home and early movements of the Indo-Europeans, see Polomé 1993.

9. Current debate deals with the question whether certain modern IE languages (including English) should be derived from known earlier states of those languages, as recorded in preserved written form, or from forms of those languages assumed to have differed from the formalized, presumably more artificial written records; the former position supports the steppeland hypothesis (see, e.g., Chang et al. 2015, responding, in part, to Bouckaert et al. 2012), the latter the Anatolian hypothesis (see Wade 2015). Whether or not there was any Anatolian migration into Europe in the seventh millennium BCE (for reasons to doubt, see Fortson 2010: §2.71), genetic evidence supports the migration of steppeland peoples into what is now Germany in the third millennium BCE: see Haak et al. 2015, Novembre 2015.

1.3 Distinguishing characteristics of Germanic

Hirt (1931–4: §20) lists nineteen characteristics of the Gmc. language family that distinguish it from other IE language groups. The following is based loosely on his list (see also §1.2 n. 2.):

(1) Change of the PIE pitch accent to a stress accent and shift of place to a fixed position in the word (§2.2 infra).
(2) Shift of consonant values governed by Grimm’s law (§6.4).
(3) The rise of geminate consonants (§6.8).
(4) Neutralization of the contrast between PIE o and a, as well as stressed $H$ (§3.2).
The realization of PIE syllabic sonorant consonants as $u$ + sonorant ($§3.2$).

Systematization of ablaut, e.g. final severance of any connection between ablaut alternations and accent, and the use of ablaut to distinguish verb tenses ($§3.6$).

Changes to final syllables under the ‘laws of finals’ ($§§5.1$–$6$).

Fusion of stem formatives with inflections, with the attendant transference of grammatical information to the inflection, e.g. gender in nouns ($§7.1$).

Reduction of the eight or nine nominal cases of PIE to four or five ($§7.3$).

Extensive changes to the pronominal system, especially as the result of analogy ($§§8.2$–$15$).

Increased productivity of the class of $n$-stems and the rise of weak adjectives ($§7.29$, 9.7).

Innovations in the inflection of strong adjectives, distinguishing their declension from that of nouns ($§9.2$).

Unproductivity of PIE patterns of stem formation in the present tense of verbs ($§12.9$).

Loss of the $s$-aorist and the imperfect ($§12.9$).

Conversion of the PIE perfect to the Gmc. preterite ($§12.9$).

Merger of the aorist with the perfect in the formation of the Gmc. preterite (possibly: $§12.25$).

Loss of various non-finite verb formations, and especially the rise of a uniform infinitive formation ($§12.30$).

Loss of perfect and middle participles.

Influence of unstressed vowels upon stressed ($§§4.3$–$4$), though most such changes postdate the PGmc. period.

To this list may be added some others, including the following:

The rise of new preterite formations in weak and preterite-present verbs ($§§12.32$–$3$).

Reduction of the verb moods of PIE to three, with the etymological optative assuming the functions of the subjunctive ($§12.9$).

An increasing tendency toward unproductivity in nominal classes other than the PIE $o$-, $ā$-, and $n$-stems ($§7.1$).

Unproductivity in strong verbs, with later narrowing of productivity chiefly to the second weak class ($§§12.12$, 12.32).

### 1.4 The position of Germanic within the Indo-European family

Unlike Schleicher’s Stammbaum ($§1.2$), modern reconstructions commonly represent the main branches of the IE family tree as proceeding directly from PIE, as if PIE broke all at once into so many different varieties. The Indo-Iranian and Balto-Slavic branches are the exceptions, each representing a period of common development before the two constituent language groups of each went their separate ways. The histories of the IE daughter languages in the various branches themselves suggest that this is not a plausible
view of the rise of the daughter languages, since their Stammbäume show many intermediate branchings, and such should therefore be expected between PIE itself and the rise of the major language families within it. Yet in most cases it is exceedingly difficult to specify with assurance particular affinities between IE branches, and this is especially true in connection with Germanic. Such similarities as are discoverable between Germanic and any other particular IE branch are not generally impressive and may not be common inheritances from the mother language but the result of later contact between neighboring peoples or of substrate influence (§§1.4–5) or, in some cases, of convergent but independent developments.¹

Nonetheless, it is commonly assumed that the earliest Germanic formed part of a northern European IE linguistic continuum that produced the Celtic, Italic, and Germanic, and perhaps the Balto-Slavic, language groups.² This continuum is sometimes referred to as ‘Northwest Indo-European’, in consequence of the research of Meillet (1908: 23) into the vocabulaire du nord-ouest. Celtic, Italic, and Germanic are generally agreed to belong to this grouping; there is much greater disagreement about whether Baltic and Slavic should be included in the group (see Euler 1997: 103–4 for references).³

Among the languages of Europe, some especially close parallels to distinctive features of Germanic are to be found in Balto-Slavic.⁴ The most striking of these is the use of -m- in the dative (instrumental) plural of nouns where *-bh- is reflected in other IE branches (§§7.2, 7.8 n.17). Other shared features include trimoric vowels of disputed origin in certain inflections, such as the nom. sg. of masc. and neut. n-stems (see Jasanoff 2002: 37–8), the neutralization of the PIE a/o distinction (though in opposite directions), present participles in *-nt-jo- (in West Germanic), inchoative verbal suffix -n-, and adjectives in *-isk- (e.g. Go. gudisks ‘divine’, Lith. dañgiškas ‘heavenly’, OCS slověnьskъ ‘Slavic’). Lexical commonalities have been studied in detail (see, e.g., Porzig 1954: 139–47, Stang 1972, Mańczak 1985b), and although the project of discerning affinities on the basis of shared vocabulary is fraught with difficulties, it does seem likely that many lexical connections between Germanic and Balto-Slavic are quite ancient.⁵ Euler (1997: 110–11, with references) summarizes specifically Baltic morphological parallels, such as comparatives containing *-is-, as in Go. mins ‘less’, OPruсс. massais ‘fewer’ (see especially Schmid 1989, with further references), and parallels in the formation of the dual pronouns, e.g. Lith. (Samogitian) vê-du, Go. wit ‘we two’. Among the numerals, OE forma ‘first’ is parallel to OPruсс. pirmas ‘first’, both with a distinctive -m- suffix; and there are similarities between the Germanic and Baltic numerals ‘11’ and ‘12’; but on the problems associated with the connection, see Bednarczuk 1999: 44. Schmid (1986: 164–5) points out how ablaut patterns in Baltic verbs parallel those in most Gmc. strong verb classes, extending even to the lengthened grade in the preterite of the fourth and fifth classes: to Go. niman ‘take’, pret. pl. nēmum, cf. Lith. lēmė ‘break’, pret. lēmė, and to Go. bidjan ‘request’, pret. 3 pl. bēdun, cf. Lith. splepia ‘conceal’, pret. splepė. He also notes the twofold adjective inflection of Germanic and Balto-Slavic and parallels in regard to the influence of pronominal inflection on adjective formation.⁶

The question of ties between Germanic, on the one hand, and Italic and Celtic, on the other, is not entirely separable from the fraught question of the relations between the latter two, but it is now generally agreed that the sharing of features is due to language contact beginning ca. 1500 BCE, though a few features could stem from an earlier period
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of unity among Germanic, Italic, and Celtic, such as conversion of the PIE pitch accent to a stress accent, use of the suffix *-tūt- (as in Lat. juven-tūt- ‘youth’, OIr. *bētha ‘life’, gen. *bēthad < *gīyo-tūt-, Go. ajukdūþs ‘eternity’), and the development of *-tt- to *-ts- > -ss-, e.g. in Lat. vīsus ‘seen’, cf. OIr. fūss ‘knowledge’ and OHG gi-wissi ‘certain’ (but cf. K.H. Schmidt 1986: 233). It is also largely consensus that ethnic Italic speakers migrated from northern Europe, and from that point in time lexical borrowings between the Germanic and Celtic branches (the former usually borrowing from the latter) become prominent, perhaps because the Germanic and Celtic groups had earlier been separated by the Italic. Thus, Italo-Germanic contact stems from the Bronze Age (cf. Lat. aes, Go. aiz ‘copper, bronze’, from *djęs, also shared with Indo-Iranian with the meaning ‘iron’), whereas Celto-Germanic contact stems from the Iron Age (cf. Gaulish īsarno-, Go. eisarn, etc., shared with no other IE branch). A considerable number of fairly basic lexical items are shared between Italic and Germanic. One exclusively Italo-Germanic isogloss is the use of *-no- to form distributive numerals from adverbs, e.g. Lat. bīnī ‘twofold’ < *djęs-noi; cf. bis ‘twice’). Olcel. tvennr < *twiz-naz. Another is the use of the suffix *-nē to indicate direction from, as in Lat. su-perne ‘from above’, Go. Ļutana ‘from without’ (Krahe 1954: 72). Cf. also the use of the directional suffix *-tr- in Lat. extrā ‘outside’, Go. huaprō ‘whence’, etc., and the existence of in-stems beside ōn-stems, e.g. in Umbrian natine (Lat. natiōne, reformed analogically) and Go. managei ‘multitude’. There are also striking parallels between Latin and Germanic in connection with the Gmc. weak classes of verbs, e.g., in the third class, Go. pahan ‘be silent’, ana-silan ‘be silent’, to which cf. Lat. tacēre, silēre (see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.1.5). Also notable is the parallel between Gmc. preterites with a long vowel in the fourth and fifth strong classes and Lat. perfects, e.g. Go. sētum, Lat. sēdimus ‘we sat’, though there are parallels also in Baltic (Euler 1997: 106). Scholarship on Celto-Germanic isoglosses is summarized by K.H. Schmidt (1984; 1991: 139–47), focusing on shared vocabulary, which he divides into five strata, the earliest of which includes the administrative terms Go. reiks ‘ruler’ (borrowed before the application of Grimm’s law from Celtic *rīg- < PIE *rēg-) and OE ombeht ‘attendant’ (cf. Gaulish ambactus in Caesar, with amb- from PIE *ambh-)’, shown by their form to have undergone Celtic phonological developments before being borrowed into Germanic. The initial stress of Germanic has also been postulated as a feature derived from close contact with Celtic (Polomé 1992b: 58–9). See further Polomé 1983, Untermann 1989.

Germanic bears, as well, some affinities to Illyrian and Venetic, two European IE languages attested only fragmentarily. For example, in Germanic and Illyrian, possessive pronouns are formed with a suffix *-no-, as in OHG mǐn, dǐn, sǐn (see §8.5 on the origin of the Gmc. forms), and to Venetic acc. sg. mečo ‘me’ cf. Go. mik, both formed by analogy to the corresponding nominative pronoun (H.F. Nielsen 1989: 25). On Germanic and Hellenic, see Polomé 1986b.

Although the standard view is that Germanic vastly simplified the IE verb system that it inherited, it has sometimes been argued that the relative simplicity of the Gmc. system, with a simple contrast between present and preterite (i.e., without a trace of the future or the imperfect, or, in the view of some, e.g. Hiersche 1984: 96 and Polomé 1993: 47, of the aorist, though cf., e.g., Bammesberger 1988a) and no subjunctive mood (since the Gmc. subjunctive reflects the PIE optative), is a sign of the archaic nature of
Germanic, aligning it with Anatolian, which has a similarly unelaborated verb system. The assumption thus is that IE features like the imperfect and the subjunctive developed in PIE after the Anatolian and Germanic branches had broken away, at an early date. The degree of credence lent this hypothesis by scholars usually depends upon the degree of credence lent the glottalic theory of PIE consonantism (§6.2), according to which Germanic is supposed to point to a more archaic inventory of PIE obstruents than nearly all other IE subgroups. K.H. Schmidt (1991: 136) objects to this analysis, observing that the Gmc. preterite, unlike the Anatolian, is based on the PIE perfect, and perhaps the aorist, and that Anatolian attests to a morphological aspectual system that the evidence of Vedic shows to be ancient (a view strongly contradicted by Ringe 1998).


2. For an elementary survey of Gmc. relations, see Ernst & Fischer 2001: 60–108. Several of the chapters in references to studies of the relations among Italic, Celtic, Germanic, Baltic, and Slavic, see Euler 1997: 103.


6. In addition, Polomé (1997: 200) mentions “inflectional similarities in the causatives” and “the *-adjectives.”

7. To the contrary, Euler (1997) argues that the connections between Germanic and Italic are no less important than those between Germanic and Baltic, and those between Germanic and Slavic are considerably less salient. By contrast, Mańczak (2000) attempts to show that the lexical connections between languages, which Euler regards as less significant than morphological parallels, are more important.

8. The main components of this analysis were laid down by Krahe 1954. For a survey of research in this area, see K.H. Schmidt 1986.

9. A few examples: Lat. lingua (Old Lat. lingua), Go. tuggō ‘tongue’; Lat. caput, OICel. hofhuot ‘head’; Lat. collus, Go. hals ‘neck’; Lat. limus ‘mud’, OE lām ‘loam’; Lat. aqua, Go. apha ‘water’; Lat. grēman < *ghras-men-, Go. gras ‘gras’ (see Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §4, with further examples).
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11. On more recent Gallo-Roman loans in Gmc., from the first half of the first millennium CE, see Guinet 1982.


1.5 Substrate influence upon Germanic

According to the prevailing view, Indo-Europeans in central Europe first migrated north in the first half of the third millennium BCE, and they were successful because of technological innovations they carried with them, particularly in connection with warfare (see, e.g., Gimbutas 1997: 240–68, 321–31, also Polomé 1987b, and cf. §1 supra). It is natural to assume that in such a situation the language of the Indo-Europeans was adopted by the peoples they conquered (see, e.g., Meid 1984), and therefore it should be expected that some of the distinctive traits of the individual IE branches and languages should be derivable from pre-IE languages spoken in Europe. Quite a number of Germanic terms for flora and fauna and products made from them have no plausible IE source, and this is an area in which it should be expected that local terms already in use should have been retained (see, e.g., Polomé 1986a: 665–70, 1992a, Bande et al. 2002–5: I, 572–93, Kroonen 2013b). For the same reason, many place names must be pre-IE, especially in the area of hydronymy.¹ The study of substrate influence upon Germanic, however, is laden with difficulties, not least of which is that little or nothing is known for certain about the presumed substrate languages (or language?) involved.² Their features can be divined only by identifying them with features of Germanic that mark it as different from other IE branches, and yet this leads to circular reasoning, since it is generally impossible to be certain that any given unusual Gmc. feature does not have some origin other than substrate influence.

Nonetheless, certain features do suggest substrate influence upon Germanic. Salmons (1992) discusses three such features, though he also raises questions about their validity. One is the confusion of /a/ and /o/ in languages of the northern European linguistic continuum, as evidenced by perceived borrowings (e.g. *œblu ‘apple’) from a substrate language in which no distinction between the two vowels was maintained (see Hamp 1979, and cf. Adams 1985, arguing that ‘apple’ is an IE word). Another feature is unusual word structure. It is a peculiarity of PIE that biconsonantal roots in the language do not generally contain two plain voiced stops, e.g. no *deg- (§6.2). A possible Gmc. example is OIcel. kati ‘small ship’, NLG kat ‘small vehicle’ (Orel 2003: 211). A third feature is roots containing *b, especially in initial position, as this sound probably was not part of the PIE consonantal inventory, at least in initial position (§§6.1–2, but cf. Meid 1984: 107). Examples are OHG pflug ‘plow’ < *blōg- and OIcel. skip ‘ship’ < *skib-. Orel 2003 in fact lists 32 Gmc. etyma with initial p-. Boutkan (1998, 1999), on the other hand, proposes to explain unusual suffixal ablaut alternations as a substrate effect, e.g. *-ud- beside *-ið- in OE hēafod, OIcel. hǫfuð vs. Go. háubiþ, OS hōƀid ‘head’.
Although there has been widespread disagreement about the extent of the substrate vocabulary in Gmc., most scholars regard the incidence as particularly high in this branch: e.g., Markey (1988a: 7–8; cf. Kallio 1997: 127) estimates that such constitutes 28 percent of the Germanic ‘core’ vocabulary. Given the obstacles to establishing substrate influence, it should not be surprising that the endeavor has produced some especially speculative and fanciful attempts. In this respect it is prudent to heed the advice of Polomé (1989: 54–5) about what criteria should be taken into account before lexical borrowings are posited:

(a) the lexical items under consideration must either belong to the basic vocabulary of the language or relate to the type of cultural activities that characterize the civilization of the pre-Indo-European population or describe specific elements relevant to the ecology of the area; (b) there must be clear evidence that the terms belong to the archaic vocabulary of the Northern European languages under investigation and that they can not plausibly be explained as part of their Indo-European heritage; (c) the vocabulary tentatively identified as ‘non-Indo-European’ must be screened for possible ancient borrowings from neighboring language families or ‘Wanderwörter’; d) the terms must be analyzed linguistically to look for any discrepant phonological and/or morphological features that would point to their non-Indo-European background.

Despite much fruitless discussion, the etymology of Latin Germani is unknown (see, e.g., K.H. Schmidt 1991: 132–3). Quite possibly the term is not Germanic in origin, or it originally applied to a small group of Germanic speakers, but it was always a Latin term, not natively applied to themselves by speakers of Germanic languages (see Meid 1986: 210–11, Wagner 1986a).


2. Wiik (1995, 1997, and elsewhere) has argued that such Gmc. features as initial stress, Grimm’s law, and Verner’s law are due to a Uralic substrate, but the arguments are implausible: see Kallio 1997. Substrate vocabulary plays a role in the ‘Nordwestblock-Hypothese’ of Hans Kuhn, elaborated in many of his publications (e.g. Hachmann et al. 1962), of a culture neither Celtic nor Germanic along the North Sea coast up to the Iron Age: for discussion and partial support, see Meid 1986, and for an overview of the evidence, see Novak 2011. Schrijver (2014) attempts to remedy the problem of the unknown substrate by focusing chiefly on relatively recent prehistory and on languages in which the substrate can be identified on historical grounds with some confidence, e.g. Celtic for English and Romance for Dutch, though he also locates the origin of Germanic in a Finnic substrate speaking IE (2014: 158–96). See Schrijver 2004 on NWGmc. and Saami. The literature on Celtic influence on English is especially extensive: see, e.g., Filppula & Klemola 2009, with references.

3. On the other hand, Polomé (1987b: 236), interpreting the findings of Bird 1982, finds that in the entries in Pokorny 1959–69, Germanic has the highest incidence of inherited IE vocabulary of any IE branch and the highest level of co-occurrence with other branches. See also Scardigli 1987.

4. For bibliography, see Schrodt 1976 and Vennemann 1984a, the latter arguing for a non-IE superstrate, an idea dismissed by Markey (1986: 254 n. 6). An example of a lexical study with notable methodological shortcomings is Gysseling 1987, critiqued by Polomé 1989. Several unconvincing attempts have been made to explain Grimm’s law, and other non-lexical distinguishing features of Germanic, as due to a substrate, e.g. Devleeschouwer 1985–6: 28–9.

5. Author’s note: As Polomé explains, Wanderwörter are “words that have spread with the object, like the native American designations of products of the New World, e.g. potato, tomato, chocolate, etc.: a classical example is ‘hemp’ (ON hanpr, OE hennep, OS hanap, OHG hanaf) which entered Germanic before initial *k- became h- (cf. OCS konopljá, Lith. kanapės, OPruss. knapios, Alban. kanep, Gk. κάνναβις [whence Lat.
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1.6 The Reconstruction of Proto-Germanic

The hypothetical language from which the Germanic languages descend is referred to as Proto-Germanic. The methods used to reconstruct Proto-Germanic are in some respects different from those used to reconstruct PIE. The latter is arrived at by comparison of the IE languages and the reconstructed protolanguages from which the attested IE languages derive, with minor elaboration on the basis of internal reconstruction. The shape of Proto-Germanic, on the other hand, must be determined not only by these methods but also by taking into account known features of PIE. For example, the alternations governed by Verner’s law (§6.6) cannot be explained solely on the basis of what is observable in the Germanic languages themselves; Verner relied upon patterns of accentuation in Sanskrit verbs to explain the alternations, and thus he reconstructed for Proto-Germanic a pattern of alternating accent not reconstructible (or at least not recognizable) from the evidence afforded by the Germanic languages alone.

It must be kept in mind, as well, that there is something unrealistic about the way protolanguages are generally reconstructed. Under the comparative method, related languages are compared in order to arrive at a unitary reconstruction of a uniform language such as the Stammbaum theory invites (§1.2), whereas all natural languages show internal variation, which may correlate, for example, to sociolects and regional dialects. It is best, therefore, not to lose sight of the fact that Proto-Germanic as reconstructed is an abstraction and must not be assumed to represent in all its details any actual prehistoric language, no matter how close an approximation it may be to that. For this reason and others, some scholars prefer to discard the idea of a ‘Proto-Germanic’ language and refer only to Common Germanic, by which is meant a stage in the development of the Germanic languages when all dialectal and sociolectal varieties were still mutually intelligible.

Another layer of abstraction to be recognized is particularly evident in regard to phonology. The comparative method allows the reconstruction of a phonemic system whose members, for the sake of convenience, are represented by phonetic symbols, though the phonetic associations of such symbols may be too definite for reconstructed phonemes. Phonemes are by their nature abstractions, being mental categories into which actual speech sounds are grouped. Reconstructed phonemes are even more abstract, since the range of actual sounds they may have encompassed is largely irrecoverable. For example, the reflexes of the phoneme reconstructed as PIE *ē are identifiable in the modern Gmc. languages, e.g. Mod.Icel. /au/, NHG /a/, PDE /i/, and from these may be reconstructed a PGmc. phoneme, but it cannot be known for certain what precise range of sounds the reconstructed phoneme represents. When Penzl (1988a: 2, and elsewhere), among others, posits non-phonemic umlaut variants for the Gmc. protolanguage itself (cf. Liberman 1991: 125), or for the NWGmc. protolanguage (Penzl 1988b: 502–3), this may be the most economical way to account for the existence of phonemic umlaut variants in
the attested languages, but it is by no means inevitable that any such variants should have existed in Proto-Germanic, especially since there is no trace of them in Gothic (despite claims to the contrary, answered by Cercignani 1980a; see also Wienold 1967, and cf. Antonsen 2002: 252–3). The point is not that phonetic detail ought not to be built into any reconstruction of the proto-language, but that such detail is considerably more conjectural than the more abstract system of phonemic oppositions to be reconstructed. Penzl’s objection (1988a: 3–4) that only structure is generally recoverable, and not the kind of sub-phonemic detail demanded by the glottalic theory (§9.2), is thus not fully valid, though it is true that such detail renders the theory more speculative than reconstructions that delineate phonemic oppositions without invoking any considerable degree of detail.

1. An example of such internal reconstruction is Szemerényi’s law (see Szemerényi 1996: §6.2.7.1, and see further Kümmel 2015), according to which the lengthened grade found in the nom. sg. of some IE consonant-stem classes (those ending in a nasal, a liquid, or a postvocalic dental, including s) represents compensatory lengthening upon loss of final *-s, or *-h₂, e.g. *sugsor ‘sister’ < *sugors. Comparison to other stem classes leads to the expectation that *-s should originally have appeared in forms like this one, but it can be reconstructed only on the basis of considerations internal to PIE rather than to comparative evidence. Cf. Kotin 2012: 136. Szemerényi himself points out that he was not the first to posit this change, but in the subsequent literature it is commonly given his name.

2. The meanings assigned in the literature to the terms Urgermanisch and Gemeingermanisch have been notably various. For a survey of usage, see Hutterer 1975: 74‒6. On this topic see also Lane 1978, with useful observations on the relation between methodological rigor and abstractness of reconstruction.

1.7 Germanic loanwords in Finnish

A considerable number of words were borrowed from Germanic into the Finnic languages of the Baltic region, as attested chiefly by Finnish, evidencing extensive cultural influence. Some such words must have been borrowed at an early date, since they preserve features that antedate changes assignable to Pmc. For example, Finnish rengas ‘ring’ derives from Pmc. *xrengaz (> Go. hrings, Olcel. hringr), antedating the Pmc. raising of *e in this word (§4.4) as well as the reduction or loss of inflectional -az, preserved as such in the Gmc. languages only in Runic. Some further examples of borrowing are Finnish kuningas ‘king’ < Pmc. *kuningaz > OE cyning; Finnish tiuris ‘beast’ from Pmc. *diuriz > OE dēor. For a comprehensive lexicon of such borrowings, see Hahmo et al. 1991–2012. For wide-ranging discussion, with references to the extensive literature, see Koivulehto 1999 (an anthology); also useful is Fromm 1957–8.1 For an overview, see Koivulehto 2002.

1. An argument for dating Germanic loans into Finnish prior to the First Consonant Shift (§6.4) is offered by Koivulehto & Vennemann 1996. On dating, see also Ritter 2002.

1.8 The three branches of Germanic

Within the Gmc. family of languages there are three broadly recognizable groups: East, North, and West Germanic. The East Gmc. languages are all extinct, and aside from
Gothic and Crimean Gothic, only Vandalic and Burgundian are attested with any security, though only in the most fragmentary state. The North Gmc. languages are those of both continental and insular Scandinavia, along with the languages of Scandinavian colonizers. The remaining languages comprise West Germanic, a group that in the present day includes High and Low German, Yiddish, Luxembourgish, Pennsylvania German, Dutch, Afrikaans, Frisian, English, and Scots.

Given the fragmentary nature of the evidence aside from Gothic (§1.11), then, it is not possible to identify features that can with assurance be called distinctively East Germanic. A few of the many features that distinguish Gothic from the NGmc. and WGmc. languages, however, may be indicated: (a) retention of reduplication in the seventh class of strong verbs, without innovatory replacements for these (§12.20); (b) genitive plural in -ē in all noun classes except feminine -ō-, ēn-, and ein-stems (cf. OHG OS -o, OE ON -a, §7.8); (c) dat. pl. ending -am (PIE *-omis, North and West Gmc. -um) in a-stem, nd-stem, and masc. and neut. n-stem nouns; (d) acc. pl. endings -ans, -ins, -uns; (e) vocative case in nouns; (f) dual forms in verbs; (g) inherited synthetic passive forms in the present tense (§12.29); (h) 3 sg. imp. forms of verbs; (i) coalescence of PGmc. *i and *e (§4.5); (j) the loss of alternations under Verner’s law in verbs (§6.6); and (k) fairly transparent compounding in the formation of weak pretorians, e.g. 3 pl. pret. domiddedun ’judged’ (Penzl 1985: 161). Gothic also lacks umlaut and other Fernassimilationen (distance assimilations) in vowels (§§4.3–4, 4.7–8); and PGmc. ē, fails to be lowered.¹

North Germanic is distinguished from the other two branches by features including the following: (a) (probably) stressed NGmc. ā > ā (§4.6, but unstressed e, later i, §5.6); (b) ai > wi (> Olc. ei, §4.9); (c) non-initial h is lost except before s (§6.14); (d) initial *j is lost (§6.4, though a new initial j arises by stress shift in diphthongs, §§4.8–9); (e) w is lost before back vowels and their umlauts, even when r intervenes (§6.4); (f) final ld, nd, ng yield lt, nt, ŋk, later lt, tt, kk (§6.4); (g) n is lost, with compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel, before s (§4.9, though this also occurs in NSGmc., §4.11); (h) there arose a middle voice marked by the suffix -sk, -mk (and variants) from the reflexive pronouns sik, mik (§12.29); (i) there arose a definite article him, placed before adjectives or after nouns, to which it was later suffixed (§8.11); (j) pretonic syllables, including verb prefixes, were lost (§5.7).

Features setting West Germanic apart from East and North Germanic include these: (a) consonant gemination (§6.15, though velars are geminated also in North Germanic, §6.14); (b) formation of the 2 sg. pret. of strong verbs with -i (OE -e; §12.25); (c) loss of the nom. sg. ending *-az in masc. a-stems (§7.8); (d) change of PGmc. /d/ to /d/ (§6.16); (e) loss of /w/ internally after velar consonants, as in OHG OS OE singan ‘sing’; Go. siggwan, Olc. syngva;² (f) loss of weak verbs in -nan as a recognizable class (§12.48); (g) gerunds in *-anja-(§12.30); (h) nom. sg. masc. *-ōn in the n-stems (§7.31); (i) formation of abstract nouns with the suffixes OHG -heit, -schaft, and -tum and cognates; and (j) retention of *dōn ‘do’ as an independent verb. For further examples (not all of them unassailable), see Voyles 1971 and the other works cited by Stiles (2013: 15 n. 16).

¹. This is apparently a general EGmc. characteristic, as ē appears as i in elements of certain Burgundian and Vandalic personal names, e.g. -mir(is), -rid (= Go. -mērs, -rēps).
2. This rule is complicated by the divergent developments of *xʷ in OE sēon ‘see’ < *sexʷana and pret. pl. sāwon < *sēʒʷan(b). That the loss of postconsonantal w was a late development ascribable to the individual languages is shown by the velar stop (rather than affricate) in the OE ja-stems jīcce ‘thick’, mirce ‘dim’ (Luick 1914–40: §637 Anm. 4).

1.9  The grouping of the three Germanic branches

After much controversy, there seems now to have emerged a fairly broad consensus that East Germanic branched off from Proto-Germanic with the departure of East Germanic speakers (Goths and others) from the Baltic littoral, an event dated to some period between the first century BCE and the second and third centuries CE. The remaining dialect continuum then corresponds to what is commonly called Northwest Germanic, out of which North and West Germanic are to be derived. There is little agreement, however, about how North and West Germanic developed out of this continuum: see §1.10.

That the North and West Gmc. languages should derive from a Northwest Gmc. protolanguage is by no means an inevitable assumption, and indeed, a number of nineteenth-century scholars, including Müllenhoff 1900: 108–32, Scherer 1995 [1868], and Zimmer 1876, believed that North and East Gmc. share enough features that they should be assumed to derive from a Northeast Gmc. protolanguage—a supposition no doubt influenced by the widespread belief that the Goths originated in Scandinavia (see §1.12). The idea of East and North Gmc. unity was revived by Schwarz (1951; similarly Jungandreas 1949: 30), whose refinement of the hypothesis is to suppose that North Sea Germanic originally was closely allied with the Gmc. dialects of the continent. The following are among the similarities that have been remarked between East and North Germanic:

(a)  The rise of stop articulation in the Verschärfung, whereby PGmc. *-jj- > Go. -ddj-, Olc. -ggj-, and PGmc. *-ww- > Go. Olc. -ggw-. See §6.10.
(b)  Retention of the ending -t < PIE *-tha in the 2 sg. pret. ind. of strong verbs (vs. WGmc. -i), as in Go. Olc. bart vs. OS, OHG bāri, OE bǣre ‘bore’: see §12.25.
(c)  The inflection of present participles as īn-stems, rather than as jō-stems, as in West Germanic (§9.9).
(d)  The extensive preservation of inchoative verbs with a nasal infix, e.g. Go. fullnan ‘become full’ and Olc. stīrðna ‘become stiff’. See §12.48.
(e)  The use of the analogical ending PGmc. *-jau in the 1 sg. pret. sj., e.g. Go. bērjāu, Olc. bēra ‘bore’ (cf. OS, OHG bāri, OE bāre ‘bore’; see §12.26.
(g)  The development of *ū to ŏ before a vowel in Gothic and East Norse, e.g. Go. bauan, Old Swedish bóa ‘dwell’; cf. Olc. búa.
(h)  PGmc. *ngw- is retained (i.e., it does not lose w, as in WGmc.).
(i)  The ending of the nom. sg. of masc. a-stem nouns is retained (Go. -s, Olc. -r < PGmc. *-az), though it is lost in WGmc.
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(j) There are no short forms of the verbs ‘stand’ and ‘go’ (cf. OHG stān/stēn, gān/gēn beside stantan, gangan; but short forms are found in East Norse, e.g. Danish stā, gā).

(k) There are no gerunds of the type OE tō sāwenne, OHG zi sāwenne ‘for sowing’.

(l) There are no forms of the 1 sg. pres. ind. of ‘to be’ in b-: to Go. im, Olcel. em, cf. OE bēo(m), OS bium, OHG bim.

There are some commonalities of Gothic and West Germanic (particularly High German) that set them apart from North Germanic, but they are few, the most salient

(m) A few items of vocabulary show agreement of East and North Germanic as against West Germanic (see Schwarz 1971), including Go. watō, -ins, Olcel. vātn vs. OE water ‘water’ (a PIE heteroclitic stem; but there is some evidence for the retention of the r-form in skaldic poetry: see §7.42); Go. fōn, gen. funins, Olcel. funi, vs. OHG fūir, fiur, OS fiur, OE fyr (another PIE heteroclitic); Go. sauit, Olcel. sōl vs. OE sunne ‘sun’; Go. himins, Olcel. himinn ‘heaven’ (cf. OE heofon, OHG himil); and Go. leitils, Olcel. litill ‘little’ (cf. OE lýtel < *lūtilaz).

These similarities are more suggestive than probative: for example, (a) is not unlikely to represent independent developments in North and East Germanic (see §6.10), and (b) may represent a change in West Germanic after the separation of North and West Germanic. If (e) were undisputed, it would constitute fairly good evidence, but there are significant reasons to doubt (see §12.26 n. 3). But the relevance of these similarities to the problem of determining the affinities of Gothic is diminished if the matter is not observed strictly from the standpoint of a Stammbaum analysis of Germanic affiliations, but allowance is made for areal changes spreading across related dialects of Germanic (see §1.2).

Some further possible shared features are itemized by Euler (2002: 12). Schwarz (1951) lists 25 commonalities between Gothic and Old Norse in support of his theory. The idea of East and North Germanic unity has garnered some support (e.g. Schirmunski 1965, Lehmann 1966), but it has also provoked much criticism, especially by Kuhn (1952, 1955–6; see also Markey 1976), who argues that commonalities that are not shared inheritances are either independent innovations or changes originating in a speech community extending across the Baltic before the migration of the Goths to the Black Sea. As for differences between North(west) Germanic (in Runic form) and Gothic, the following have been noted (see Noreen 1970: §4): (a) preservation of the inflectional vowel in the nom. and acc. sg. of a- and i-stem nouns, e.g. Runic þewar ‘servant’, stāina ‘stone’, -gastir ‘visitor’: Go. *þius, stāins, gasts; (b) gen. sg. in -as in a-stems, e.g. Runic godagas (name, with ō): Go. dagis ‘day’; (c) preservation of -ē as such in the dat. sg. of a-stems, e.g. Runic -kurne ‘grain’: Go. kaūrna; (d) gen. and dat. sg. in -an in an-stems, e.g. Runic -hlaihan ‘bread’: cf. Go. an-stem dat. sg. ahin ‘mind’; (e) dat. sg. in -iu in u-stems, e.g. Runic kuni-mu[n]diu (name) : cf. Go. dat. sg. sunāu ‘son’; (f) nom. pl. in -ir in r-stems, e.g. Runic dohtir ‘daughters’ : Go. dohtirius; (g) 1 sg. weak pret. in -ō, e.g. Runic tawido ‘made’: Go. tawida (see §12.39 infra on this). Most of these differences, however, could be explained plausibly as due to changes specific to Gothic subsequent to the development of a supposed Northeast Germanic into separate North and East Germanic branches.

There are some commonalities of Gothic and West Germanic (particularly High German) that set them apart from North Germanic, but they are few, the most salient
being the following: (a) the use of Go. haban ‘have’ and its cognates to express possession, as against Olc. eiga; (b) the equivalence of Go. is and OHG er ‘he’, as opposed to Olc. hann (but OE OS hē, OF hī); (c) agreement in demonstrative pronouns in the gen. and dat. sg. feminine and gen. plural: OHG dera, deru, dero, respectively, like Go. þizōs, þizai, þizō (fem.), vs. Olc. þeirar, þeiri, þeira (see Schwarz 1951, Rösel 1962 for further examples). But all of these may be regarded as archaisms retained from Proto-Germanic, so they need not be credited as evidence for East and West Germanic unity.4

More significant are the similarities between North and West Germanic that set them apart from East Germanic. The most important of these (some of which were mentioned above, §1.8) include the following: (a) development of *e2 (PIE *e) to *ā (§4.6); (b) development of early PGmc. unstressed *o to u before m, as in the dat. pl. inflection -um (Go. -am; §5.2); (c) replacement of the reduplicated preterite (§12.20); (d) development of unstressed ai and au to ā and ō, respectively (§5.6); (e) umlaut (§4.7); (f) phonemicization of [o] > /o/; (g) rhotacism (§6.6); (h) loss of the inherited synthetic middle voice (§12.29); (i) gemination before /j/ (restricted in North Germanic to /g/ and /k/); (j) gen. pl. ending *-ōnô in the ō-stems; (k) change of /x/ to a labial consonant between a back vowel and a coronal sonorant consonant (Go. aūhns ‘oven’ : OE ofen) and of /y/ to /w/ between a back vowel and m (Go. bagms ‘tree’ : OE bēam);5 and (l) proximal demonstratives, e.g. OE þeō beside sē, Olc. sjā/pessi beside sa (Hamp 1985; H.F. Nielsen 1976).6 Some further ways in which East Germanic differs were listed above (§1.8), though they have little bearing on the question of the relations between North and West Germanic. Schwarz (1951) would explain the commonalities of NWGmc. as due to relatively late influence of WGmc. upon NGmc., though of course this will not account plausibly for features (a) and (b). As pointed out by Kuhn (1955–6), the language of early Runic inscriptions does not allow any pronounced differentiation of North and West Germanic, the divide between which he would therefore date to the fifth century, whereas Isakson (2000) dates the divide to the sixth.7 It may be, as some have charged (see Makaev 1962: 122; 1996: 20–4; but cf. Antonsen 2002: 297–314), that the language of inscriptions in the Elder Futhark is artificially conservative, or that it is a koine (see Krause 1968: §32, Düwel 1983: 15–16; cf. H.F. Nielsen 2000: 287), but even if one accepts such arguments, no very marked differentiation between North and West Germanic can plausibly have occurred before the third century, and most scholars maintain that the emergence of differentiating characteristics should be dated ca. 500. See Antonsen 1967, E. Haugen 1970: 48, Markey 1976, Penzl 1988a, 1988b, 1989, 1996, Klein 1992: 223–4, but cf. Grønvik 1981: Chap. 3, idem 2010; Laur 1990; Stiles 2013: 8; see also several of the essays in Askedal et al. 2010. For accounts of the differing views on this question, see H.F. Nielsen 1989: 5–12, 2000: 56–69.


1. Antonsen (1965: 31) objects to this terminology, preferring simply ‘Germanic’ because the departure of the Goths should not have had any effect on the mother tongue. For a response to the objection, see H.F. Nielsen 1989: 95. For some nineteenth-century studies supporting the idea of West Germanic as a protolanguage, see Schleicher 1860, Förstemann 1869: 163–4, 185–6, Bezzenberger 1880: 152–5, and Streitberg 1896: §13. K.M.


3. For criticisms of Schwarz’s hypothesis, see Brinkmann 1951, Philippson 1954, Rosenfeld 1955c, Adamus 1962, and Schützeichel 1976. See also Penzl 1988b: 498, with further references.

4. Snyder (1989) supports the idea of close affinities between East and West Germanic on the basis of a statistical analysis of nouns and adjectives with l- and r-suffixes.


6. See Antonsen 1975: 26 and Stiles 2013: 8–9 for some further commonalities. Some of the studies in Marold & Zimmermann 1995 are also relevant.

7. On the possible early development of PGmc. ē to NGmc. ā, see §4.6. See further below (§1.10) on alternative views about NWGmc.

1.10 The development of Northwest Germanic and the Ingvaeonic problem

The question how the North and West Germanic languages developed out of Northwest Germanic has been much debated. According to the older view, prevalent in the nineteenth century, Northwest Germanic simply split into two protolanguages, a Scandinavian one and a continental one, but such an assumption has been repeatedly disputed. The question is thus largely equivalent to the question whether the assumption of a single WGmc. protolanguage is valid. Karstien (1930: 1127b), for example, supposes that innovations common to West Germanic actually postdate the rise of Ingvaeonic. A particularly influential view is that of Maurer (1952; similarly Frings 1932), who rejects the idea of a West Germanic aboriginal unity, replacing it with three discrete culture groups, North Sea Germanic (OE, OF, OS), Weser-Rhine Germanic (Franconian), and Elbe Germanic (Alemannic, Bavarian, Lombardic), corresponding to the tripartite division of Germanic Mannus-groups into Ingaevones, Istaevones, and Herminones outlined in cap. 2 of Tacitus’s Germania. Maurer’s chief contribution to the debate is his employment of historical and archaeological evidence, yet this is also its greatest weakness, since there is no good reason to assume that ethnic and cultural differences necessarily correspond to linguistic ones: see particularly H.F. Nielsen 2004. On this analysis, some of the characteristic WGmc. features itemized in §1.8 would have to be explained as later developments spreading among related West Germanic languages, a circumstance that has occasioned much criticism of views like Maurer’s, especially by Kuhn (1944: 8–9); see further the essays in Naumann 2004 and Harm 2013.

In a tradition going back to Müllenhoff (1900), a great many studies of the development of West Germanic assume a tripartite division into Ingvaevonic, Istaevonic, and Erminonic branches, on the basis of the distinction drawn by Tacitus. This is probably not a sound assumption, on a variety of grounds. As noted above, ethnic distinctions need not imply linguistic ones. Moreover, it is to be doubted whether the language of the earliest Runic inscriptions can conclusively be identified as North Germanic instead of Northwest Germanic (see §1.9 ad fin.), and so the ethnic distinction drawn by Tacitus at the end of the first century CE must be assumed to have antedated any now-detectable
linguistic difference by several centuries. In addition, although Ingvaenic can be defined fairly narrowly on a linguistic basis (see below), practically nothing is known about Istaevonic or Erminonic, so that much guesswork is inevitably involved in any tripartite division.

Particularly important for the question of West Germanic unity are the position and composition of Ingvaenic or North Sea Germanic, the latter term now tending to prevail over the former. The majority view is that the North Sea Germanic group includes not only English and Frisian but also Old Saxon, and the reason Old Saxon is less plainly allied to this group is that the language lost some of its Ingvaenic features under Franconian influence starting about 700 CE, due to Frankish political domination. Some do not regard Old Saxon as a member of this group (e.g. Rösel 1962), but Stiles (2013: 19–21) catalogues the effects of High German influence on the changing language, and why it must be regarded as Ingvaenic. A. Campbell (1947) identifies the following Ingvaenic features as definitive: (a) fronting of WGmc. ā except before nasal consonants (§4.12); (b) development of WGmc. *au to ā (in OFris., not in OE or OS: §4.14); (c) palatalization of velar stops before front vowels (§6.17); (d) loss of nasal consonants before fricatives (§4.11); (e) failure to participate in the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21); and (f) elimination of distinctions of person in the plural of verbs (e.g. §12.24). The distribution of these features across the group is uneven: for example, Old Saxon lacks feature (a) and shows only traces of (c), and in regard to (b), Old English has ēa rather than ā, whereas literary OS has ŏ.

In the view of some (e.g. Schwarz 1952: 276 and Rösel 1962: 46–7), North Sea Germanic was originally more closely allied with North Germanic and only later acquired affinities to West Germanic. The dominant view, however, is that North Sea Germanic is simply a dialect of West Germanic. There is less agreement about whether the distinctive features of North Sea Germanic developed on the Continent before the departure of the Anglo-Saxons or later, as cultural exchange continued across the North Sea, the latter being the influential view of Kuhn (1955–6). By contrast, in the view of Antonsen (1975: 26–8), there existed by ca. 100 CE distinctions among East, South, and Northwest Germanic, with Ingvaenic becoming distinct from the last about a century later. The most detailed studies (Markey 1976: 36–71, H.F. Nielsen 1985: 148–54, 255–7; but see also Fulk 1998a: 154) suggest that only a few of the distinctive features of Ingvaenic developed before the departure of the Anglo-Saxons.

1. Such is also the view of, e.g., Kuhn 1955–6 and of many handbooks. For a thorough review of the literature, see H.F. Nielsen 1989: 67–107.

2. Tacitus’s term Ingaeuones is generally assumed to be an error for Inguaeones (the name used by Pliny) under the influence of the term Istaeuones. For archaeological evidence in support of this tripartite division, see Mildenberger 1986.


4. For arguments in favor of using the term ‘North Sea Germanic’ to designate the present-day languages, see Laur 1984, with references; for an opposing view, Stiles 2013: 10 n. 8.

5. But cf. Hermann (1978: 300–1), arguing that this change also affected North Germanic, though earlier there had occurred assimilations like [nθ] > [nː] that prevented its application in most of the original environments.

6. Markey (1976: 36–71) identifies thirty-six features as typically Ingvaenic, among the most important of which is loss of *-z in monosyllabic pronouns like OE dat. mē (cf. OHG mir). Another feature left out of
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consideration in Campbell’s list is use of $h\bar{e}$ for the third person sg. masc. pronoun. See also the lists in Stiles 2013: 18, 21–3.

1.11 East Germanic

On the basis of ethnographic information supplied primarily by Pliny the Elder and Tacitus (1st cent. CE) and Ptolemy (2nd cent. CE), which are the earliest sources, a number of named early Germanic groups are to be counted among the East Germanic peoples.\(^1\) They at one time inhabited the lands south of the Baltic Sea, east of the Elbe, as far as the Vistula, an area later to be called Pomerania. Usually included in this group are Goths (among whom are probably to be counted Gepids, Greuthingi, and Thervingi), Bastarnae, Burgundians,\(^2\) Heruli, Rugii, Scirii, Silingi, and Vandals. No East Germanic language survives to the present day, and only the Goths have left extensive remains of their language. Of the remainder, the only evidence for East Germanic languages is isolated words, almost exclusively names in Burgundian and Vandalic.\(^3\)

The Gothic language is known chiefly on the basis of the surviving fragments of a Bible translation made from Greek by Ulfilas (Go. Wulfila, ca. 310–383), bishop of those Christian Visigoths settled in Moesia by Constantine (though Ratkus 2018 argues against the sole authorship of Ulfilas). Five manuscripts together preserve, in a fragmentary state, the four gospels, a number of epistles, portions of Nehemiah, a few words from Genesis, a fragment of a Gothic calendar, and eight fragments of a commentary on John referred to by the Gothic title assigned in modern times, Skeireins (‘Explanation’). There are also Gothic names preserved in various sources, and a few stray words, including some runic inscriptions.\(^4\) In addition to these remains, in 2010 there was discovered in Bologna a palimpsest of a Gothic manuscript containing a collection of passages from the Bible and from Skeireins, some of them not otherwise preserved, as well as a few words of narrative that do not derive from scripture: for description and text, see Finazzi & Tornaghi 2013, with an improved transcript in Falluomini 2014.

The Gothic records are written in an alphabet reportedly devised by Ulfilas (see Figure 2), based chiefly on Greek characters, with resort to Latin and runic characters

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
\Lambda & \beta & \gamma & \Delta & \epsilon & \zeta & \h & \psi & \iota & \iota & \kappa & \lambda & \mu & \nu & \xi & \omicron & \pi & \rho & \sigma & \tau & \upsilon & \xi & \omicron & \sigma & \tau & \upsilon & \chi & \theta & \zeta & \epsilon & \eta
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 20 & 30 & 40 & 50
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
a & b & g & d & e & q & z & h & \phi & i & k & l & m & n
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
\iota & \kappa & \lambda & \mu & \nu & \xi & \omicron & \pi & \rho & \sigma & \tau & \upsilon & \xi & \omicron & \sigma & \tau & \upsilon & \chi & \theta & \zeta & \epsilon & \eta
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
60 & 70 & 80 & 90 & 100 & 200 & 300 & 400 & 500 & 600 & 700 & 800 & 900
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
j & u & p & \text{—} & \text{—} & r & s & t & w & x & \psi & h & o & \text{—}
\end{array} \]

\[ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc}
\text{Fig. 2. The Gothic alphabet, with numerical values and transliterative equivalents.}
\end{array} \]
where necessary. In the figure, the first row represents the Gothic character, the second its value when used as a numeral (agreeing to the extent possible with the numerical use of alphabetic characters in Greek), and the third its standard transliteration in studies of Gothic. The character 𐌊 is used only initially and to represent a heterosyllabic vowel, as in fra-itip ‘devours’. The characters 𐌉 and 𐌊 are used only as numerals (90 and 900, respectively), and 𐌊 occurs only in the name Xristus.

In this spelling system the vowels a and u are ambiguous as to quantity, and therefore they have been marked in this book with a macron when etymologically long. The tense vowels ē, ō, and ei are, at least historically, always long, the last having the value /iː/, and i is always short. Among the digraphs, iu is a falling diphthong, whereas ai and au are ambivalent: they are usually assumed to represent /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ (perhaps ranging allophonically to [e] and [o], sounds otherwise representing a gap in the vowel inventory), respectively, when they are derived from simple vowels (see §4.5), in which event they are conventionally marked ai and au by grammarians; but they may also be derived from PGmc. ai and au, in which event they are marked ái and áu, probably with the values /ɛː/ and /ɔː/, to judge by Ulfilas’s spelling of biblical names and by fourth-century Latin spellings of Gothic names, though the matter has been much contested. On the value of ai and au not marked with an acute, see §4.5. The character 𐍅 (w) is used also to represent Gk. υ and οι (both /y(ː)/ by the fourth century) in borrowed words, e.g. swναγογή (ςυναγωγή) ‘synagogue’ and Φοινίκισσα (Φοινίκισσα) ‘Phoenician’. Among the consonants, q and hw are labialized velars /kʷ/ and /xʷ/ (the latter perhaps with allophone [hʷ]), §6.11. The characters b, d, g represent voiced stops initially and after nasal consonants (and in gemination, §6.9), otherwise voiced fricatives, except that they are stops also after (probably) any consonant.

A Gothic enclave persisted in Crimea into the modern era, referred to in various sources from the ninth century to the eighteenth. The only substantial witness to the Crimean Gothic language is a 1562 letter, published in 1589, from the Flemish ambassador Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, listing about eighty words and the lyrics of a song; see Tischler 1978 on some further witnesses. Some Crimean Gothic inscriptions of the ninth or tenth century have recently been deciphered (conjecturally: see Vinogradov & Korbobov 2015, 2016), but their fragmentary state adds little of substance to what is known of the language. Because Crimean Gothic shows no trace of the lowering of i and u before r and h, Cerignani (1980a: 211–12) advises that it not be regarded as a lineal descendant of Bible Gothic.


1. For an ethnographic overview, see Bremer 1900: 819–27; on the sources, see Wrede 1886: 12–35.
2. At one time resident on the Danish island of Bornholm, ON Borgundar holmr.

3. On the Burgundian names, see Wackernagel 1868; on the Vandalic, Wrede 1886.

4. Most of these ‘Gothica minora’ are edited by Massmann 1841. They are also included as an appendix in the latest recension of Streitberg’s edition of the Bible fragments (2000). For an exact accounting of the remains, see Braune 2004b: §§E5–19.

5. On the history of shifting views about whether phonemic length was a feature of Gothic vowels, see Moulton 1987.

6. Compare, e.g., Go. dat. Lauðjái ‘Lois’ (rendering Gk. Λωΐδι) and Lat. Ostrogoti, earlier Austro-. For a bibliographical summary of the different proposals, see d’Alquen 1974: 19–29. Marchand (1973: 102), for example, finds it ‘highly improbable’ that (ai) or (au) could represent more than one sound.

7. This conclusion is drawn on the basis of the failure of these consonants to be written as voiceless fricatives in positions in which fricatives would be expected to be devoiced, as with -swarb ‘wiped’ (3 sg.) and aldS ‘age’; cf. also dags ‘day’.

1.12 Provenance of the Goths

The historical records of classical antiquity show plainly that Goths were present in great numbers on the northern shore of the Black Sea by the middle of the third century CE. By the end of the fourth century they comprised two groups, the Ostrogoths, living east of the Dniester, to the Dnieper and beyond, and the Visigoths, to be found between the Dniester and the Danube. It is from these Pontic areas that they were dislodged by the arrival of the Huns in 375. How the Goths arrived at the Black Sea, and where they originated, are matters of debate. The usual assumption, and the one still credited by the considerable majority of scholars, has been that the account given in the sixth-century Getica of Jordanes is trustworthy at least in general outline: according to this account, the Goths migrated, perhaps about 100 BCE, from Scandinavia (Scandza) to the banks of the Vistula. Their area of settlement on the southern coast of the Baltic is called by Jordanes Gothiscandza (presumably *Gutisk-andja ‘Gothic end’, Much 1967: 487, but cf. Svennung 1972: 28: *Guti-Skandia ‘Gothic Scandinavia’), and it has commonly been assumed that this is the origin of the names of the cities of Gdańsk (NHG Danzig) and Gdynia on the Polish coast, though the derivations cannot be proved. In accordance with the account of Jordanes, the Goths have usually been identified with the Gutones first mentioned by Pliny the Elder ca. 65 CE as living on the shore of (apparently) the Baltic Sea. On this reasoning the Goths have also commonly been associated with the island of Gotland and with the region of south-central Sweden called Götaland (named after the ON Gautar, OE Gēutas), from which areas they are assumed to have migrated originally.

In more recent times the account of Jordanes, recorded so many centuries after the purported departure from Scandinavia, has been called into question, in part on archaeological grounds (see von Petrikovits 1985, Polomé 1992b: 57–8). In a series of studies, Mańczak has argued that the vocabulary of Gothic has considerably more in common with that of Upper German than with that of Swedish, and the origin of the Goths is thus to be sought in the southernmost parts of Germania rather than in Scandinavia. In support of this analysis have been offered arguments about the greater historical plausibility of migrations eastward to the Black Sea and northward to the Vistula than from the Vistula
to the Black Sea (see Kortlandt 2001, with references). Euler (1985) examines Scandinavian Runic inscriptions to determine that some do show evidence of Gothic phonological and morphological features, so that the presence of Goths in Scandinavia is not to be doubted, though whether this is because they originated there or migrated there from the mouth of the Vistula is not a question that can be settled on the basis of such inscriptions. But if migration from the Vistula to the Black Sea is improbable, as has been claimed, migration to Scandinavia seems even less plausible, especially given the coincidence that the area to which they must be assumed to have migrated on this account is precisely that from which Jordanes says that they set out. At all events, the name of the Goths is so common in place-names in Sweden—and place-names are often among the most archaic evidence—that it is difficult to believe that the Gothic presence in Scandinavia could have been a late development (see Strid 2014).


2. See Hachmann 1970: 136–43, 458, Wolfram 1979: 34–5. This analysis is lent support by similarities between material remains of the Černjahov culture of Ukraine and of the Wielbark culture of the Polish coast. The Goths have lent their name to a number of places in present-day Sweden, including Gotland, Götaland, and Göteborg (Gothenburg).

3. In his Geography, of ca. 150 CE, Ptolemy, drawing on earlier sources, identifies the Goiţa as living in Σκανδία (2.11.35) and the Γύθωνες as living on the banks of the Οὐιστούλα (3.5.20). Tacitus (Germania, cap. 43), ca. 98 CE, likewise places the Gotones on the Continent near the Baltic.


1.13 The Runic records

Although a few runic inscriptions are generally regarded as Gothic (see §1.11; also Ebbinghaus 1990, Peterson 1998)—and certainly Ulfilas knew the Runic alphabet, since he incorporated some of its characters into the Gothic alphabet—the majority are of Scandinavian provenance and evince specifically NGmc. linguistic characteristics; on the Continental Runic inscriptions, see Findell 2012, who catalogues 90 such inscriptions. But the earliest inscriptions in Runic, Gothic inscriptions aside, reflect a stage of linguistic development in which North and West Gmc. forms cannot yet be distinguished (see §1.9). These are recorded in a form of the Runic alphabet referred to as the Elder Futhark, named after its first six characters, the order of which is assured by various alphabetic inscriptions, including those on the Kylver Stone (ca. 400) and on the Vadstena Bracteate (ca. 500). The 24 characters of the Elder Futhark are presented in Figure 3, with usual equivalents in transliteration. (Transliterations of inscriptions in Runic are conventionally presented in boldface.) Here þ is always voiceless, and b, d, g are alternately stops and
fricatives by position (§6.5). On the value of $\mathfrak{R}$ (which many prefer to transliterate as $\mathfrak{z}$, and which must be so transliterated in the earliest inscriptions), see §6.14. Vowels may be long or short. The value of the rare rune $\mathfrak{j}$ is disputed; highly plausible is the argument of Antonsen (1975: 3–6, with references) that it was originally PGmc. $\mathfrak{j}\bar{a}$ ($\varnothing\&\bar{a}$ in his notation) and that it came to be used for a number of other sounds once the reflex of $\mathfrak{j}\bar{a}$ developed to N(W)Gmc. $\mathfrak{a}$ in stressed syllables and $\mathfrak{e}$ in unstressed and consequently came to be represented by other runes. Due to loss of $j$ in the rune-name $*\mathfrak{j}\bar{a}\bar{r}\bar{a}$ ‘year’ ($>$ Olcel. $\acute{\mathfrak{a}}\mathfrak{r}$), in late inscriptions $\mathfrak{s}$ ($\mathfrak{j}$) is sometimes used to represent $a$, and in that event it is transcribed $A$. There also occur non-etymological, epenthetic vowels, rendered superscript in transcriptions, as in $\text{wor}\mathfrak{h}t\mathfrak{o} = \text{Go. wairhta} \ ‘\text{made}’$ and $\text{-wol}\mathfrak{f}\mathfrak{r} \ ‘\text{wolf}’$.

Beginning as early as ca. 750 the Elder Futhark was gradually replaced in Scandinavia by the Younger, of just 16 runes, even though the number of vowel phonemes expanded notably at about the time of its introduction.\(^2\) In OE, on the other hand, the Elder Futhark was modified and added to, producing the Old English Futhorc (with $\mathfrak{o}$ for earlier $\mathfrak{a}$ due to the NSGmc. change of the rune-name $*\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{n}\mathfrak{s}u\mathfrak{z}$ ‘god’ to $\tilde{\mathfrak{o}}\mathfrak{s}$, §4.11), an alphabet of as many as 33 runes. Inscriptions in the Younger Futhark and in the OE Futhorc play a relatively minor role in tracing the histories of North Germanic and OE, though earlier Anglo-Frisian inscriptions in the Elder Futhark are of some linguistic significance: see, e.g. Bammesberger 1991a, H.F. Nielsen 1991, 1996, R.I. Page 1996.


Although early Runic is in some respects even more conservative than Gothic, it is too fragmentarily attested to furnish useful paradigms, and thus, in this book Runic evidence is adduced in connection with morphology only when strictly relevant.

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§1.13 The Runic records

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Fig. 3. The Elder Futhark, with equivalents in transcription.
1. In his corpus of 121 inscriptions, ranging in date from ca. 150 CE to ca. 650, Antonsen (1975) finds a few with distinct diatopic linguistic features: 5 EGmc. or Go., 8 WGmc. or NSGmc., 15 NGmc., 5 East Norse, 1 West Norse; the remainder show no dialectal differentiation.


1.14 North Germanic

The earliest runic inscriptions date to ca. 150 CE. At what point in time inscriptions begin to appear that can be identified as specifically North Germanic (as opposed to yet earlier inscriptions of a NWGmc. character) is a matter of debate (see §1.9), but it would appear that by the late fifth century at the latest some inscriptions may be identified linguistically Proto-Norse (see H.F. Nielsen 2000). Dialectal differentiation does not begin to appear in this Runic corpus until the Viking Age (ca. 800–ca. 1050), at which point East and West Norse may be distinguished, the former evincing minor but separate Swedish and Danish characteristics already during this period, the latter separate Norwegian and Icelandic characteristics beginning in the twelfth century. Old Gutnish, spoken on the island of Gotland in the Baltic, differs in certain respects from East Norse, and also from West Norse, and it has been argued that it is most closely related to Gothic (as the name of the island might imply), though it is normally accounted a dialect of Old Swedish. None of the few runic inscriptions from Iceland can be dated earlier than ca. 1200, and so they are of little linguistic use. The earliest Icelandic manuscript evidence is from the end of the twelfth century, but manuscript evidence does not become plentiful until the second half of the thirteenth.

The weightiest respects in which Old East Norse differs from Old West Norse are these (Noreen 1970: §8): (a) front and back umlaut frequently fail, e.g. OEN være ‘were’ (sj.), ī gār ‘yesterday’, land ‘lands’ (nom./acc.pl.) : OWN væri, ī gær, lánd; (b) syllable-final OWN ū corresponds to OEN ŏ, e.g. OEN kō ‘cow’, gnōa ‘rub’ : OWN ků, gnůa; (c) ī, ē, ĭ fail to form rising diphthongs with a following vowel, e.g. OEN séa ‘see’, fiande ‘enemy’, bŷar ‘farmstead’ (gen. sg.) : OWN sjā, fjandi, bjár; (d) the change of mp, nk, nt to pp, kk, tt, respectively, is far less regular, e.g. OEN krumpin ‘stunted’, ænkia ‘widow’, bant ‘bound’ (pret.) : OWN kroppinn, ekkja, batt; (e) the OEN endings nom. pl. -iar, -iær, acc. -ia, -iæ of masc. i- and ja-stems correspond to OWN nom. -ir, -i, e.g. OEN draęngiar, -ia ‘fellows’ : OWN drengir, -i; (f) OEN suffixed def. art. dat. pl. -umin for OWN -unum; (g) some distinctive OEN pronouns, e.g. iak, iæk ‘I’, vĭ(r) ‘we’, ŭ(r) ‘you’ (pl.), rel. sum : OWN ek, vér, (b)ér, sem; (h) weak forms corresponding to OWN preterites in -r- (class VII), e.g. OEN sāþe : OWN sær : OWN sēþ ‘sowed’; (i) mediopassives in -as(s), e.g. OEN kallask(s) : OWN kallask ‘are called’.

Unless specified otherwise, in this book the term ‘Runic’ (thus capitalized) is used in connection with forms of a Proto-Norse character attested in runic inscriptions. The term ‘Old Norse’ is used in connection with forms in either runic or manuscript attestation that postdate the Proto-Norse period (i.e., appearing after ca. 800), and the term may be used indifferently in respect to East and West Norse forms. Most cited forms of the historical period are designated ‘Old Icelandic’ rather than ‘Old Norse’, reflecting their actual provenance. OIcel. forms are cited in this book in standardized orthography of the
classical period (i.e. ca. 1200–ca. 1350) unless otherwise stated, e.g. with high vowels in unstressed syllables (-u(m), -i(r) rather than earlier -o(m), -e(r)); δ rather than ō except initially in free morphemes; and ā for ō.5


1. The loss of final *-z in kaba (for kamba) on the Frenstedt comb (ca. 250–300) is a specifically WGmc. development (see Schmidt, Nedoma, & Düwel 2011), but there is no need to assume that the change had affected all of WGmc. by the date of its deposit. Compare the mother-goddess names Vätvins, Afílmis, and Gábins in Ubian inscriptions (dat. pl., 1st–3rd centuries; Much 1887, and cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 46). Other Runic evidence is more difficult to interpret, e.g. alugod (Værløse clasp, Zealand, ca. 200), of which the second constituent could reflect *þjókaz (so Antonsen 1975: 75), though it could also be a voc. (so Krause 1971: 174).

2. On the development of the Scandinavian languages out of Proto-Norse, see Bandle 1973, Bandle et al. 2002–5. Some of the earliest differences to arise between Old Norwegian and Old Icelandic, mostly strong tendencies rather than absolute differences, are the following (Noreen 1970: §9): (a) failure of back mutation in ONorw., e.g. dat. pl. sakum ‘cases’ (OIce skum); (b) unstressed high vowels in ONorw., e.g. the inflections -u(m) and -i(r) (OIce. -o(m) and -e(r) before ca. 1200); (c) loss of initial h before sonorant consonants in ONorw., e.g. loupa ‘leap, run’, nigga ‘sink’, ringr ‘ring’ (OIce. klaupa, hnaiga, hringr); (d) change of bn to mn, e.g. ONorw. svemn, Olc. svafr ‘sleep’; (e) pronouns mit beside vit ‘we’ (dual), mér beside vír ‘we’ (pl.), hvarr beside hværr ‘which, each’ (OIce. vit, věr, hværr); (f) 2 pl. verb ending -r beside -d, -t, e.g. ONorw. gripir, -ð, -ið ‘grip’ (OIce. gripōð, -et before ca. 1200) and ONorw. gripur, -ð, -ut ‘grasped’ (OIce. griþōð, -ot before ca. 1200).

3. So, e.g., Wessén 1968: 115–17. The chief source for Old Gutnish is Guta saga (13th cent.). Examples of distinctive Old Gutnish features are these: (a) The umlaut of PGmc. *au is oy, as in droyma ‘dream’ (OEN drīma, OWN droyma); (b) PGmc. *au remains unchanged, as in paum ‘them’ (dat.; OEN þem, OWN þaim); (c) as in OWN, PGmc. *au remains unchanged, as in auga ‘eye’ (OEN ġaga, OWN auga).

4. The distinction between Old Norse and Old Icelandic is of especial importance in connection with English language history, since citing an Old Icelandic form as if it were an Old Norse form would inevitably lead to misrepresentations about Norse loanwords in English, e.g. PDE though < ON *þōh (OIce. þō).

5. The standardized spelling used here is thus that of most modern editions of Olc. literary texts, e.g. those in the Íslenskt forntít series (1933–). For further features distinguishing the language of the classical period from the earlier period (ca. 870–ca. 1200), not all of them indicated in standardized orthography, see Noreen 1970: §10, using a slightly more archaic normalized orthography.


1.15 West Germanic

As noted above (§1.10), no scholarly consensus has been reached about the origin and the internal and external relations of the West Germanic languages. The ethnic groups identifiable as West Germanic that are mentioned in Greek and Roman sources tended to migrate considerable distances during the Migration Period (die Völkerwanderung, ca. 300–ca. 700), with the consequence that their original linguistic affinities may have been altered over time by alignment with the groups with which they came into contact.1 An
example of this is the Lombards (Langobards), who established a kingdom in northern and central Italy in the sixth century. They are of uncertain affinities, formerly thought an East Germanic or a North Sea Germanic group, though the few attested words in Lombardic, preserved in inscriptions and in Latin sources, plainly evidence the effects of the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21; see van der Rhee 1976, Petracco Sicardi 1977, Torgilsvedt 2009). In the first century CE they were counted among the Suevi by Tacitus and Strabo, the latter of whom locates them astride the Elbe, whereas Paulus Diaconus says that they originated in Scandinavia. See further Hutterer 1975: 336–41, and for linguistic analysis and an overview of scholarship, Tischler 1989.2

Certainly Anglo-Frisian, comprising English and Frisian, is recognizable as a subgroup of WGmc., and its affinities to Old Saxon are sufficient to render the term North Sea Germanic (or Ingvaeric) useful as a way of grouping Old Saxon with the Anglo-Frisian group, regardless of the precise historical circumstances that led to the sharing of features within this group.3 For a list of distinctive NSGmc. features, see §1.10. The remaining WGmc. languages may be said to form two groups, distinguished by the extent to which they show the effects of the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21). The shift characterizes High German (Hochdeutsch) but not Low Franconian, of which Dutch (including Flemish) is now the chief variety. Naturally, the varieties of Low German (Niederdeutsch or Plattdeutsch) descended from Old Saxon, like other Ingvaeric languages, remain unaffected by the High German Consonant Shift, but they share a number of features with Low Franconian that the other Ingvaeric languages do not share.

1. In general, the movement of West Germanic peoples was to the south and west, occupying lands formerly held by Celts, as demonstrated by archaeological finds, the testimony of classical authors, and, especially, the Celtic origins of much of the hydronymy of southern and western Germany.


1.16 Old English

Bede (d. 735) asserts that beginning in the middle of the fifth century Britain was invaded by Angles, Saxons, and Jutes. Archaeological evidence largely confirms the identification, though other ethnic groups must also have been involved (as Bede himself seems to say elsewhere), and the invasion no doubt began early in the fifth century rather than the middle (see J. Campbell 1982). And so Bede probably had reliable sources about the ethnicities of the invaders, and he was not simply extrapolating from the political situation of his own day, when the English north of the Thames were called Engle and spoke dialects different from those south of the Thames (and in Middlesex and Essex), where the Seaxan lived; and the Germanic peoples of Kent and the Isle of Wight, said to have been settled by Jutes, maintained a separate identity. The preserved dialects of Old English are West Saxon, Kentish, Mercian, and Northumbrian, the last two of which are particularly closely related and are referred to collectively as Anglian. The earliest texts
in English are runic inscriptions, attested beginning in the fifth century; the earliest manuscripts are from ca. 700, though some texts (such as the laws of Æthelberht of Kent) must have been composed earlier, despite being preserved only in late copies. Old English continued to be copied with some fidelity in certain areas as late as the thirteenth century, though most texts of the twelfth century are commonly regarded as Middle English, a language characterized by the reduced vocalism of inflections, the influx of vocabulary from Old Norse and French, and extensive changes to the system of vowels.

West Saxon is attested in Early and Late varieties. The former is attested fragmentarily in charters, the earliest of which to show distinctive WS features dates to the middle of the ninth century, but the chief witnesses originated in the reign of King Alfred ‘the Great’ (r. 871–99), whose program of translating Latin texts into English was intended to reinstil the literacy that had become scarce as a consequence of Scandinavian incursions into Britain. Another consequence of those invasions was the eventual unification of the English under the rule of a single, West Saxon king, with the result that Late West Saxon (beginning about 950) became the standard literary language for all of England, with the vast majority of the OE corpus preserved in that dialect. Late West Saxon is preserved in two sorts: (a) a managed variety (Standard Late West Saxon, or Ælfrician West Saxon, on which see, e.g., Gretsch 2006) promulgated by Æthelwold, bishop of Winchester from 963 to 984, and his student Ælfric, with fairly uniform spelling practices and some distinctive vocabulary, and (b) a variety showing an admixture of phonological and lexical features characteristic of other dialects, probably due to the imperfect ‘translation’ of texts from other dialects (chiefly Mercian) into West Saxon (on which see Fulk 2009a, with references).

The most substantial sources of information on the other OE dialects are glosses. Kentish is fragmentarily attested, almost exclusively in glosses and charters. Evidence for Mercian (of the Central and West Midlands) is much more substantial, including collected glossses of ca. 700 and continuous glosses on the Vespasian Psalter (of the first half of the ninth century, though the language seems rather more archaic) and a large portion of the Rushworth Gospels (of the late tenth century). Northumbrian (the dialect of the North), for which no charters survive, is attested in a small amount of eighth- and (probably) ninth-century poetry, and in the form of names in a confraternity book begun in the ninth century; the only texts of any length are continuous glosses of the late tenth century, by which time the inflectional morphology of the dialect has lost countless earlier distinctions. For a summary of the chief characteristics of the non-Saxon dialects, with exemplary texts, see Fulk 2014: 118–31.

OE $f$, $s$, $h$, $ð$ (the last two used indifferently in regard to phonetic value) are voiced between voiced sounds, otherwise voiceless, the variants being allophonic. According to environment, $c$, $g$, $sc$, $cg$ are palatal or velar: although there is some disagreement (see Minkova 2003, with references), it is most commonly held that $c$ represents [k] when not palatalized and affricated to [ʧ]; $g$ when not palatalized represents [g] initially and after $n$, but [dʒ] after $n$ when palatalized, [j] elsewhere when palatalized, and [ɣ] in all other environments; $sc$ represents [ʃ] everywhere except internally before or finally after a back vowel, where it is [sk]; and $cg$ is usually the palatal affricate [dʒ], rarely the velar geminate [gː]. OE $h$ is [h] initially, otherwise [x]. There is much disagreement about the values

Unless specified otherwise, OE forms cited in this book are EWS, for reasons explained in Fulk 2009b.

1. Here the practice is followed of capitalizing ‘Late’ and ‘Early’ in connection with West Saxon in acknowledgment that the later variety is not precisely a lineal descendant of the earlier (so, e.g., Hogg 1992), for reasons explained succinctly in A. Campbell 1977: §301.

2. But final g after any sound but a nasal is an analogical spelling, the actual value being [x], e.g. *burg* beside *burh* ‘fortress’.

3. For an account of the various palatalizing environments, which are not uniform for all these sounds (and some of the details of which are in dispute), see Hogg 1992: §§7.15–43, with references.

4. Possibly *hl*, *hr*, *hn*, *hw* represent voiceless sonorants, though etymologically they are clusters, and in poetry they alliterate with *h* and with one another.

### 1.17 Old Frisian

At one time the Frisians dominated the North Sea coast from the area of Bruges to the border of present-day Denmark, though today their language is spoken in just three districts within that area, Friesland in the Netherlands, Saterland in Germany (south of Ostfriesland, Niedersachsen), and the districts of Nordfriesland and the (main) island of Heligoland (NHG *Helgoland*), also in Germany (on the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein). The earliest Frisian preserved takes the form of some twenty brief runic inscriptions of the period ca. 500–ca. 800 CE, along with a few words in Latin texts. Aside from glosses in a fragmentary psalter of ca. 1200, and a few more recently discovered words from the 12th cent. (see Langbroek 2015), the earliest manuscripts containing Old Frisian date to about 1300, the latest to about 1600, almost exclusively in the form of legal texts. Old Frisian thus is coeval with the middle or early modern periods of other WGmc. languages, though its inflectional morphology in particular has more in common with the older periods of those languages. It is a useful witness to the early history of West Germanic, though not generally as useful as OE, OS, and OHG. It is, accordingly, cited less frequently in this book than those languages, usually only when it provides information not afforded by those. A distinction may be drawn between two dialects, Old East Frisian and Old West Frisian, from regions separated by the Lauwers, but the difference is also chronological, the former being attested almost exclusively in manuscripts of the period ca. 1275–ca. 1475, the latter of the period ca. 1475–ca. 1600.
Forms cited in this book derive from the former, unless marked otherwise. On the remains of Old North Frisian, see Steller 1928: 3.

Grammars of Old Frisian include van Helten 1890 (Old East Frisian), Steller 1928, and Bremmer 2009; Siebs 1901, Markey 1981, and Munske et al. 2001 cover the entire history of the language. For a dictionary of Old Frisian, see Köbler 2014a; the etymological dictionary of Boutkan & Siebenga (2005), based on the first Rüstring manuscript of ca. 1300 (of which Boutkan 1996 is a grammar), is useful; there is also a concise dictionary: Holthausen 1985.

1.18 Old Saxon

The Continental Saxons occupied Saxonia (Old Saxony), an area of northwest Germany bounded roughly by the Elbe and the Ems to the east and west, more or less equivalent to the modern states of Lower Saxony, Westphalia, and Saxony-Anhalt, i.e. with a southern border extending approximately on a line from Merseburg west to Essen. The earliest texts are two ninth-century poems, *Heliand* and the fragmentary *Genesis* (ed. Behagel 1984); there are also some less substantial prose texts and glosses preserved (ed. Wadstein 1899), along with words in Latin charters. From ca. 1100 the language is called Middle Low German and is characterized by the reduction of unstressed vowels to [ə]. Distinct dialects cannot be established for OS, the way they can for OHG, and in fact the extant records show a remarkable mixture of forms and variant spellings, often within a single text, perhaps some of it due to dialect mixture (resulting from the recopying of texts by scribes of different habits and linguistic backgrounds) and to the influence of Old Frisian, Old English, and Old High German sources and scribes. The language of the two poems differs from that of the prose texts in certain respects, the most salient of which is that the dat. sg. pronominal/adjectival ending in masc. and neuter forms is commonly -(u)m, -on, as in *im* ‘him’ and *hēlagon* ‘holy’, beside *imu, hēlagumu*, the latter being the usual forms in prose. Intervocalic *h* is also much better preserved in the early verse texts. The relations between orthography and sounds are similar to those of OE, though there are no affricates in native words, and there is greater variability of spelling, especially of diphthongs and unstressed vowels. Unlike in OE, final stops are probably voiceless.


1. Variability in the representation of unstressed vowels was explained by Twaddell (1963) as due to a mismatch between the five vowels of the Latin alphabet and a four-vowel inventory in OS unstressed syllables, /i, u, æ, â/. This analysis was subsequently refined, especially by Klein (1977).

2. Also to be noted is Donhauser et al. 2011, a database of Old Saxon, Old High German, and Old Low Franconian offering extensive morphological and syntactic annotation that can be searched to provide answers to many of the questions for which grammars are regularly consulted.
1.19  Old Low Franconian

This is the ancestor of the Limburgic dialect of Dutch. The only witness to the language is a now-lost interlinear gloss on the Psalter, preserved fragmentarily and often unreliably in several transcripts made ca. 1600, probably representing a southeastern dialect of the language, but with an admixture of Central Franconian forms. The Middle Dutch period begins ca. 1100. Because Old Low Franconian is preserved so fragmentarily and imperfectly, its evidential value for the development of West Germanic is severely limited.


1.20  Old High German

High German represents those varieties of German regularly affected to some degree by the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21). OHG, roughly 750–1050, is generally divided into two dialect groups, Franconian (Fränkisch) or, less commonly, Central German (Mitteldeutsch, comprising East Franconian and West Central German, the latter including Rhine Franconian and Middle Franconian, the latter ill attested in the OHG period) and Upper German (Oberdeutsch, including Bavarian and Alemannic, the latter now comprising Swabian and High and Low Alemannic). It is only after the OHG period that East Franconian comes to be regarded as belonging to the Upper German group, at which point the term ‘Franconian’ is no longer synonymous with ‘Central German’. It is also after the OHG period that the Thuringian and Upper Saxon areas of East Central German were colonized by Germanic speakers. The distinction between Central and Upper German is drawn on the basis of the extent to which they are affected by the High German Shift: Central German is bounded on the north by the Benrath line and on the south by the Speyer line (on which see §6.21), though it should be recognized that these lines are drawn on the basis of modern dialects and give only a rough impression of OHG dialect areas, East Franconian being particularly ill classified on this basis. In OHG times the dialects are represented by the usage in scriptoria of religious houses in the respective areas: Würzburg, Bamberg, and Fulda for East Franconian; Mainz, Lorsch, Speyer, and Frankfurt for Rhine Franconian, along with Weissenburg, which represents the South Rhine Franconian dialect; Trier, Echternach, Cologne, and Aachen for Middle Franconian; Regensburg, Freising, Tegernsee, Salzburg, Mondsee, and Passau for Bavarian; and St. Gall, Reichenau, and Murbach for Alemannic.

Aside from a few terms, such as names in Latin texts and words in runic inscriptions, the earliest evidence for OHG dates to the second half of the eighth century and comprises chiefly glosses. The most important of the eighth-century texts are the Wessobrunn Prayer (ca. 770–90, Bavarian), the St. Gall Vocabulary (ca. 790, Alemannic), the Abrogans, a manuscript of glossae collectae beginning with Lat. abrogans:
dheomodi ‘humble’ (ca. 790 in the St. Gall manuscript, with other manuscripts from the early ninth century, Bavarian), and the Isidor, a translation of Isidore of Seville’s Tractatus de fide catholica contra Judaeos (ca. 790–800, somewhere west of Cologne, hence Middle Franconian). Important ninth-century texts include an interlinear translation of the Benedictine Rule (ca. 800, Alemannic), Muspilli, a fragmentary poem about the end of times (ca. 800, Bavarian), the Mon(d)see-Vienna Fragments of a homiliary (ca. 825, Bavarian), the Murbach Hymns (ca. 825, Reichenau, hence Alemannic), the anonymous translation of Tatian’s harmony of the gospels (ca. 825, Fulda, hence East Franconian), and Otfrid’s Evangelienbuch (ca. 863–71, South Rhine Franconian, but ca. 900 in the Freising manuscript, a Bavarian recension). Also important are the translations of Notker Labeo (Boethius, Aristotle, Psalms, ca. 1000: Alemannic). Isidor and Notker are particularly important for the study of OHG vocalism, since they indicate vowel length, the former by doubling, the latter with a circumflex. Length is indicated less regularly by doubling in the Benedictine Rule, and occasionally (mainly in stressed syllables) by doubling or diacritics in some other texts: see Gabriel 1969 for a thorough survey of the Upper German sources.

The most salient differentiating characteristic of OHG is its consonant system, altered by the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21), which resulted in new affricates and a new geminate fricative zz, on the value of which see §6.21 n. 1. But it is also characterized by some unusual morphological characteristics, some of them innovative, such as the regularization of weak verb stems, some conservative, such as its retention of separate plural inflections for all three persons in verbs, the only WGmc. language to retain this feature.

The most useful resources on OHG phonology and morphology are Baesecke 1918, Schatz 1927, and Braune 2004a; on Donhauser et al. 2011, see §1.18 n. 2. For grammars of individual dialects, see Franck 1971 (Franconian) and Schatz 1907 (Bavarian). A general introduction to OHG and MHG is Russ 1978; other histories of the language include Scherer 1995 [1868], Waterman 1976, Wells 1987, Polenz 2009, Sanders 2010, Salmons 2012. Dictionaries: Schützeichel 2006, Köbler 2014b.\(^3\) Two comprehensive dictionaries are in preparation: see Karg-Gasterstädt et al. 1968– and Lloyd et al. 1988–. Still useful is Graff 1840. For an assessment of the state of scholarship, see Davis 1999.

1. On OHG dialects, along with the grammars cited below, and the references given there, see Moriciniec 1984.
2. Worthy of mention in this regard is the inscription in runes on the Pforzen buckle (6\(^\text{th}\) cent.), representing a full line of OHG verse.
PHONOLOGY
CHAPTER 2

Prosodic Features and the Syllable

2.1 The Proto-Indo-European lexical accent

A distinction is often drawn between languages with stress accent (or ‘expiratory’ or ‘dynamic’ accent in the older literature), as with English, German, and Russian, and those with pitch (or tone, or ‘musical’) accent, as with Lithuanian and Japanese. In the stress type, the primary features of the accented syllable are greater volume and duration, as well as higher pitch, though the relative importance of these properties varies from one stress language to another; and the lesser expiratory force expended on unaccented syllables tends to lead to weakening (i.e., centralization) or loss of the vowels in them. Unaccented syllables tend to be much better preserved in languages with pitch accent, such as ancient Greek and Vedic Sanskrit, wherein the primary feature of the accent is variation (not merely elevation) in pitch (i.e., the rate of vibration of the vocal cords), though stress may also be involved. It is generally agreed that the PIE accent was of the latter type at the end of the PIE period, though at an earlier time it must have been of the former type, as this is surely the origin of alternations between weak and full grades in ablaut (see §3.1).

A distinction with more significant consequences for Germanic linguistics regards the position of the accent: in many languages the place of the accent within the word is entirely predictable on the basis of a mechanical set of rules. This, for example, is the case in Welsh and Polish, where the accent in words of more than one syllable is on the penult, and in French, where it is on the ultima (if, in fact, any syllable in French receives greater stress), and in Latin, where the accent falls on the ultima if it is a heavy syllable, otherwise on the penult. Such an accent is said to be bound. In languages in which the position of the accent is not predictable, or not entirely predictable, such as English and Spanish, the accent is said to be free. It is apparent that the PIE accent was free, a situation best preserved in Vedic Sanskrit, which is thus often of fundamental value in determining the position of the accent in PIE for a given reflex.

In Greek, Sanskrit, and Lithuanian, a bimoric vowel or a diphthong may bear the accent on either the first or the second mora. Thus, for example, the accent is on the first mora of φιλίων ‘themselves’ (gen.) but on the second in ἔγω ‘I’. It has very often been assumed that the same opposition between circumflex and acute accent must have obtained in PIE, but since it is now generally agreed that the chief source of the circumflex accent, the loss of laryngeal consonants (§3.1), took place in the IE daughter languages rather than in PIE itself, this cannot have been the case.

Across languages, words serving primarily grammatical functions, such as conjunctions and prepositions, tend to be unaccented. For prosodic purposes these are called clitics (from Gk. κλίτικός ‘leaning’), because they are perceived to be attached prosodically to a stressed word: they are proclitics if the stressed word follows, enclitics if it precedes.
Some words, most notably some pronouns, occupy a middle tier, being sometimes accented and sometimes not. Doublets of this sort can have some important consequences in Germanic: see §8.1. Finite verbs, in particular, are shown by Gmc. alliterative meters to group with words of this middle tier (see Kuhn 1933). Finite verbs in fact do appear to have been accentually less prominent than nouns, adjectives, and non-finite verb forms, at least in independent clauses, in Proto-Indo-European. The evidence for this is of various kinds. In the manuscripts of Vedic Sanskrit, finite verbs in primary clauses are written without accent, as long as they do not begin a clause or a poetic line, and in Greek the accentuation of verbs resembles that of clitic strings rather than that of nouns (Fortson 2010: 109). In the older Germanic languages, particularly, verbs in primary clauses normally appear as the second element, and this is the same position occupied by unstressed sentence particles in some other IE languages (a phenomenon known as Wackernagel’s law: see Wackernagel 1892, Collinge 1985: 217–19).

In general, the PIE accent in thematic formations (including some nouns, adjectives, and verbs) is static, appearing on the same syllable throughout the paradigm, though there are exceptions. In athematic formations the accent is usually dynamic, shifting its position within the paradigm. In general, the dynamic accent appears in a leftward position in the nom. acc. of nomina and the sg. of verbs, otherwise in a rightward position. See Clackson 2007: 79–88 for a succinct account of the attested patterns of variation, and see §7.4 on the accentuation of nouns.

1. It has been pointed out that this terminology is inaccurate, and the distinction is better described as that between an accent distributed across an entire syllabic phoneme and one limited to a single mora of the phoneme: see Szemerényi 1996: §5.2, with references. The precise nature of the distinction is of no importance in the context of early Gmc. grammar. Languages with tone accent are not the same as tonal languages, such as Chinese and Yoruba, in which every syllable may have a discrete tone, whereas tone accent is usually confined to a single syllable in a word. It should be said that the identification of prosodic types is fraught with difficulties practical and terminological. For an informative discussion, see Hyma 2006. ‘Stress’ and ‘pitch’ must be understood as relative rather than absolute descriptors in regard to accent types.

2. The term ‘free’ should not be taken to imply that in a given word any syllable, chosen at random, might be accented. Rather, in every word there was a proper place for the accent, but the place was not predictable (or not entirely predictable) by rule, nor was it limited to any particular part of the word by general rule.

3. In Greek, circumflexion also arose due to loss of intervocalic *s, *y (i), and *w, and by morphological processes.

2.2 Lexical accent in Proto-Germanic

In Proto-Germanic, the accent inherited from PIE was altered fundamentally, changing from a free pitch accent to a bound stress accent.¹ From the evidence of Verner’s law (§6.6) it may be deduced that the accent was still free after the First Sound Shift (§6.4), and most suppose that it had become a stress accent, on the assumption that this is likelier to explain the voicing that took place under Verner’s law.² Conversion to a bound accent must have taken place at a later time. On the dating of Verner’s law, see §6.7.

When the accent shifted in Proto-Germanic, in most lexical categories it came to rest on the initial syllable of the word, as in Italic and Celtic. It was the fixing of the stress accent on the initial syllable that began the extended process of the reduction and loss of inflectional syllables.³ The prefix *ga-/*gi- is never stressed, but other prefixes on nouns and adjectives were usually stressed, though there are isolated exceptions. For example, words bearing the privative prefix un- usually alliterate with words bearing
vocalic initials in OE poetry, though exceptions are to be found. The chief exception to the rule of initial stress is that verb roots may receive primary stress, leaving prefixes unstressed or with a lesser degree of stress.\(^4\) The chief evidence for root-stress in verbs is of two kinds: alliterative patterns in verse and vowel reductions in prefixes. The usual explanation for the different accentuation of verbs, first proposed by Loewe (1933; already in the 1st ed., 1905: 1.33), is that at the time of the accent shift, prefixes were not yet univerbated with verbs but stood in front of them as proclitics, a property inherited from PIE. Evidence for this analysis may be derived from Gothic, in which other parts of speech may stand between such particles and the verb root, as in 3 sg. *at-uh-pan-gaf ‘and then delivered’ (-uh- ‘and’, -pan- ‘then’) and *us-nu-gibiþ ‘render therefore’ (-nu- ‘therefore’). It is for this reason that verbs derived from prefixed nouns have initial stress rather than root stress, as with OE *and-swarian ‘answer’ (verb; cf. *and-swaru ‘answer’ (noun)).

In addition to primary, full stress, there is secondary stress on the second constituents of compound nouns and adjectives, as with Go. *árma-haírts, OE *éarm-héort ‘merciful’.\(^6\) Another kind of subordinate stress is found in quasi-compounds (including dithematic personal names), i.e. compounds not composed of two free morphemes, such as Go. *and-wairfs ‘present’. As the meter of OE poetry demonstrates, these did not normally bear ictus (and thus, presumably, stress) on the second constituent except when another syllable followed, hence OE *nórd-weard ‘north’ (adj.), but nom. pl. nórd-wéarde.\(^7\) The difference in degree of stress on the second constituents of compounds and quasi-compounds is proved by the complete resistance of vowels and diphthongs under the former to be reduced, whereas vowel reductions often do apply to the latter, as with compounds that lose their transparency, e.g. OE *fultum ‘aid’, early *fulteám. This degree of stress on quasi-compounds is commonly referred to as tertiary stress.\(^8\) That there really is a degree of stress on the middle syllables of quasi-compounds is demonstrated by instances in which there is no vowel reduction, as in OE *áin-fealdeþ ‘simple’ (gen. sg.) and *wís-dómes ‘of wisdom’, since diphthongs and long vowels ought not to appear in fully unstressed syllables. Diphthongs and long vowels in the unstressed syllables of words like OE *nórd-weard and *áin-feald are probably due to the influence of the inflected cases (see Fulk 2002: 82 n. 3). The nature of stress can hardly have been uniform across the Germanic languages,\(^9\) but the metrical similarities of the surviving alliterative poetry in North and West Germanic languages suggest a tiered system of stress relations like that in Old English, e.g. Olcel. *pañ er saklauss var ‘him who was blameless’ (Sölarljóð 22, with non-ictic -laus) beside vitlaussi mjök ‘very foolish’ (Helreið Brynhildar 5, with ictic -laus-).

1. For an overview of early Gmc. prosodies, see Bennett 1972.
2. But cf. Polomé 1994: 18. Alternatives to this analysis have occasionally been proposed. Boer (1916: 110; 1924: 123–4) argues that Proto-Germanic retained a pitch accent for a time after developing the stress accent, and that voicing occurred between the two accents, so that Verner’s law may be dated later than the accent shift. (For references to some studies proposing similar ideas, see Boutkan 1995b: 105.) Prokosch (1939: §20a n.) objects that this leaves Verner’s law effects in final position unaccounted for and ignores the natural connection between voicing and stress (as seen in, e.g., the distinction between Mod.Eng. exact, exert with /gz/ and exercise, execute with /ks/). Bennett (1972: 100–2) proposes that after the accent shift the P GMT. fricatives had fortis and lenis allophones, the former occurring initially and “medially or finally if the nearest preceding parent vowel or other syllabic had already borne primary accent” (101). This again links medial and final voicing to accent rather than stress, and it fails to account for the problem with the standard analysis that motivates Bennett’s search for an alternative, the unexpected initial voicing in PGmc. *gæ- < PIE *kom-. David Fertig has kindly called attention to the dissertation of a former student of his in which it is found that preceding and following pitch may have an effect upon the perception of voicing in fricatives.
(Cornish 2007), thus calling into question the assumption that the Gmc. accent was a stress accent at the time that Verner’s law applied.

3. Initial stress is necessary but not sufficient to explain the reduction of final syllables: e.g., E. Haugen (1969: 107) points out that Finnish, with an initial stress accent, does not reduce final syllables. In view of the preservation of long vowels in medial syllables in Gothic, Kotin (2012: 34) argues that stress in that language had not yet shifted entirely to the initial syllable.

4. For example, the prefix un- alliterates at more than 40 places in Beowulf, whereas the consonantal initial of the word to which it is attached alliterates three or four times (at lines 1756, 2000, 2863, probably 2921).

5. That verb prefixes were not entirely unstressed is best illustrated by Gothic prefixes like faír- and faúr-, given that the vowels ai and ai do not occur in unstressed syllables of native Go. words. Yet variation in the spelling of the OHG equivalent (fur-, für-, fir-, fer-) can be attributed to low stress.

6. In various publications Anatoly Liberman has advocated the view that ‘stress’ is an epiphenomenon to the variety of vowels permitted in a given syllable (see, e.g., Liberman 1982: 24–6, 1994, perhaps most explicitly 2010: 382–4), an analysis with roots in the Prague Circle (Trubetskoy, Jakobson, and their adherents). One implication of such an analysis is that it is mistaken to refer to ‘degrees of stress’. It may in fact be possible to reduce the four apparent degrees of stress in Old English to two (see Fulk 1992: 183–234), but certainly it simplifies the discussion of Germanic stress to have recourse to more than two levels of stress, even if ‘stress’ in such a discussion is to be understood as an abstraction, not necessarily referring to expiratory force (or other features of stress accent) but to other factors that may involve, e.g., morphology and metrical conventions.

7. For example, the meter demands that there be no ictus on -lēas in sēcean wynlēas wīc (Beowulf 821a) but that -lēas- bear ictus in hāra pe tīrlēasēs (843a). For a list of exceptional verses in Beowulf, see Fulk 1992: §210. It should be noted that when the second constituent of a quasi-compound follows an unstressed syllable, it is receives ictus regardless of whether it is inflected, hence, e.g., OE ende-lēas ‘endless’.

8. Some regard even uninflected quasi-compounds like OE furlang ‘furlong’ and hettend ‘enemy’ as bearing tertiary stress: see Hogg 1996, with references. This would explain how there can be a long vowel or a diphthong in the final syllable of an uninflected quasi-compound, though it renders the metrical treatment of such words difficult to explain. On the difficulty of drawing prosodic conclusions from metrical observations, see Minkova 1996. It should be plain that OE plays a central role in discussions of Gmc. stress. This is largely because of the size of the OE poetic corpus and the morphological conservatism of OE relative to ON. Relevant studies of (chiefly) OE stress include Moulton 1977, Suphi 1988, McCully & Hogg 1990, McCully 1992, Colman 1994, Hogg 1996, Gąsiorowski 1997, Hutton 1998a, b, and Russom 2001.

9. For instance, it is generally believed that the restoration of syncopated vowels and the appearance of svarabhakti vowels in Old Saxon indicate a lower degree of primary stress than in the other Gmc. languages (see Suzuki 2004: 11–23, with references), and in Old High German, long vowels appear in syllables that are fully unstressed in cognates, e.g. -ēn in habēn ‘have’ (Olcel. -a, Go. OE OS -an).

### 2.3 Quantity in early Germanic

The earliest Gmc. languages are to be regarded as mora-counting languages. High German aside, starting ca. 1200 there appear the earliest signs of conversion to isochronous languages, in which all stressed syllables are heavy, taking the form V.C or V.C.C (where the point marks the syllable boundary), by lengthening of vowels in open syllables and shortening in closed. The term ‘isochrony’ thus refers to uniformity of syllable quantities. A number of Scandinavian languages remain isochronous to this day, including Icelandic, Faroese, and Standard Swedish and Norwegian. The earliest Gmc. languages, by contrast, had both light and heavy stressed syllables, as well as overlong ones, as in Go. bandwjan ‘signify’, brōprjus ‘brothers’, and OE wasɪmbehēre ‘fruitful’. Rather than standardizing syllable quantities, then, the earliest Gmc. counted morae and tended to preserve moric quantities. This explains early Gmc. instances of compensatory lengthening of vowels, as in *faŋxana* > *fāxana* > Go. fāhan ‘take’
and *ib-hīez > OE īfīg ‘ivy’. Another effect of mora-counting is the alternations governed by Sievers’ law, whereby PIE ī is nuclearized after a heavy sequence but not a light, producing oppositions like Go. nom. sg. harjīs ‘army’: haírdeis ‘herdsman’ (§5.8, and see Kleiner 1999b). Mora-counting is evident as well in a variety of early IE verse traditions, including Gmc., where a stressed light syllable plus another, regardless of the latter’s weight, is metrically equivalent to a heavy syllable: see §2.4 on resolution.

1. See, e.g., Liberman 1982: 57, idem 1990a, b. There is no consensual definition of a mora. It may be conceived as a unit of length, either vocalic or consonantal, equivalent to the duration of a short vowel. Moric count begins at the syllable peak and includes all segments in the syllable coda. The first syllable of Go. manags ‘large’ is monomoric (since n belongs to the onset of the second syllable), of hardus ‘hard’ bimoric, of acc. hardjana trimoric, etc. (though not all would agree that the last is not divided har.djana: see §2.5).

2. As a consequence of the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21), some light syllables became heavy due to the conversion of stops to affricates, and some regard this development as part of the process of conversion to isochronous status.

### Syllable division in early Germanic

Conclusions about how syllables were divided in early Gmc. are based on several factors, including scribal practice as regards the division of words at line ends, historical changes in vowel quantities, and the meters of alliterative verse.

Scribal practice in Go. manuscripts is remarkably consistent as regards how words are divided at line ends. In simplices, a word-medial consonant or consonant cluster is divided in such a way that just one consonant begins a new line: typical divisions are thus ha/bái, swis/tar, þaúr/nuns, tal/zeinái, ans/tái. An exception to the rule is that a cluster of obstruent plus sonorant consonant usually is not divided: examples are faj/dreinam, win trúau, af/trá. A cluster with a final glide, however, follows the more general rule, e.g. fulshn/ja, waúrst/wa (Vennemann 1987b: 170–83; Barrack 1998: 24–6). Division of simplices in OE manuscripts is similar to this, the usual practice again being not to divide an obstruent from a sonorant, with the exception of certain clusters (e.g. tl, dl, þl, sr) which do not occur word initially. The lengthening of vowels in open syllables that affected the Gmc. languages in the later Middle Ages provides only partial support for the manuscript evidence for syllabification. The plainest evidence comes from Icelandic and Faroese, where the change was exceptionally regular. Vowels remained short when followed by more than one consonant, the only exceptions occurring before clusters of voiceless stop plus r: Mod. Icel. skopra ‘roll’, betri ‘better’, and akrar ‘fields’ all have long vowels. Before l, however, there is no lengthening, as in epli ‘apple’, katlar ‘kettles’, and miklan ‘large’ (acc. sg. masc.), all with a short vowel. Moreover, there is no lengthening before fricative plus sonorant consonant, as in aðra ‘other’ (acc. sg. fem.), klífra ‘climb’, seðlar ‘banknotes’. More striking is that a cluster of voiceless stop plus glide permits lengthening, as in sitja ‘sit’, vökva ‘water’ (verb), contradicting the pattern of word division in Gothic.3

Alliterative verse yields some evidence. In most meters a stressed light syllable may not bear the ictus alone, but it must be ‘resolved’ with another syllable to do so (Sievers 1893: §9.1). For example, OE fīftiges wīd is an acceptable verse, having a heavy initial syllable and thus four metrical positions, whereas þeoþones helm would not be an acceptable verse, having a light initial syllable that must be resolved with the following syllable, producing a verse of fewer than the requisite four positions. This is
usually explained on the assumption of syllabification as *heo.fo.nes. Yet in verse, despite the evidence of word division in manuscripts, clusters like tr cannot be tautosyllabic: compare ond þæs betran forð, in which the first syllable of betran can only be heavy. Skaldic poetry presents some especially puzzling evidence. The results of Open Syllable Lengthening in Icelandic and Faroese plainly show that the first syllable of words like Olcel. betri was light, yet a certain formal requirement of skaldic verse known as Craigie’s law demands a different conclusion. A monosyllable ending in a consonant is, by most accounts, necessarily a heavy syllable, since the final consonant must belong to the coda. Yet dróttkvætt meter treats a monosyllable like fjól in position 4 as if it were light, since a verse like Ragnarr ok fjól sagna is licit, whereas †Ragnarr ok fjólð sagna would not be (Gade 1995: 29–30). Likewise, an antevocalic long vowel cannot be a lift unless it is resolved with the following syllable: thus, for example, búa is metrically equivalent to gefa, implying that bú- is a light syllable. This is especially puzzling because †bua, with a short root vowel, is an impossibility (see §2.5). Moreover, internal rhymes (hendingar) in dróttkvætt are treated as if intervocalic consonants, and even consonant clusters, belonged to the syllable coda, for example riðvígge lagar sklóm; meldr i möður holdi; þa varð fastr við fóstra. The various sorts of evidence thus do not provide any definitive answer to the question how early Gmc. syllables were divided. It is nonetheless true that certain probabilities can be established on the basis of patterns of syllabification observable in natural languages. Consonant sounds can be ranked on a strength scale, indicating their relative sonority, and generalizations (syllable contact laws) then formulated about preferred and dispreferred syllabifications on the basis of the relative sonority of sounds in contact. Yet the syllabifications that are a crucial factor in certain sound changes are the very ones for which no such syllable preference law can be formulated with assurance: for example, neither si.tja- nor sit.ja- can be regarded as universally preferred, the former being the syllabification in Icelandic and Faroese, the latter being that required to account for WGmc. consonant gemination. Other sorts of evidence need to be adduced in such instances, as will become apparent in the discussion of Sievers’ law (§5.8 infra). In regard to Gothic syllable division, see further below on Prokosch’s law (§2.5).


3. See Stefán Einarsson 1945: 3–6. For Faroese, see Lockwood 1955: 8–9. OE word division is indecisive in these respects: clusters like fl, br do not strongly favor division either before or after the first consonant (Lutz 1985: 234), and WGmc. consonant gemination eliminated most of the evidence regarding glides.

4. See §2.5 on Prokosch’s law. To the contrary, Kuryłowicz (1949, supported by Liberman 1982: 46, 226; 1994: 238–40) argues that in early Gmc. not only a morpheme but a stressed syllable could not end in a short vowel, and this explains resolution and Prokosch’s law. Naturally, this requires a rather different idea about syllabification.

5. To be sure, such evidence is not incontestable, since the prehistoric OE loss of i in the reflex of *batiza cannot be dated with any assurance (see §5.6), and even if it were sufficiently early, retention of the older, resolved value would be characteristic of linguistically conservative OE poetic tradition.

6. It is possible, however, that, from the standpoint of metrical phonology, the final consonant in a monosyllable is extrametrical. Such an explanation might be invoked to explain, for instance, why there is no breaking before r in OE wer ‘man’, though there is in weor.ðan ‘become’.
7. Liberman (2010: 406) remarks about such rhymes that “perhaps they correlated with the morphological type of Old Germanic, as Brink (2004: 87–93) suggested; perhaps they were inherited from the protolanguage.”


2.5 Prokosch’s law

The preference for a bimoric syllable rime (i.e., nucleus plus coda) in languages (like PGmc.) with stress accent has been given the name ‘Prokosch’s law’. One formulation of the law is thus the following:

In stress accent languages an accented syllable is the more preferred, the closer its syllable weight is to two moras, and an unaccented syllable is the more preferred the closer its weight is to one mora. (The optimal stressed syllable is bimoric, the optimal unstressed syllable is unimoric.)

As a consequence of the law, when PGmc. acquired a stress accent (§2.2), monomoric stressed morphemes became dispreferred, and in a word ending in a stressed short vowel, lengthening of the vowel took place. Examples are Olcel. þú, OE þū, OS þū, OHG ðū ‘you (sg.)’ (cf. Gk. σῦ, Lith. ū), Olcel. sā, OE sē ‘this, the’ (cf. Go. sa), and Go. nē ‘no’, ON nē ‘not’ (poetic), OE nē ‘nor’ (cf. Skt. nā ‘not’). Yet short vowels could remain (or re-develop) in unstressed forms, e.g. -tu in ON skaltu ‘you (sg.) shall’ and the preverbal particle Go. ni, OE ne ‘not’. It is to be conceded, however, that doublets of such words with long and short vowels probably existed already in PIE (so, e.g., Sihler 1995: 38; see Johansson 1890: 125–6), and so lengthening is more securely attested in words that lost a final consonant in Gmc., e.g. PGmc. dat. sg. *mez > OE mē ‘me’ (cf. Go. mis, OHG mir, and compare how loss of -z does not cause lengthening in unstressed syllables), PGmc. *in > Olcel. i ‘in’, PIE *syod > PGmc. *swa, Go. swa ‘so’, but stressed svē ‘just as’, Olcel. svā, OE swā ‘so’, and PGmc. *sax(e) > Olcel. sā ‘saw’ (cf. Go. sah).

A further implication of Prokosch’s law is that the initial syllable of a word such as Go. kuni ‘race’ or Olcel. fara ‘go’ is of a dispreferred type, and this has consequences for Germanic phonology, inasmuch as it may be said that the initial syllable in such words, in a sense, attracts to it the second syllable to form a “foot,” a single prosodic unit. This is evident, for example, in the operation of high vowel deletion in the WGmc. languages, particularly OE (§5.6), whereby a light syllable plus another of any weight (which may be called a ‘resolved’ sequence of syllables) is functionally equivalent to a heavy syllable, after which a final high vowel is lost, hence, e.g., *weorodu > weorod ‘troop’ and *hwatostu > hwatost ‘keenest’, but faru ‘journey’ and (Mercian) hēafudu ‘heads’. Resolved and heavy syllables are also functionally equivalent in the operation of Sievers’ law (§5.8). The equivalence is observed as well in the meters of alliterative verse, in which a light syllable must be resolved with another syllable under primary stress to form a metrical position sufficient to bear ictus (see §2.4).

Prokosch’s law plainly operated in prehistoric OE, as shown by the evidence of Sievers’ law (§5.8). Under the definition of Prokosch’s law quoted above, it should be expected to have applied to all the early Gmc. languages, since they all had stress accent. That the law applied is not as plain in regard to Gothic: Riad (1992) regards the law as crucial to understanding Gothic syllabification, whereas Calabrese (1994) rejects this view. Pierce (2013) offers strong evidence in support of Riad’s position. The usual
assumption, however, has been that lengthening under Prokosch’s law is limited to the NWGmc. languages and does not apply to Gothic: so, e.g., Kuryłowicz 1949, Pascual 2016: 290–1; cf. Goering 2016: 280–9, idem forthcoming.

1. Vennemann 1988b: 30. The way that the principle is formulated by Prokosch (1939: §50) is considerably less precise. But Prokosch also says that “after a long syllable, or after two syllables (which phonetically, or metrically, amounts to the same thing) [i and u] disappear sooner than after a short syllable. This law, which seems to express a general trend of Germanic towards accented syllables of two morae, is clearly preserved” (§49c).

2. Orthography does not prove a short vowel in Go. $swa$ (or $sa$, $fnu$, etc.), but stressed $swē$ can be the result only of lengthening of PGmc. $swa$ (cf. PIE $*yudh$), and certainly the vowel is short in $ni$ (see below). It is thus to be assumed that this lengthening did take place in Gothic, as should be expected if the formulation of Prokosch’s law quoted above is valid. (Otherwise Ringe & Taylor 2014: 65.) For a different derivation of OE $swē$, see Hollifield 1985. The loss of unstressed $i$ in Go. $i$-stems but preservation of $u$ in $u$-stems seems to point to variable loss, presumably conditioned by syllable weight, with later paradigm regularization, thus providing evidence of the same sort of results of the law evident in WGmc.: see Prokosch 1939: §49c.

3. This insight belongs originally to Kuryłowicz (1949). The idea of the ‘Germanic foot’ derives from Dresher & Lahiri 1991, adding Sievers’ law (§5.8) to the list of dependent phonological processes. For a critique and refinement of Dresher & Lahiri’s position, and of responses to it, see Barrack 1998: 164–6. For an introduction to metrical phonology, see Hogg & McCully 1987.
CHAPTER 3

The Vowels of Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Germanic

3.1 The vowels of Proto-Indo-European

Vowel alternations in PIE are referred to as ablaut or vowel gradation, which may be qualitative or quantitative. The most fundamental alternation is the qualitative one between e and o, which may be observed in forms like Gk. φέρω ‘bear’ < *bher- : φορά ‘bearing’ < *bhor-. The e-grade of a root like *bher- is to be regarded as the unmarked form or the dictionary form; sometimes the appearance of the o-grade alternant may appear to be related to the placement of the accent on a different syllable, as in the example given, though often no straightforward explanation is apparent, and doubt has been cast on the role of accent in this regard (see Szemerényi 1996: §6.3). As regards quantitative ablaut, e-grade and o-grade are both varieties of the full grade. In zero-grade the vowel disappears altogether, as with *-bhr- in Gk. ἐκφρέω ‘bring out’. When zero-grade causes a sonorant consonant (l, r, n, m, ţ, y) to appear between obstruents, or next to an obstruent at the beginning or end of a word, the sonorant must be syllabic (l, r, ţ, n, i, u, respectively), as in Old Irish breth ‘bearing’ < *bhṛt-. The difference between the nonsyllabic sonorant in *bhr- and the syllabic one in *bhṛt- is thus purely phonotactic, and for this reason both are commonly referred to as examples of zero-grade. In certain instances, however, it is useful to have terminology to distinguish the two, and then the latter may be called the reduced grade; together, the zero and reduced grade are sometimes called the weak grade, as they are in this book.1 Another quantitative alternation produces the lengthened grade, as in Gk. φώρ < *bhōr ‘thief’, which may have either e- or o-quality (or a-quality, as explained below). Lengthened grade is frequently explicable on a phonological basis as compensatory lengthening, as in this instance, where the root vowel has been lengthened upon loss of final *-s (see §1.6 n. 1). Frequently, however, the origin is obscure, as in Lat. sēdēs ‘seat’ (cf. OS sittian ‘sit’ < PGmc. *sit-j-anə < PIE *sed-).

Only in a circumscribed number of words does it appear necessary to reconstruct a PIE root vowel a rather than e or o. An example is *nas-, as in Skt. nās ‘nose’, Olc. nes ‘headland’ < *nasja-, with a long ablaut alternant *nās- in Lat. nāris ‘nostril’ and OE nōse ‘promontory’. For evidence that i could be a phonemic vowel and not solely an allophone of ţ, see Mayrhofer in Kuryłowicz et al. 1986–2015: I, 160–1, 168.

In older reconstructions of PIE there is posited a vowel o, called schwa (or schwa primum), reflected, where preserved, as i in Indo-Iranian and as a everywhere else (though it develops further to o in Slavic; about Greek see below).2 The standard view now instead is that this represents a syllabic consonant referred to as a laryngeal consonant (though there is no consensus about its actual phonetic value), which may be represented as ḥ, indicating, abstractly, any syllabic laryngeal consonant. The grounds for regarding o as a consonant were at first structural. For example, Saussure (1879)
observed that whereas a combination of vowel plus sonorant consonant in the full grade becomes a syllabic sonorant in weak grade (e.g. o-grade *pondh- in Gk. perf. πέποθα ‘I have suffered’ : weak-grade *-pydh- in aorist ἔπαθον), a root with a long vowel where full grade should be expected produces ῖ in the weak grade (e.g. full-grade *-stᾱ- in Gk. ἵστημι ‘stand’ : weak-grade *stᾱ- in στατός ‘positioned’, Skt. sthitᾱ-). Building on Saussure’s discoveries, Möller (1911) observed that the vowel ῖ thus behaves the way a consonant does, and the vowel ᾅ in *stᾱ- might thus better be analyzed as vowel plus H (hence *ståH-), a consonant to which he first applied the term ‘laryngeal’ (laryngal). It is particularly plain from Greek evidence that weak-grade ῖ corresponds to three different long vowels, ᾅ, ᾅ, and ὅ, in forms where a simple e-grade vowel should be expected to appear, as in the present indicative of verbs. If H can explain the length in these vowels, it can also be employed to explain the three different vowel qualities or ‘colorations’ if it is assumed that H actually represents three different consonants. The three are now commonly represented as h₁ (producing e-coloration), h₂ (a-coloration) and h₃ (o-coloration), though ῖ may be retained to represent any of the three when the distinction is of no importance. In Greek alone does a laryngeal perhaps retain its colorizing quality when syllabified, so that the three laryngeals are reflected as α, ο, and o, respectively, when they correspond to what used to be represented as ῖ. Except when a laryngeal stood before a vowel, its loss resulted in the lengthening also of ᾅ and ο, though without producing any coloration, as in Skt. pīvan- ‘fat’ < *piH-yon- and OE brū ‘brow’ < *bhruH-. Other syllabic sonorants might be lengthened, as well, as in Lat. (g)nātus ‘born’ < *gjōtis (cf. Go. kunds). When a laryngeal originally stood before a vowel, it might color the vowel, but its loss would not result in any lengthening of the vowel, as in *hes-tī > Lat. est ‘is’, *hēg- > Lat. agō ‘do’, and *hekʷ- > Gk. ὤψώτα ‘I shall see’. Saussure’s theory was dramatically confirmed by Kuryłowicz (1927) after Hittite was deciphered and discovered to preserve a consonantal reflex of h₂ and most likely of h₃, as well, as in hent- in Hitt. ħant-s ‘forehead’ (cf. Lat. ante ‘in front’) and *herbh- in Hitt. ħarapp- ‘become separated’ (cf. Lat. orbus ‘orphan’; a becomes ā in Hittite). Regardless of the date at which Hittite branched off from the IE group (see §1.2), it is now generally assumed that the loss of laryngeal consonants was not a PIE phenomenon but took place independently in the daughter languages. Thus, technically, many long vowels formerly reconstructed for PIE must be assumed to have arisen in the post-PIE period, and long syllabic sonorant consonants should not be reconstructed for the protolanguage. No very consistent treatment has been adopted in the present book: long vowels of laryngeal origin and long syllabic resonants are frequently treated as if they arose in PIE, in the conviction that the older notation is not infrequently less opaque, and readers will recognize shorthand reconstructions for what they are. Long syllabic sonorants, for example, are included in the inventory of PIE vowels below.

In weak grade it should be expected that the vowel would disappear entirely between two obstruents, and this is very commonly the case, as with weak grade *-pt- > in Lat. nepītis ‘granddaughter, niece’ (cf. lengthened grade *-pōt- in Lat. acc. sg. nepōtem ‘grandson, nephew’). However, in many environments in which zero grade between two obstruents should be expected, instead a vowel appears, as in past participles, e.g. Gk. πέποτας, Lat. coctus ‘cooked’ from expected *pkʷ-tos (cf. full grade in Gk. πέπτω, Lat. coquō ‘cook’). The unexpected vowel appears most commonly, but not consistently, in a morphological environment in which syllabicity can be explained as due to analogy: in the given example, since reduced rather than zero grade is the norm in past participles (technically, verbal adjectives) of verb roots containing a sonorant consonant (as with
§3.1 The vowels of Proto-Indo-European

*klu- in Gk. κλωτός ‘famous’; cf. full-grade *kley-ō > kléō ‘glorify’), presumably some variety of reduced vocalism was introduced analogically into the root of forms like *pkʷ-tōs. This reduced vowel is referred to as schwa secundum and is usually represented by a subscript e, or sometimes by v, hence *p₁kʷ-tōs or *p₂kʷ-tōs. The value of this sound is often thought to have been, at least originally, [ə], but these alternative representations of it came into use because at the time it was first posited, the graph (ə) was already in use to represent a syllabic laryngeal. The alternative representations are actually preferable for their abstractness, since it cannot be known whether the vowel, when introduced analogically, was not sometimes a full grade vowel from the start, or whether the analogical formations arose in PIE itself. It should be noted that quite a few scholars reject the idea of schwa secundum, e.g. Szemerényi (1996: §4.1.11).

On the analysis presented here, originally there were no diphthongs in PIE, but once quantitative ablaut lost its phonological conditioning, except before a vowel, and would have combined with a preceding vowel to form diphthongs, hence ai, ei, oi, au, eu, ou. Long diphthongs also occurred rarely due to lengthening or contraction, and later by the loss of laryngeals. Again, long and short diphthongs are included in the inventory of PIE vocoids below to facilitate comparison among the daughter languages.

The following vocoids may thus be assumed to have been inherited by Germanic from PIE:

\[
\begin{align*}
& a, e, o, i, u, ʰa, ʰe, ʰo, ʰi, ʰu \\
& ū, ū́, ū̄, ū̊ \\
& ai, ei, oi, au, eu, ou \\
& āi, ēi, ōi, āu, ēu, ōu
\end{align*}
\]

1. To call the syllabic and nonsyllabic sonorants both examples of zero grade is to treat the two sets as in allophonic variation with each other, which originally they were. When ablaut ceased to be phonologically conditioned, however, the distinction became phonemic.

2. On whether s (i.e., š) ever produces u in Germanic, see §5.5 ad fin.

3. For an enlightening account of laryngeal consonants, their traces in the IE languages, and various theoretical approaches to them, see Lindeman 1987.

4. The precise number of laryngeals posited for PIE varies, but the majority of scholars work with three.

5. It is perhaps likelier, though, that a syllabic laryngeal always develops to a in Greek, and the three short vowels are instead due to the analogical influence of the corresponding long vowels: so, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §4.1.11. See Lindeman 1987: §§86–7 for discussion and references, and cf. Sihler 1995: 99–100.

6. In a form like *kʷtyr- ‘four’ (as in Gk. τράπεζα ‘(four-footed) table’), the alternant *kʷtyr- (as in Lat. quattuor ‘four’) perhaps arose in constructions in which the word followed a word-final consonant, creating an even more awkward consonant cluster. Hence, the assumption that schwa secundum had the value [ə] is not unreasonable.

7. One might prefer to think of , as pure abstraction, representing processes of analogical restoration of vocalism in the IE branches, if not in the protolanguage itself. But since, for example, verbal adjectives like *pkʷ-tōs, without the schwa, are never attested as simplices (one might have expected the initial consonant cluster to have been simplified in that case), it really is necessary to assume some sort of vocoid in such forms in the protolanguage. That is all , need be taken to represent, though differences among the daughter languages as to its reflex do raise the possibility of a sound distinct from any other in PIE.
3.2 The short vowels in early Germanic

In the stressed syllables of Proto-Germanic there occurred the unconditional change of o to a, and of ê to a. The short syllabic sonorant consonants of PIE, p, m, r, l, developed to PGmc. un, un, ur, ul, respectively. The fate of schwa secundum varies by environment: between obstruents (and, usually, between a resonant and an obstruent) it appears as a full-grade vowel e, whereas in front of an antevocalic resonant it develops to u, just as syllabic resonants develop to u plus resonant. On the standard view, the remaining short vowels retain their PIE values in Proto-Germanic except as the result of certain conditioned changes explained in §§4.1–4. Examples of the short vowels:


PIE e, Gmc. e: PIE *kel- ‘conceal’ > Lat. celō, OIr. celid, OE OS OHG helan; PIE *medhu- > Gk. μεθύ ‘wine’, Lith. medus ‘honey’, OE medu, OFris. mede, OHG metu ‘mead’; PIE *(h)e-skar- > Gk. ἐπομένω, Lat. sequor, Lith. sekū ‘follow’, Go. saíuhan, OS OHG sehan ‘see’.

PIE o > Gmc. a:1 PIE *moǵh- > Gk. ὄμη ‘lead, guide’, OCS voziti ‘drive, guide, lead’, Go. ga-wagian ‘move, shake’, also OE OS wagian, OHG wágon ‘move’; PIE *okto(u) ‘eight’ > Gk. ὀκτώ, Lat. octō, Go. ahtau, Olcel. āta, OFris. ahtua, OS OHG ahto; PIE *bhag- > OIr. bāg ‘bag’, OFPruss. balsinis ‘pillow’, Go. balgs ‘leather bag’, OHG balg ‘bag’.


in Lith. ūoga ‘berry’, reduced-grade *H₂H₂ge- in Go. akran, Olcel. akarn, MHG acerer
‘fruit, acorn’.

ΠIE ə (schwa secundum) gives Gmc. u before r, l, n, or m (which must be ante-
vocalic, otherwise there would be no schwa secundum, but r, l, m, n, otherwise a
full-grade vowel, usually e: ΠIE *gʷm-o- > OE cuman ‘come’ (cf. full grade in Skt.
gámati ‘goes’, zero grade after a vowel in Avestan frā-yamat ‘comes forth’); ΠIE *k₁l- >
Gk. κατα ‘cottage’, Go. hulundi ‘cave’ (k₁l-ptime; cf. OE OS OHG helan ‘conceal’,
with full grade); ΠIE *s₁l- > Skt. sattá-, Lat. sessus, Olcel. setinn, OE seten, OS gi-setan,
OHG gi-sezzan ‘having sat’; possibly ΠIE *l₁gh- > Olcel. leginn, OE legen ‘lain’ (cf.
Gk. λόγος ‘lair’ < *logh-os); compare also ΠIE *ph₁l̥u- ‘many’ > *p₁lu- > Skt. purú-
fule, fula.

ΠIE ə > PGMc. un: ΠIE *bh₁dh- in Skt. baddhā ‘bound’ (full grade in bāndhuh
‘relation’), Go. bundans ‘bound’; ΠIE *h₁d̪h₂t- in Skt. gen. sg. datā-h, Lat. gen.
dent-is ‘tooth’, Go. nom. sg. *tunphus ‘tooth’; ΠIE *n- privative prefix in Skt. a-,
Gk. α-, Lat. in- < en-, PGMc. *un-; ΠIE *kp̥h₂- in Skt. kākāt ‘thirsts’, OHG hungr ‘hunger’.

ΠIE ə > PGMc. um: ΠIE *ğm-t-is- in Skt. gātih ‘movement’, Go. ga-qumḥs
‘assembly’; ΠIE h₉ph₂h’ét (-) in Skt. abhī-tah ‘to both sides’, OHG OS umbli, Olcel. umbi,
OE ymb(e); ΠIE *kg₂tóm ‘hundred’ (from *d₉km-d₉km) in Gk. ḫ-katōn, Lat. centum, Go.
OE hund.

ΠIE t > PGMc. ur: ΠIE *bh₁gh- in Czech brh ‘cave’, OE pret. pl. burgon ‘save’;
ΠIE *ty₂n- in Skt. tṛṇam ‘blade of grass’, Go. paurnus ‘thorn’; ΠIE *grbh- in Gk.
γάφω ‘write’, OE cyrf ‘slice’ < *kurb-iz; ΠIE *ty₂s- in Skt. tṛṣyati ‘thirsts’, OE h₉rst,
OhG durst ‘thirst’.

ΠIE l > PGMc. uf: ΠIE *ml̥d- in Skt. mrṇāti ‘crushes’, Lat. mollis ‘soft, weak’,
OE pret. pl. mulion ‘melt’; ΠIE *yk₂w̥- ‘wolf’ in Skt. vṛkah, Lat. lupus, Go. wolf; ΠIE
*kl̥t- ‘incline’ in Lat. aus-cultō ‘hear attentively’ (< *incline the ear’), Go. h₉lbs, Olcel.
h₉ltr, OHG OS ohd ‘gracious, loyal’.

1. This change had not yet taken place when words from Celtic were borrowed into Gmc. on the Continent,
e.g. Volcae > OE Wealh-, OHG Walha (ethnic name). In loans from Latin, however, o remains, as in OE scœlu

3.3 The long vowels in early Germanic

In the stressed syllables of Proto-Germanic there occurred the unconditioned change of
ΠIE ā to ē. Otherwise, the long vowels reconstructed for PGMc. (including the long
vowels that developed from short vowels plus laryngeal consonants, §3.1) are the same
as those reconstructed for PIE, though with some qualitative alterations noted below.
The long syllabic sonorant consonants, lengthened chiefly by the loss of laryngeal conso-
ants in the daughter languages (i.e., sonorant plus H, producing a long sonorant),
developed in Gmc. the same way as the short, perhaps simply by loss of the laryngeal
without compensatory lengthening. Examples of the long vowels:

ΠIE ā > Gmc. ē: ΠIE *bhāgós ‘beech’ > Lat. fāgus, Gk. φῆγος (Doric φῆγος),
Olcel. bók, OE bōc; ΠIE *māt̥r̥-, *māt̥er- ‘mother’ > Skt. māt̥ār-, Gk. μητρί, Lat. māter,
Olcel. mōðir, OE mōðor, OFris. OS mōdar, OHG mōter; ΠIE *kāp- in Gk. κῆπος
(Doric κάπος) ‘garden’, OHG hōba, OS hōba ‘piece of land’; ΠIE *pā- in Lat. pasā-
‘feed’ (cf. Osca paastores), OIr. ās ‘growth’, Go. fōðjan, ‘feed’, Olcel. fōðr, OE fōðor,
fōð(d)or, OHG fōtotar ‘food, fodder’.

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PIE ē, PGmc. ē (i.e., ē, which yields NWGmc. ē or ē (§4.6)):1 PIE *bhèles- in Gk. φλήναρος ‘idle talk’, Go. uf-blēsan ‘puff up’, Olcbl. blása, OHG blāsan ‘blow’; PIE *dēhē- in Gk. ἓ-θηκα ‘I placed’, Lat. fecē ‘I did’, Go. deðs, Olcbl. dādō, OHG tāt ‘deed’; PIE *gēhē- in Homeric Gk. κρίμεναυ (inf.) ‘come to’, Lat. hērēs ‘heir’, OE OS OHG gān, Crimean Go. geen ‘go’; PIE *mē- in Gk. μῆτις ‘discernment’, Lat. métiōr ‘measure’, Go. mēl, Olcbl. māl, OHG māl ‘time’.


PIE ū, Gmc. ū: PIE *bhūt̪ > *bhū- in Skt. ābhūt = Gk. ἁφω ‘was’, Olcbl. bua, OE būan ‘reside’ (but cf. §3.4. n. 5); PIE *bhūr- ‘brow’ in Skt. bhrūḥ, Gr. ἐφωρός, Olcbl. brūn, OE brū; PIE *bhūrg- in Lat. fricitus ‘enjoyment’, Go. brūkjan, OE brūcan, OHG brūhan ‘enjoy’; PIE *ghrū- in Lith. grūdau, grūdžiu ‘pound, crush’ (grain), OE grūt ‘groats’, MHG grūz ‘grit, cereal grains’; PIE *mūs ‘mouse’ > Skt. mūṣ-, Gk. μῦς, Lat. mūs, Olcbl. mūs, OE OS OHG mūs.

PIE ņ (yielding Skt. ṅ, Gk. νά > PGmc. un: PIE *gnōtō-s > *gnōs ‘known’ in Lith. pa-žintas, Go. kunfts, OHG kund, OE kūf; PIE *gnōtō-s > *gnōs in Skt. jātā, Lat. nātus < gnātus ‘born’, OE heofon-cund ‘celestial’, Olcbl. ás-kunn ‘related to the gods’.


PIE ŭ (yielding Skt. ṭr or ṭr, Gk. ῥο, Lat. rā) > PGmc. ur: PIE *gr̪h̪- > *gr̪n̪- in Skt. jūṛaḥ-, jūṛa-h ‘brittle’, Lat. grānum, Olcbl. kōrn, Olcbl. OHG korn ‘grain’ (PGmc. *kurna-).

PIE ŭ (yielding Skt. ṭr or ṭr, Gk. ῥο, Lat. rā) > Gmc. ul: PIE *hul̪h̪- > *wln̪ ‘wool’ in Skt. ṽln̪, Lat. lāna (< *wlān̪a), Go. wulla; PIE *plēh̪-n̪- > *ph̪n̪- in Skt. pūn̪-, Olr. plēns, Olr. lān, Lith. pilnas, Go. fulls (< *fuln̪-) ‘full’; PIE *dēgh̪o- > *dēgh̪o- in Skt. dīgh̪o- ‘long’, Go. tulgs ‘fast, firm’ (< *long, lasting’), OS tūlo ‘very’, OE tulge ‘firmly’; PIE *mūh̪d̪- > *mūd̪- in Skt. mūrdhān- ‘head’, Gk. βλωθρος ‘high-growing (of trees)’ (< *μλωθρός), OE molda ‘top of the head’ (< *mulōd̪).

On the basis of early borrowings from Latin it can be determined that PGmc. ē and ō were open vowels, i.e. /e:/ and /ɔ:/ (if not /æ/ and /ɒ/), not /e/ and /ɔ/, e.g. OE clīroc ‘cleric’ (Lat. cléricus) and Go. Rūmōneis ‘Romans’ (Lat. Rōmānī), showing that Latin mid vowels were borrowed as high vowels. The latter form also shows that Lat. ā was borrowed as ō (and cf. OHG Tuonouwa ‘Danube’, from Celtic *Dānovios), or that PIE ā had not yet developed to PGmc. ā at the time of borrowing.2 Presumably, then, after the latter change Latin ā could be borrowed as an unrounded vowel, as in OE nēp
§3.3 The long vowels in early Germanic

The long vowels in early Germanic

1. This vowel is sometimes reconstructed as PGmc. {{\textit{a}}} (though for some this is merely a notational convention, and it is assumed to represent the PIE sound unchanged, e.g. Wright 1954: §43), although this requires that it revert to {{\textit{a}}} in Gothic, where in fact it appears to have been a close rather than an open sound (see Braune 2004b: §6 & Anm. 1). It may nonetheless have been an open {{\textit{e}}} in PGmc., i.e. [\textit{ɛː}]; see Bremer 1886: 5–6. It is commonly represented as {{\textit{e}}} to distinguish it from the vowel discussed in §3.5 (\textit{e} > PGmc. likewise, as 1nos > PGmc. r-)

2. The latter is the view of Polomé (1987b: 200, idem 1994: 6–7), who would thus date the change of {{\textit{a}}} to {{\textit{ø}}} after Germanic peoples reached the upper Danube in the second century BCE. Silva Bācenis in Caesar may also be relevant.


3.4 The diphthongs in early Germanic

Out of PIE combinations of tautosyllabic vowel plus glide (\textit{i} or \textit{y}) there developed diphthongs in the IE languages, including Germanic, and perhaps already in late PIE. Most of the changes affecting these diphthongs in PGmc. are paralleled by the regular changes in simple vowels, so that \textit{oi} and \textit{ou} become \textit{ai} and \textit{au}, respectively, as do \textit{Hi} and \textit{Hu}: compare the development of \textit{o} and \textit{H} to \textit{a} (§3.2). In addition, PGmc. \textit{ei} developed to \textit{i}, on which see §4.4 & n. 4. With the possible exception of \textit{ei} from PIE \textit{ei}, as well as \textit{ou} from PIE \textit{oi} (but not from \textit{ay}), the long diphthongs were shortened in Proto-Germanic and then underwent the same developments as the originally short diphthongs. Although undeniable examples are few, PGmc. \textit{ei}, on the other hand, is commonly assumed to have lost its off-glide, producing a sound conventionally represented as \textit{e}, on which see §3.5. If that is the case, in parallel fashion, PIE \textit{oi} likewise developed to PGmc. \textit{ø} rather than \textit{au}, though this view is less widely credited.1 The development of PIE \textit{oi} in Gmc. stressed syllables cannot be determined conclusively, but system symmetry suggests that it should have become Gmc. \textit{ai}.2 Examples:


‘turnip’ (Lat. \textit{nāpus}) and \textit{mēg(white)} ‘image’ (Lat. \textit{imāgō}; cf. \textit{ā} in later OE borrowings, e.g. \textit{pāl} ‘pole’, from Lat. \textit{pālus}).\textsuperscript{3} The rise of \textit{ē} (<CIE/., §3.5) thus filled a gap in the PGmc. vowel inventory, though it also produced an asymmetry, with no corresponding back vowel /o/.

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\textsuperscript{1} Braune 2004b: §6 & Anm. 1). It may nonetheless have been an open \textit{e} in PGmc., i.e. [ɛː]; see Bremer 1886: 5–6.


\textsuperscript{3} Examples:
A Comparative Grammar of the Early Germanic Languages

PIE oj > PGmc. ai (giving Oldcel. OHG ei, OS ē, OE ēa): PIE *yojde ‘knows’ > Skt. vedā, Gk. oido, Go. wāt, Oldcel. vīt, OHG weiz, OS wēt, OE wāt; PIE *oignos ‘one’ > Old Lat. oinos (> Lat. ūnus), Go. āins, Oldcel. einn, OHG ein, OS ūn, OE ān.

PIE ū (giving Lat. ū) > PGmc. au (giving OHG OS ū, OE ēa): PIE *hrouydhos ‘red’ > Lat. rūfas, Go. rāufs, Oldcel. rauð, OHG rōt, OS rōd, OE rēad; PIE *royp- in Skt. rōpayati ‘produces pain, breaks off’, Lith. pl. raupai ‘measles, pockmarks’, Serbian rūpa ‘hole’, Oldcel. rauf ‘hole’.


PIE āi > PGmc. ai (giving OHG ei, OS ē, OFris. āō, OE ēa): PIE *deمحγε > *dāijer ‘brother-in-law’ in Skt. dēvār-, Lat. lēvir (with Sabine l-), Oldcel. zēuhur, OIcel. tācor (with intrusive Gmc. k: see Fulk 1993: 341–2 for a possible explanation); PIE *sēhr- > *sāi- (or perhaps weak-grade *sai-) in Go sāir, OHG OS OFris. sēr (with OHG ei > ē before r, §4.17), OE sār ‘pain’; PIE *kehγ > *kāi- in Skt. kēt-u- ‘optical phenomenon’, Oldcel. hādus ‘manner’, OHG heit, OE hād ‘form’.


PIE ēi > PGmc. ēi, (giving OHG ia, ie, ei, e): The following examples are insecure (see §3.5): PIE lengthened-grade *kēi-r- in Go. OS hēr, Oldcel. hēr, OHG hīar (cf. PIE reduced grade *kī- in Lat. cis ‘on this side of’, Go. hīdē, OHG hīder > PDE hither);4 lengthened-grade *yēj-l- in Oldcel. vēl ‘artifice’, OE Wēlund, OHG Wialant (name of a mythological craftsman; cf. full-grade PIE *yēj-l- in OE wil > PDE wile); PIE lengthened grade *steigh- > PGmc. stej- in OHG stiaga > NHG Stiege ‘stair’ (cf. PIE full-grade *steigh- > PGmc. *stīj- in Go. steigan ‘climb’, as above).

PIE ēj > PGmc. eu: PIE *bhlehyt- > *bhleu- in OE un-blēod ‘fearless’ (as above); PIE *(h)ehyrdh- > *ehyrd- in Oldcel. jyrg ‘udder’ (cf. reduced grade in Skt. údhår ‘udder’); PIE *ghrehyt-no- > *ghreyno- in Oldcel. grjōn ‘groats’ (cf. reduced-grade PIE *ghrehyt- > *ghray- in Gk. ἱδρεύν ‘scratch, groaze, wound slightly’); PIE *gheryt-m- > *ghem- in OHG giumo (beside guomo: see below under PIE ūy) ‘palate’.

PIE ū: No indisputable example in a Gmc. stressed syllable is in evidence.

On the shortening of PIE long vowels before a sonorant consonant in a closed syllable (another possible diphthongal shortening), see §4.2.

1. OIcel. neuter nom./acc. tvau 'two' has often been thought equivalent to Skt. ṭvā, thus indicating development of PIE āu to Gmc. au rather than ā (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: 104); but the connection is doubtful: see Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 2.10.

2. The usual example of PIE āi > Gmc. ai is OIcel. fleiri 'more', compared to Lat. plās 'more' < *plōis, in comparison to Old Lat. superl. plōerume (so, e.g., Hirt 1931–4: I, 35). But Lat. plās is to be derived instead from Old Lat. plōus, and superl. plōerume is more likely of analogical origin: see Pokorny (1959–69: I, 800), who more plausibly reconstructs reduced-grade *plōô-ē- (not his notation) underlying fleiri (since PGmc. ai > OIcel. ei). Aside from the Latin forms, there is no evidence for a-vocalism among the IE cognates.

3. This is on the assumption that there should be full grade in the infinitive and reduced grade in the past participle, as in other verb classes. But an aorist present is possible: cf. Go. háítan, above.


5. A special development of PGmc. *-ōww- is usually assumed, chiefly to account for OIcel. búa 'dwell' (cf. byggja 'settle', with -j-suffix) and Gmc. cognates: see, e.g., Seebold 1970: 124–8.

### 3.5 The sources of ē₂

In addition to the reflex of PIE *ē (represented as ē), there arose within Gmc. another ē sound, generally referred to as ē₂, which develops to ea, ia, ie in OHG. In Gothic it occurs only in hēr 'here', fēra 'region, side' (= OHG fiara), mēsa 'table', and Krēks 'Greek', of which the second is etymologically obscure and the last two borrowings from Late Lat. This ē₂ fell together with PIE ē in Gothic but not in the other Gmc. languages, where it remained as ē (> OHG ia, etc.), as opposed to NGmc. ā, WGmc. ē or ą (§4.6) < PIE ē, as in Go. OE OS hēr, OIcel. hér, OHG hēr, hear, hiar, hier 'here', with ē₂, as opposed to ē in Go. lētan, OIcel. lāta, OE lētan, OS lētan, OHG lāzan 'let'. The literature on ē₂ is extensive, and often speculative. Although attempts have been made to identify a unitary source, it appears that ē₂ must be regarded as the product of polygenesis:

(a) Jellinek (1891b) was the first to derive ē₂ from PIE *ēi (or *eH'i in laryngeal terms: see §3.1). Reliable examples are scarce, e.g. OHG stiaga 'stair' < PIE *steighā, and OE cēn, OHG kien- 'torch' < PIE *gēi-n-. Especially because unambiguous examples of ē₂ from PIE ēi are few, it seems suspicious that so little of the evidence is to be found outside of OHG.

(b) ē₂ occurs in Latin borrowings, especially into OHG, after the earliest period of borrowing (Polomé 1988: 385–6), as in Lat. thēca 'cover' borrowed as OHG ziahha 'pillow case'; Lat. prēšbyter borrowed as OHG priester 'priest'; Lat. bēta 'beet' borrowed as OE bēte, OHG biaza; Lat. Graecus *borrowed as Go. Krēks, OE pl. Crēcas 'Greeks'.

(c) The commonest environment for ē₂ is in the preterite of formerly reduplicating verbs in North and West Germanic, as in OIcel. hét, OHG hiáz, OE OS hēt 'was called' and OIcel. lét, OHG liáz, OE OS lēt 'let'. Although there is considerable controversy regarding the origin of the preterite vocalism in such verbs (see §12.20), most observers regard it in one way or another as the product of the contraction of the reduplicative vowel /e/ with the root vowel of the verb. For explanations involving laryngeal consonants, see Lehmann 1952: 66–73,

(d) Miscellaneous sources of \( \ddot{e} \) include lengthening and lowering of \( i \) upon loss of a following antecordial nasal sound (a sound that arose in PIE in those rare instances in which \( s \) came to stand before a voiced stop), the securest example being OE \( mēd \), OS \( mēda \), OHG \( miata \) ‘reward’ beside Go. \( mizdō \), OE \( meord ‘reward’ < PIE *mizdʰō- \) in Gk. \( μίζδος ‘wages’ \), OCS \( mizda \), ‘reward’, Skt. \( mūḍhas- ‘prize’. If the OHG demonstrative \( dē \), \( die \) corresponds to Go. \( jār \) (see §8.10), \( ai \) may be supposed to have developed to \( \ddot{e} \) in NWGmc. unstressed syllables and then to have been extended to stressed forms of the demonstrative (so Karstien 1921: 53).

(e) Influential has been the hypothesis of van Coetsem (1956, 1970: 55–8, 1997) that at least some instances of \( \ddot{e} \) are to be derived from PIE \( \ddot{e} \) before a low vowel in the next syllable. This could account for alternations like OHG \( stiaga ‘path’ \) ~ \( stīgan ‘ascend’. See also Knapp 1974, van Loon 1986.

1. To explain how the two \( \ddot{e} \)-sounds failed to coalesce it is sometimes assumed that PIE \( \ddot{e} \) became PGmc. \( ē \). This is also a step in the direction of \( ā \). The NGmc. and, in part, WGmc. reflex of PIE \( ē \), but this assumption requires that \( \ddot{a} \) have reverted to \( ē \) in Gothic, and at all events there are other possible values for the PGmc. reflex of PIE \( ē \). The representation \( ē \) is preferred here for its relative abstractness. See §3.3 n. 2.

2. There also occur OS OFris. \( hōr. \) The derivation of this word is disputed. It is plainly related to Lat. \( cīs ‘on this side’, \) but \( ē \) has been derived from *\( ʰei \) (Jellinge: see below) and by lengthening and lowering of \( i \) (Ringe 1984). The latter explanation seems more probable in view of parallel forms, e.g. Go. \( þar ‘there’, \( hōr ‘where?’. For references, see Orel 2003: 172, and cf. Jörundur Hilmársson 1991. For further possible sources, see Hirt 1931–4: I §29.4.


3.6 Ablaut in Proto-Germanic

Whereas PIE ablaut alternations (§3.1) were not extensively maintained in most IE languages, ablaut came to play an important grammatical role in Gmc., where it differentiates the stems used to form the principal parts of strong verbs, and thus it serves as an indicator of tense and/or number, or participial function. Unsurprisingly, then, ablaut alternations are most plainly observable in strong verbs: see §12.11 for an overview of the relevant alternations in this grammatical category. Ablaut alternations are evident, however, in other grammatical contexts, as well. One fairly regular correspondence is between strong verb stems with PIE \( e \) and derivatives, either verbal or nominal, with PIE \( o \). Weak verbs of class 1 provide many examples, e.g. Go. strong \( ga-nisan ‘be saved’ \) beside weak \( nasjan ‘save’, \) strong \( sigqan ‘sink’ \) (intrans.) beside weak \( sagqjan \) (trans.), strong \( af-leiban ‘depart’ \) beside OE weak \( ládan ‘lead’ \) ~ *\( laíðjan < *laíþjána. \) Similarly, beside strong verb stems with e-grade there occur fem. abstract nouns with o-grade, e.g. Go. \( bi-leiban ‘remain’ \) beside \( láiba ‘remnant’, \) OE \( stelan ‘steal’ \) beside \( stalu ‘theft’ \), Olcel. \( riða ‘ride’ \) ~ *\( riðana \) beside \( reið ‘course’ \) ~ *\( raíð. \) Strong verb stems with e-grade often have i-stem derivatives with weak grade, e.g. Go. \( qiman ‘come’ \) beside \( qums ‘advent’ \), OE \( strīcan ‘stroke’ \) beside Go. \( striks ‘stroke’ \), OE \( brecan ‘break’ \)

Ablaut is also evident in derivational suffixes. The reflex of PIE *-on- must originally have alternated with *-en- in the paradigm of OE morgen beside umlauted mergen ‘morning’;² likewise in n-stems, e.g. Go. acc. sg. hanan ‘cock’ < *xanamu: gen. hanins < *xaniniz or *xaninaz (cf. Gk. ποιμέν ‘shepherd’: δαίμoν ‘divinity’). Although there is analogical redistribution of the PIE variants *-es- ~ *-os- in Gmc. s-stems, variation remained and is attested by alternative stems in the paradigm with and without umlaut in WGmc., e.g. OE (Northumbrian) nom./acc. sg. dāġg, pl. dōgor ‘day’, OHG nom./acc. sg. lamb, pl. lembir ‘lamb’. Quantitative alternations are also detectable, as in r-stem nouns, e.g. Go. brōþar < *bhrāter-: dat. brōþr < *bhrātri; and in the diminutive suffix *-ing-: *-ung- (< *-enko-: *-ŋko-), as in OE cyning: Olc. konungr ‘king’. As for inflectional suffixes, with the resegregation of stems and inflections in PGmc. (§7.1), the theme vowel was incorporated into the inflections, and its ablaut alternations became unrecognizable as such.


1. The form *brukiz (rather than the expected *burkiz < *bhṛk-) probably shows metathesis by analogy to *brekan-: see §12.31 n. 3.

2. It is necessary to assume lowering of u to o in *murzanaz and subsequent extension of o throughout the paradigm, as otherwise the regular development of *murzin- would be OE myrgen (which does occur twice, in compounded words). Cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 18–20, attributing the alternation of *-in- and *-an- to a NWGmc. phonological change.

### 3.7 Summary tables of Indo-European vowel developments

For comparative purposes it may be useful to summarize in tabular form the main developments of PIE syllabic segments in various IE languages. These tables are generalizations, with many exceptions under given conditions, for which the grammars cited in §1.2 n. 1 should be consulted, or grammars of the individual IE languages.

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1. The form *brukiz (rather than the expected *burkiz < *bhṛk-) probably shows metathesis by analogy to *brekan-: see §12.31 n. 3.
2. It is necessary to assume lowering of u to o in *murzanaz and subsequent extension of o throughout the paradigm, as otherwise the regular development of *murzin- would be OE myrgen (which does occur twice, in compounded words). Cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 18–20, attributing the alternation of *-in- and *-an- to a NWGmc. phonological change.
As noted above (§3.1), some studies assume three reflexes in Greek for the three syllabic laryngeals (ε, α, ο), on the basis of forms like the past participles \( \thetaετός \) ‘placed’ and \( \deltaοτός \) ‘given’, but more commonly the vowel quality of such is regarded as the result of analogy to full-grade forms (cf. \( τίθημι \) ‘place’, \( δίδωμι \) ‘give’): so, e.g., Linde-man 1987: 101–2 and Szemerényi 1996: §4.1.11. On the long diphthongs in Gmc., see §3.4.

Figure 4 summarizes graphically the development of the PIE vowels in PGmc. stressed syllables. Here consonantal laryngeal consonants are treated as if already lost in PIE.

1. But Old Lat. \( ol > \) Lat. \( ul \).
2. Doric and Aeolic \( ā \).
3. The spellings \( ri, rū, li, lū \) (transliterations of \( рь, ръ, ль, лъ \)) stand for syllabic sonorants, palatalized and nonpalatalized.
CHAPTER 4

Changes of Stressed Vowels in Germanic

4.1  Compensatory lengthening upon loss of a nasal consonant

In the PGmc. consonant group *-ŋx- the nasal consonant was lost, with compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel. The vowels e and o did not occur in this environment. The lengthened vowels may have remained nasalized for a considerable time, well past the close of the NWGmc. period, since ān produced this way developed to ō in Anglo-Frisian (as in OE pret. sg. bōhte, OFrIS. thōchte ‘thought’) and did not fall together with OE ā < ai or OFrIS. ā < ai, au (§4.12). In ON the usual reflex of ān is á. Examples: Go. þeihan ‘thrive’ < PGmc. *þīnxaṇa < *þiŋxana < PIE *tenk- (cf. OE pp. þungen ‘successful’ and Lith. tenki, tėkti ‘have enough’); Go. þreihan ‘throng’ < PGmc. *þrīnxaṇa < *þriŋxana (cf. OE þringan ‘crowd upon’, Lith. treňkti ‘strike’); Go. fāhan ‘take’ < PGmc. *fānxaṇa < *faŋxana < PIE *pa-n-k- (cf. OE pp. fangen and Lat. pangō ‘compose’); Go. brāhta ‘brought’ < PGmc. *brāxtiē < *braŋxtēþ (cf. inf. briggan); Go. þūhta ‘seemed’ < PGmc. *þūnxtēþ < *þuŋxtēþ < PIE -(cf. inf. þugkjan, OE þyncan, also Lat. tongēo ‘know’); OE OHG fūht ‘damp’ < PGmc. *fūxtaz < *fūxtaz < PIE *pŋk- (cf. Skt. paŋka- ‘slime’).

4.2  Shortening in closed syllables

In most IE languages a long vowel followed by a sonorant plus another consonant was shortened, and in PGmc. the same happened. Examples: Go. faírzna, OE ĕersn, OS fersna, OHG fersana ‘heel’ < PIE *pērsn- (cf. Skt. pārṣniḥ ‘heel’, with shortening in Lat. perna ‘ham’); Go. winds, ON vindr, OE OFris. OS wind, OHG wint ‘wind’ < PIE *yēntos (cf. Skt. vānt- ‘blowing’, with shortening in Lat. ventus ‘wind’).

1. Such shortening is not uncommonly regarded as of a piece with the shortening of long PIE diphthongs in PGmc. (§3.4), e.g. by Hirt (1931–4: §29.7) and Prokosch (1939: §46c). That is, ēn, ēr, etc., are to be regarded as diphthongs, the way they are treated, for instance, in PDE, where shortening of diphthongs before voiceless consonants applies also to the sequence vowel + sonorant consonant, as in grant (vs. grand), like lout (vs. loud).

4.3  Redistribution of the Proto-Germanic short mid and high vowels: lowering

After the development of PIE o to PGmc. a, there was no short phoneme /o/ in the Germanic protolanguage (but see §5.5 on the seeming retention of /o/ beyond the PGmc. period in certain noninitial syllables). This elimination of /o/ created an imbalance in the phonemic inventory of Gmc. vowels, because the result was that there was no back vowel corresponding to front /e/ (but see below on this), and it is an oft-observed characteristic of phonological systems across languages, and especially vowel systems, that
they tend to change in symmetrical fashion, and asymmetrical systems tend to be unstable (see, e.g., McMahon 1994: 28). Unsurprisingly, then, there is abundant evidence that [o] arose again at a fairly early date, as a result of distance assimilation in vowels: when u stood before a mid or low vowel in the next syllable (i.e., /a/ or /ɔː/), since /e/ had been virtually eliminated in unstressed syllables: see §5.5), it was lowered to o. That this is a relatively early development is shown by a form like OE scolu, OS skola ‘troop, shoal’ < *skulō, since final -ā became -u in the fifth century, to judge by the evidence of Runic inscriptions.1 Lowering of u is also discernible in some early Runic inscriptions, e.g. horna (Gallehus horn 2, ca. 400 CE; see Stiles 2012). The change is not demonstrable in Gothic, where u is retained everywhere except before /i/ and /x/ (§4.5), but it is plainly evident elsewhere in Gmc. It is particularly plain in the past participles of strong verbs of the fourth class, but it is evident in many other grammatical categories, as well. Examples: Olc. stollinn, OHG OS gi-stolan, OE stolen ‘stolen’ < PGmc. *stulanaz < *st₁l₁; OHG tor, OE dor ‘door’ < PIE *dhurón (cf. Gk. ἐπόθορον ‘front door’); OHG bodam, Olc. bōtn, OE bōtin = Gk. πυθμήν ‘bottom’ < *bhudh-men-; Olc. ok, OE geoc, OHG joh beside juh and OS juk² = Gk. ἐχοῦν, Lat. jugum ‘yoke’ < PIE *jūgōm; OHG OS OE OFris. gold, Olc. gull beside goll ‘gold’ < PGmc. *gulpat₃. This lowering is prevented before a tautosyllabic nasal consonant, e.g. in OE pp. wunden ‘wound’ < *wundanaz and Olc. sund ‘swimming’ < *sunda₄. It appears that it was also prevented by a heterosyllabic nasal, as in OE fruma ‘beginning’, guma ‘man’, cuman ‘come’, though OS and OHG show instances of o beside u, e.g. OS gomo beside usual guma; lowering in Olc. koma ‘come’ (cf. Olc. oblique guma) is due to a-umlaut, a specifically Norse development (§4.8). Lowering is prevented also when j preceded the non-high vowel conditioning the change: cf. OE cnyssan ‘knock’, trymman ‘strengthen’ (not čnessan, čtremman) < *knusjana₅, *trumjana₅.

It is plain, as well, that PGmc. i might be lowered to e in parallel fashion before a mid or low vowel in the next syllable.3 Undeniable examples are OE OHG nest ‘nest’ < PIE *nizdos (cf. Skt. nīḍa, Lat. nidus, Middle Irish net, Lith. līzdas ‘nest’), from *ni- as in OE niper ‘down’ plus *zd- as in full-grade Lat. sedēō ‘sit’; and OS OFris. OE wer(-) ‘person, man’, Olc. verr ‘man’ (cf. Lat. vir, Welsh gŵr ‘man’). Gothic, once again, stands apart, since PIE i in that language is reflected as ai (probably /e/ or /ɛ/) before /r, x, xʷ/, otherwise i (§4.5). The only other secure example in OE is spec ‘bacon’ beside spic,4 but the change is well attested outside of Anglo-Frisian, e.g. Olc. heðan ‘hence’ (note the absence of a-fracture (§4.8), and cf. early hīðra ‘here’ = OE hider, later Olc. hēdra by analogy); OHG quec, OS quec- (beside usual quik) ‘live’, OFris. quec (beside usual quik) ‘cattle’ (cf. PIE *gʷihy-) in OE cwicu ‘live’, OIr. bith ‘world, life’); rare Olc. steği beside stigi ‘ladder’ (cf. stīga ‘step’, Gk. στήξω ‘walk’ < *steigh-); OHG lebarha, MLG lever (cf. Olc. lifr, OE lifer, OFris. livere) ‘liver’ = Gk. λίπαρος ‘fat, greasy’. The change is most regular in High German (see Braune 2004a: §31), least regular in English (A. Campbell 1977: §114). Plainly, the results of the lowering of i are much less systematic than those for the lowering of u, and in NWGmc., i and e alternated in many words, depending on whether or not a high vowel appeared in the following syllable. This created a situation ripe for analogical change on either an inter- or an intraparadigmatic basis, with leveling away of e being the commonest result.5 Because the distribution of /i/ and /ɛ/ is so different in Gothic, methodologically it is best to assume that the change of i to e is a development of NWGmc., but it is not impossible that the change should have taken place in PGmc.,6 and indeed, it may have been the irregularities produced by this change that prompted
§4.3 Lowering of short mid and high vowels

the redistribution of the short mid and high vowels in Gothic, though the distribution of the two types there is so nearly perfectly regular (see §4.5) that a purely phonological explanation does seem more probable.

It should be added that it has sometimes been argued that there was no asymmetry in the PGmc. short vowels, rather that e and i were allophones, just as o and u were (so Trager & Smith 1950: 67, 70; Marchand 1957a; see also Hock 1973). Beeler (1966) shows that this assumption creates problems for the analysis of ON, since there e cannot have been raised before u in the next syllable (and thus it stood in phonemic contrast with i in that environment), given the facts of u-fracture (§4.8). For discussion and references to further studies pro and con, see Durie 1996, with further evidence against the merger.

1. On the other hand, it would appear that lowering has not yet occurred in the divine name Hludana of Ubian dedicatory inscriptions of ca. 200 CE (Polomé 1994: 9). Ringe, with extensive discussion and copious examples in various grammatical classes, dates this lowering before the loss of WGmc. *-az, since it is common in a-stem nouns but not root-stems (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 27–34, at 29).

2. The cooccurrence of forms with o and u is presumably due to alternation within the original paradigm, e.g. acc. sg. *joka* beside gen. pl. *jukum.

3. Kock (1898: 545) argues that this lowering of i is prevented in North Germanic when g or k immediately precedes the vowel, as in gin ‘maw’ and skip ‘ship’. It is also prevented when j or nasal + consonant intervenes (§4.4).

4. A rather probable example, however, is OE gewegan ‘fight’ (beside wigan; cf. OIcel. veiga), pp. forwegen ‘killed’. The voicing under Verner’s law (cf. Go. weihan) suggests the PGmc. suffixal accent characteristic of aorist presents, hence PGmc. *wigan* (Seebold 1966b: 3–4). Another possible example is ME steken ‘pierce’ (Seebold 1970: 467–8). On these, see Lloyd 1966: 743–4.

5. Ringe (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 34–6) takes the position that this lowering is a Franconian change that spread northward irregularly in WGmc., and that in OFr. the change is unrelated, choosing to leave exceptions like OE nest, wer unexplained. By contrast, Lloyd (1966) argues that an allophone [e] of /i/ arose occasionally in Gmc. on the basis of systemic analogy. Cercignani (1980b) explains the rarity of the change outside of High German as due to avoidance of merger of /e/ with /i/; cf. Kylstra 1983.


4.4 Redistribution of the Proto-Germanic short mid and high vowels: raising

PIE e > PGmc. i under at least two, possibly three, conditions: (a) before ʰi or j in the next syllable; (b) before a tautosyllabic nasal consonant; (c) before u in the next syllable. The change represented by (c) is not now widely credited as a development of Proto-Germanic: see the discussion below. These changes cannot be illustrated in Gothic, since PGmc. e always yields i in that language (but is lowered again to e, or prevented from rising, before /r, x, xʷ/: §4.5). Examples:

(a) PIE *yen-i-s >*Olc. vīnr, OE wine, OS OHG wini ‘friend’ (cf. PIE *yen- in Lat. Venus); PIE *bher-e-ti > PGmc. *beriþi > *birþi > OE birð, OS birid, OHG birit ‘beard’; PIE *m.ĝ-el- > PGmc. *mek-il- > *mikil- > Olc. mikill, OE micel, OS mikil, OHG mihhil ‘large’ (cf. PIE *m.ĝ- in Lat. magnus ‘large’); PIE *medh-jo- > Lat. medius, Olc. miðr, OE midd, OHG mīti ‘middle’; PIE *sed-jo- > Olc. sitja, OE sittan, OS sittan, OHG sitzen ‘sit’; PIE *yeĝh-jo- > Skt. vahyā- ‘vehicle’, Olc. vigg, OE wicc, OS wigge ‘horse’.

(b) PIE *(−)bhendh- in Avestan bandayaiti ‘binds’, Gk. παιδόπος ‘father-in-law’ (*‘bound by marriage’), Lat. dēfendō ‘defend’ (*‘release from bonds’), Go. OE OS
bindan, Olcel. binda, OHG bintan ‘bind’; PIE *klem- (plus consonant) in Skt. kránda
‘bellows’, OE hlíman ‘make a noise’, OHG limmit ‘makes a noise’; PIE *reŋ- in
Lith. rėziu, rėžti ‘tighten, elongate’, OE OHG rinc, OS rink ‘man’; PIE *tenk- > Lith.
tenku, tėkti ‘have enough’, PGmc. *þexana > *þexana > *þiñana (§4.1) in Go.
þeihan, OE þeōn, OS þiðhan, OHG dihan ‘thrive’.
(c) PIE *pelh₃u ‘many’ > OIr. il, OS OHG filu (but cf. Olcel. fjøl, OE fela);¹ PIE
*medhu- in Skt. mádhu- ‘honey’, Gk. μεθό ‘wine’, OIr. mid ‘mead’, OHG mito ‘mead’
(1×, beside meto, Olcel. mjþr, OE medu, meodo); PIE *g*etu- in Skt. játu ‘lacquer,
gum’, OE huít- quàdu (Épinal Glossary) > hwíð-(w)udu (cf. inflected cwidue(s), Bald’s
Leechbook) ‘mastic’; PIE *syedh- ‘custom’ in Skt. svadhā, Gk. ἕθος, and probably
Olcel. siðr, OE OS sidu, OFris. side, OHG situ (but with *sedh- rather than *syedh-);
PIE *septh₁ ‘seven’ underlying PGmc. *sibun (§10.2), reflected in early OE forms with i,
e.g. Mercian sífum (A. Campbell 1977: §682).²

The evidence of Gmc. names in Latin and Greek texts and inscriptions is neither
unambiguous nor consistent, but some attestations suggest that (a) and (b) had not yet
been completed by the first centuries CE, e.g. inscriptional Nehalenia in the second
century, and Segimerus, Segimundus in Tacitus (Polomé 1994: 5–6, 8–9). The evidence
for (c) is secure almost exclusively in OHG and OS, where the change applied (or con-
tinued to apply) at a relatively late date, since it is found in the 1st pers. sg. ind. of some
verbs, e.g. biru ‘(I) bear’, stílu ‘(I) steal’, though -u here developed from -ā, probably
in the course of the fifth century (§4.3). There do not appear to be any examples of the
change in Olcel. or in Anglo-Frisian other than the possible ones presented here.³

According to the older view, revived by Collitz (1905) and Prokosch (1939: §38), PIE e
yields Gmc. i except before a non-high vowel in the next syllable, and except when there
is later lowering before a non-high vowel. The result would have been extensive
alternation of e and i within paradigms and among related forms, as with o and u (§4.3),
with the consequence that e was restored in most instances in Olcel., OE, and OFris., as
it is to some extent in OHG and OS (e.g. OHG fēhu np. ‘cattle. property’ beside fihu).
An advantage of this analysis is that the change of /e/ to /i/ in Gothic comes to seem less
anomalous; another is that developments of the front and back vowels are made more
symmetrical, at least in theory; a third is that it explains the change of PIE ei to Gmc. i
(§3.4).⁴ The chief disadvantage is that the replacement of i by e in Olcel. and Anglo-
Frisian must be regarded as uncommonly regular for an analogical development. Hirt
(1931–4: 1, 46; similarly Lloyd 1966) objects that if there is lowering of i to e in OHG
gigeban ‘given’ and other verbs of the fifth strong class, it cannot be explained why
there is no lowering in gistigan ‘risen’ and other verbs of the first strong class.
Therefore, the e in gigeban cannot ever have been raised. But this is surely irrelevant,
since the evidence for the lowering of i before a non-high vowel in the next syllable is rather
solid, especially for OHG: see §4.3. It is nonetheless true that the failure of lowering in
gistigan still demands to be explained, and Krahe & Meid (1969: I, §36) plausibly argue
that i in the present system of verbs of the first class exerted sufficient analogical in-
fluence to prevent or reverse the effects of lowering in the participle.⁵ That there did at one
time exist alternation between e and i in the past participle in the first class is suggested
by the Olcel. participle bedinn (to bīða = PDE bide). This seems rather probable, given
the high token frequency of bīða, which is perhaps the commonest verb of the first class
in Olcel., and given the resistance of forms with high token frequency to regularizing
analogical changes.⁶ Another possible example is OE forwegen ‘killed’ (cf. wīgan
‘fight’ beside *gewegan, §4.3 n. 4). There is frequent lowering of *i to e in the pret. pl. and pp. of verbs of class I in OFris. See further Polomé 1994: 28–9 n. 10.

Just as PGmc. *e was raised to i before i or j in the next syllable, so under the same conditions *eu changed to *iu. In ON and Anglo-Frisian, under normal circumstances *iu would subsequently undergo front umlaut (§4.7). The further developments of *eu are discussed under the treatment of vowels and diphthongs in the individual languages.

1. On this analysis, OE fela (cf. Northumbrian feolu, Gk. πολύς ‘many’) has final -a probably from an oblique case-form of the original u-stem adjective (so A. Campbell 1977: §666), e.g. PGmc. nom. pl. fem. *felôz, in which there would have been no raising of */e/ (or later reversal of that raising). If this is correct, Olcel. fjol must show fracture of */e/ due to original final -u (as in the nom. acc. sg. of the adjective), with restoration of e in the root, prior to fracture, from oblique cases.

2. Possibly also OE nigon ‘9’ < PGmc. *ne(w)un(-) (with intrusive i, §10.2), though Ross & Berns (1992: 589) explain the raising as originating in the i-inflected stem *nivuni-.

3. A possible exception is Olcel. OE OS wit ‘we two’, which Prokosch (1939: §98d) plausibly explains as having developed from *we-tu (see §8.2 infra); but the raising of */e/ in this word may instead be due to unstressed use of the pronoun (§5.5).

4. Implicit in this analysis is the assumption that these changes also affected the diphthong eu: Prokosch (1939: §39a) thus maintains that ‘eu appears normally as eo before a, as iu elsewhere.’ The change of ei to i was not yet completed in the third century CE if the evidence of Alateiviae, the name of a deity from Xanten, is to be trusted (Polomé 1994: 6).

5. That the vowel i of the present system was able to exert influence of this sort is also the premise behind all the most convincing explanations for the long u (for expected u) in the so-called aorist presents of verbs of the second strong class, such as brūcan ‘enjoy’, hōgan ‘bend’, and dāfan ‘dive’: see §12.18.

6. Seebold (1966b: 3 & n. 4) supposes that beðinn is due to confusion with the pp. of biðja ‘bid’, a confusion paralleled in OE (though only in manuscripts of the late tenth and eleventh centuries, and never in the pp. of the verb). This would be a more convincing analysis if there were other evidence in ON of confusion of beða and biðja and from an early date, seeing as †beðinn does not occur.

§4.5 Changes of stressed vowels in Gothic

PGmc. *e and i fell together as i in Gothic, except that both appear before r, h, hu as ai (/ai/), in a process commonly referred to as ‘breaking’, as in stilan ‘steal’ (OE OS OHG stelan), baíran ‘bear’ (OE OS OHG beran), pp. laíðans ‘lent’ (OHG gi-liwan).1 Similarly, PGmc. *u appears as u in Gothic, but as au (;/au/ before r, h, hu,; as in pret. 3 pl. -budun ‘offered’ (OE budon, OS budun), pp. -budans ‘offered’ (OE boden, OHG gi-botan), pret. 3 pl. wairþun ‘became’ (OE wurðon, OS wurðun).

Before a vowel, PGmc. ē and ō develop to /e:/ and /ɔ:/, transcribed as ai and au, without any acute, to distinguish them from the vowels identified in §3.4. Examples: PGmc. *sēana > Go. saian ‘sow’3 and PGmc. 3 sg. pret. *stōid(e)(p) > Go. stauida ‘judged’.

The diphthongs eu and iu (§4.4) fell together as iu in Gothic, e.g. *keusana > Go. kiusan ‘choose’ (cf. OE cēosan) beside *liuxtijana > Go. liuhtjan ‘give light’ (cf. OE liëhtan).

1. Exceptions are waila ‘well’ (OE OS wel, OHG wela), aíþpau ‘ot’ (OE cēþa besuid usual aþbe, OHG edida), and hiri, hirets, hirejib ‘come here!’, on which see Cercignani 1984, and on hiri in particular, van der Hoek 2007. Raising also fails in reduplicative syllables in verbs of strong class VII, e.g. pret. ēaiful “fold”, usually explained as due to the analogical influence of preritites like hait ‘call’, or to weak stress. For alternative explanations, see Cercignani 1979 (with refs.), Ebbinghaus 1991.
2. It cannot be determined whether \( u \) had been lowered to \( o \) in PGmc. before a non-high vowel (see §4.3), but if so, the change of PGmc. \( o \) and \( u \) in Gothic would be entirely parallel to that of the equivalent front vowels.

3. Such is the view, e.g., of Braune (2004b: §22). It is sometimes assumed instead that *verba pura* such as this should be reconstructed with a medial \( j \) (so, e.g., Wright 1954: §77, Krause 1968: §58), thus *sējanan*, but see §12.22, where it is argued that such verbs had intervocalic hiatus due to loss of a laryngeal consonant. Even if they did contain \( j \) in PGmc., the sound must have been lost in Gothic, as otherwise spellings with \( j \) should be expected there, e.g. *t̩ējib* rather than the attested *saiib* ‘sows’ (beside *saiib*, which is rare and likelier to contain an inorganic insertion than an inherited segment), like *bajōps* beside *bai* ‘both’ (see d’Alquen 1974: 148–54). The same reasoning applies, *mutatis mundandis*, to assumed \( ð \) rather than \( ðw \) in *stauida*, etc., where \( w \) is never inserted: see Fulk 1993a: 249–51.

### 4.6 Changes of stressed vowels in the Northwest Germanic protolanguage

Whereas PIE \( ē \) appears as \( ē \) in Gothic, in most of the NWGmc. languages it is reflected as \( ā \), though in WS as \( ā \) and in the remaining OE dialects and OFris. as \( ē \). As remarked above (§3.3), the PGmc. sound is sometimes reconstructed as \( ē \), though also (as in this book) as \( ē \) (i.e., \( ē \)). Its reflex in NWGmc. and/or WGmc. is usually posited as either \( ā \) or (as in this book) \( ē \). The uncertainty cannot be eliminated conclusively, but the preponderance of evidence suggests \( ē \) rather than \( ā \). For example, when *swa* ‘so’ undergoes vowel lengthening on the basis of Prokosch’s law (§2.5), the result is OS OHG sā, not *t̩swā*, and in OE and OFris., the languages in which there was fronting of low vowels (§4.12), the result is *swā* and sā, respectively.1 Thus, in no instance does this new lengthened \( ā \) coalesce with the WGmc. reflex of \( ē \), rendering \( ē \) the likelier reconstruction for the latter.2 On the other hand, the development of the reflex of \( ē \) to \( ò \) before a nasal consonant in Anglo-Frisian (§4.12) would seem to favor the reconstruction \( ā \) as the reflex of \( ē \), but it is hardly impossible that in Anglo-Frisian, \( ò \) as the reflex of \( ē \) before a nasal consonant should have coalesced with the nasalized reflex of \( a \) lengthened by the loss of a nasal consonant before a voiceless fricative in North Sea Germanic (§4.11).3 The names of Angles and Frisians in Latin sources of the first and second centuries CE are spelt with \( ē \) (which presumably may represent either \( ò \) or \( ē \)). Elsewhere in West Germanic the change of \( ē \) to \( ò \) begins in Upper German (the earliest instances in names being from the second half of the first century CE for Bavarian) and spreads northward, the earliest Franconian evidence for the change dating to ca. 500, with a few \( ē \) spellings persisting as late as the eighth and ninth centuries, whereas PGmc. \( ē \) is reflected as \( ā \) already in the earliest North Germanic inscriptions (see Bremer 1886: 12–29).4 The assumption of WGmc. \( ā \) rather than \( ē \) leads to some difficulties in reconstructing the chronology of Anglo-Frisian sound changes, as illustrated by A. Campbell 1977: §132. The asymmetry between long and short vowel systems that results from the assumption of \( ē \) as the reflex of \( ē \) plausibly explains the divergent developments respecting \( a \) and \( ē \) in Anglo-Frisian and elsewhere in NWGmc. (§4.12).

1. OE *swā* and *swē* do occur in some dialects, but they can be explained as due to lengthening of re-stressed *swar* < *swa*, with Anglo-Frisian Brightening (§4.12), whereas *swā* must result from lengthening before that change. See §8.13 n. 6.

2. Stiles (2004) argues that because the vowel of PGmc. *par* ‘there’, *svar* ‘where’, when lengthened in WGmc., coalesced with the reflex of PGmc. *jā*, the latter must already have developed to *ā* in WGmc. This argument proves inconclusive because if there was no *ā* in WGmc. at the time of the lengthening, presumably the lengthened vowel would have been identified with the nearest preexisting equivalent in value, which may
have been Æ. Similar reasoning pertains to the borrowing of Lat. *strāta as OE *strǣt. At all events, Bremer’s evidence (see below) forbids the assumption of a general WGmc. ā at the time of the lengthening.

3. Or, perhaps likelier, Æ became ā before a nasal consonant, as might be expected on the basis of comparison to the short vowels, where there was no sequence æ plus nasal in Anglo-Frisian, only an (§4.12).

4. Contradicting the observations of Bremer, however, is the Runic name-element -mārīn (< PGmc. *mēriz) on the Thorsberg chape from northern Germany (Anglia, ca. 200). Possibly, though, the chape is of NGmc. origin (see Stiles 2004: 390), or (a) represents Æ. That Gmc. ĕ continued to be spelt either (e) or (a) for some time (e.g. ca. 500–ca. 700 in Franconian names) could indicate that the sound was Æ during that period, though it could also be due to conservative spelling traditions. Scholarship on the development of PGmc. ĕ (e.g. Hollifield 1980: 145–50) seems generally unacquainted with Bremer’s findings. See further Polomé 1994: 7, Stiles 2004, Kortlandt 2006a. Ringe (in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 10–13) regards the assumption of NWGmc. ā as simpler, but that is a matter of perspective, as the supposition of a change PGmc. ĕ > NWGmc. ā > OE Æ is not so simple as the assumption that OE Æ reflects the NWGmc. vowel unchanged.

### 4.7 Front mutation

Long after the PGmc. change of e to i before ū or ū before the next syllable (§4.4), under the same conditions most other vowels underwent fronting and/or raising in a process of front mutation, more commonly referred to as front umlaut or i/j-umlaut, or simply umlaut (a term originating with Jacob Grimm). The process is an assimilatory one inasmuch as it eases articulation: in anticipation of the following high front vowel or glide a vowel takes on some of its qualities, requiring less movement of the tongue at the onset of ū or ū. Alternatively, the process has not infrequently been analyzed as assimilation not of the qualities of ū or ū itself but of the palatal quality lent an intervening consonant by the mutating sound.¹ There are some disadvantages, though, to this alternative formulation, chief of which is that palatalization of consonants other than velars does not normally lead to phonemic distinctions in the early Gmc. languages, e.g. no */p/ : /n/, so that the assumption of non-phonemic palatalized variants seems speculative.² Likewise, the parallel development of back mutation (§4.8) can hardly be thought to depend upon rounding/backing of intervening consonants. Further alternatives to the theory of distance assimilation include the supposition of epenethesis, e.g. *-ati- > *-atīi- > *-eti-; the supposition of a process of vowel harmony (interpreting that term broadly); and the theory of umlaut as a result of language contact: on these, see Krygier 1997, with references.³

The general trend represented by the umlaut process may be expressed by Fig. 5, wherein it will be seen that the vowels affected all trend toward the high front position of ū. New vowels created by umlaut are placed in round brackets, and of course the change of e to i took place much earlier (§4.4).

Only East Germanic (including Crimean Gothic) shows no evidence of the effects of umlaut, but the process applied at various times and with varied effects in the

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Fig. 5. The general direction of front mutation in the early Germanic languages.
remaining Gmc. languages, so that it is necessary to assume either a change proceeding across NWGmc. in waves or a change originating in various places due to similar linguistic conditions (see §1.2). In WGmc., umlaut must have occurred earliest in North Sea Gmc., as the southward spread of the change can be observed in High German (see below). In OE the change is perhaps to be dated to the first half of the sixth century (Luick 1914–40: §350), whereas in Runic there is no reliable evidence for umlaut in the Older Futhark. In WGmc., outside of Ingvaesian (i.e., in all dialects of OHG and OLF), only the umlaut of a to e is expressed in the orthography of the older languages; though other vowels must have been umlauted, as well, the change does not affect spelling until the MLG and MHG periods.

**Old Icelandic.** Two discrete patterns of umlaut are discernible in NGmc.,\(^5\) (1) in which the change was caused by \(i\) or \(j\) lost in the early period, and (2) one in which it was caused by preserved \(i\) or \(j\). In the former pattern (1), umlaut regularly applies to heavy syllables but not usually light, e.g. heavy \(bekkr\) ‘bench’ < \(*baŋkiz\) and pret. \(heyrði\) ‘heard’ < \(*xauxiðē\) : light acc. sg. \(stað\) ‘place’ < \(*staðē\), nom. nár ‘corpse’ < \(*nawiz\), and pret. \(gladdi\) ‘gladden’ < \(*gladīðē\). In the latter pattern (2), umlaut applies to both heavy and light syllables, e.g. heavy \(kerling\) ‘(old) woman’ < \(*karlingō\) : light \(kettill\) ‘cauldron’ < \(*katilaz\). In pattern (1) the umlauted vowel was (apparently) phonemicized upon loss of \(i\) or \(j\), and this explains the different results for heavy and light stems, since presumably \(i\) was lost earlier after heavy stems than light, just as in WGmc., e.g. OE \(giest\) ‘guest’ < \(*jastiz\) but \(wine\) ‘friend’ < \(*winiz\). Such is the groundbreaking analysis of Kock (1888, though of course without reference to phonemicization), who posited three historical periods:

A. Umlaut in heavy syllables when \(i\) (but not \(j\)) disappeared, ca. 600–700;
B. Umlaut in light syllables by a following \(ik\) (> \(k\); see below) or \(j\), ca. 700–850;
C. Umlaut by preserved \(i\) after both heavy and light syllables, ca. 900–1000.

Implicit in this analysis is thus the assumption that umlaut should have taken place in heavy stems but not light on a purely phonological basis, and this seems unlikely, as there is no apparent phonetic basis for the distinction.\(^6\) It would therefore seem natural to assume instead that between the loss of \(i/j\) in heavy and light stems there was paradigm regularization: in heavy-stem paradigms, where umlaut was no longer phonologically conditioned, the umlauted stem was commonly extended throughout the paradigm, e.g. from the masc. nom. sg. to the gen. sg. and dat. pl.,\(^7\) whereas in light-stem paradigms, where the conditioning remained, the unumlauted stem was extended throughout. That there was indeed umlaut at one time in light stems is shown by the appearance of umlaut in a number of words in which analogical restoration of the unumlauted vowel was not possible, such as \(ggegn\) ‘against’ < \(ggin\) < \(*zagina\) and \(mylna\) ‘mill’ (borrowed from Lat. \(molina\)), as well as mass nouns, which had no plural, e.g. \(gnyðr\) ‘murmur’, \(kylir\) ‘gust of cold air’.\(^8\) On this assumption, however, it is difficult to account for light-stemmed preterites of the first weak class without umlaut, e.g. \(vakōi\), \(vakti\) ‘roused’ (to \(vekja\)) < \(*wakidē\), since there were no forms anywhere in the paradigm that did not originally contain either \(i\) or \(j\). Conversely, light roots bearing the PGmc. suffix *-\(iðō\) always have umlaut, e.g. \(spekō\), \(spekt\) ‘wisdom’, \(lemd\) ‘lameness’ (cf. \(spakr\) ‘wise’, \(lami\) ‘lame person’), and they, too, would have had suffixal \(i\) throughout the paradigm. Yet this latter type could be due to the analogical influence of related forms: cf. \(speki\) ‘wisdom’ < \(*spakin-\) and \(lemja\) ‘to lame’.

Perhaps, then, verb forms like \(vakōi\) may be explained on the assumption that the reduction and lowering of unstressed \(i\) (§5.6) took place before the vowel was lost after light syllables, and the
umlauted vowel, its fronting no longer conditioned, reverted. Alternatively, and intriguingly, Liberman (2001: 88) suggests that the failure of umlaut after light stems is related to their different syllabification under Prokosch’s law (§2.5; see also Kylstra 1983, Kleiner 1999a), an idea pursued at greater length in Schulte 2004. Since verbs of the first weak class are usually derived from other parts of speech, Kiparsky (2006) argues that analogy to related forms induced reversion in preterites like talði ‘told’ beside the noun tal ‘talk’. More persuasive is the explanation of Iverson & Salmons (2012: 115) that after the earlier syncope, the preterite suffix in heavy stems was no longer */ið-*/ but */ið-*, and this was extended to the light stems. Yet this account, too, leaves some questions unanswered. To date, no consensual view of these matters has emerged, and this remains a topic that invites further investigation.

Note that i from earlier ë developed too late to cause umlaut, e.g. faðir ‘father’ < *fadēr. The specific results of ij-umlaut in ON are these:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{a} & \to e: \text{PGmc. } *\text{sandi(j)iz(i)} & \text{send} ‘\text{send}’ (2 \text{sg.}; \text{cf. Go. } \text{sandæis}); \text{PGmc. } *\text{satjana}^e & \to \text{setj} ‘\text{set}’ (\text{cf. Go. } \text{satjan}). \\
\text{ā} (\text{from PGmc. ë, and } ā) & \to \text{æ} (\text{i.e., } /æ/): \text{PNorse } 2 \text{ sg. } *\text{lātir} & \to \text{læt} ‘\text{let}’ (\text{cf. inf. } \text{lāta}); \text{PNorse } *\text{ājan} & \to \text{æja ‘bait } (\text{a horse}) (\text{cf. pret. } \text{ādi}); \text{PGmc. } 2 \text{ sg. pres. } *\text{fāxiz} & \to \text{fær ‘get’}. \\
o & \to o: \text{As } o \text{ is to be derived from } u \text{ by lowering before a non-high vowel in the next syllable, a lowering prevented by } j \text{(§4.3), } o \text{ was not commonly in a position to undergo umlaut. It might be introduced analogically into the relevant position, however, as in nom. pl. } *\text{dætr ‘daughters}^i \to *\text{dohtar} < \text{PNorse } *\text{doctr} (\text{cf. Runic } \text{dothrij}). \\
\text{ð} & \to \text{æ} (\text{i.e., } ð): \text{PGmc. } *\text{sokitjiz(i)} & \to \text{sekir ‘seek’ (2 \text{ sg.}; \text{cf. Go. } \text{sōkeis}); PGmc. } *\text{dōmjana}^e & \to \text{dæma ‘judge’ (\text{cf. Go. } \text{dōmjān}).} \\
u & \to y: \text{PGmc. } *\text{spurjana}^e & \to \text{spyrja ‘track’ (\text{cf. Go. spjr ‘footprint’ } < *\text{spur}^a); PGmc. } *\text{brunjō} & \to \text{brynja ‘coat of mail’ (\text{cf. Go. } \text{brunjā).} \\
\text{ū} & \to ū: \text{PGmc. } *\text{mūsiz} & \to \text{myss ‘mice’ (\text{cf. sg. mūs}); PGmc. } *\text{funsjina}^e & \to \text{fiṣa ‘urge’ (\text{cf. } \text{fiṣs ‘willings}).} \\
\text{au} & \to ey: \text{PGmc. } *\text{xlaupiz(i)} & \to \text{hleypr ‘leap’ (2 \text{ sg.}; \text{cf. inf. hlaupa}); PGmc. } *\text{xauzijana}^e & \to \text{heyrja ‘hear’ (\text{cf. Go. } \text{háusjan}).} \\
\text{iu} & \to ý: \text{PGmc. } *\text{brutiz(i)} & \to \text{brýtr ‘break’ (2 \text{ sg.}; \text{cf. inf. brjōta}); PGmc. } *\text{þiujōz} & \to \text{þýjar ‘bondwomen’ (\text{nom. pl.}; \text{cf. Go. } \text{þiujōþ).} \\
\end{align*}
\]

A similar but somewhat later change, though still pre-literary, is the so-called k-umlaut. r was apparently a palatal consonant (§6.14), and it mutated an immediately preceding back vowel or diphthong, as in glér ‘glass’ < *glār, kyr ‘cow’ < *kūr, eyra ‘ear’ < *aukōn, hlýr ‘cheek’ < *hlēura (OE hlēor), and fem. pl. þær ‘they’ < *þær. This change is often connected with the so-called ik-umlaut, which, unlike the older ij-umlaut, regularly affect vowels in light syllables, e.g. komr ‘comes’ < *komik and ferr ‘goes’ < *farik. The likeliest explanation of ik-umlaut, however, in accordance with the analysis of ij-umlaut offered above, is that palatal r prevented the lowering of i to e, and thus this is simply another variety of i-umlaut. Comparable is the later change (palatal mutation) of a to e before gr or ki in which i has developed from earlier e or æ due to the palatal consonant, as in tekinn ‘taken’ (inf. taka) and genginn ‘gone’ (inf. gangs).
\[ \text{æ} > \text{e}: \text{PGmc.} *\text{bariz} > *\text{bæri} > \text{here} \text{ ‘barley’ (cf. Go. \text{barizeins} ‘made of barley’)}; \text{PGmc.} *\text{satjanæ} > \text{settan} \text{ ‘set’ (cf. Go. \text{satjan}).} \]

\[ \text{a} > \text{æ}: \text{The vowel \text{a} did not normally occur in a position where it would be subject to umlaut, having always been fronted to \text{æ} in the relevant environments (§4.12), but \text{a} could be restored on an analogical basis and then umlauted. Examples: PGmc. *\text{farþi}(i) > *\text{færiþ}, reformed as *\text{færiþ} (cf. inf. \text{faran}) > \text{færð} (cf. Go. \text{færiþ}); PGmc. *\text{sakja} (acc. sg.) > *\text{sækkja}, reformed as *\text{sakka} (cf. OE \text{sacu} ‘strife’) > \text{sæcc ‘strife’}.} \]

\[ \text{ā} \text{ (from \text{ai})} > \text{æ}: \text{PGmc.} *\text{dailiz} > *\text{dāli} > \text{dēl \text{ ‘portion’ (cf. Go. dāils)}; PGmc. *\text{laizijana} > *\text{lārjan} > \text{lǣran ‘teach’ (cf. Go. lāisjan).} \]

\[ o > \text{e (Anglian \text{æ}, spelt \text{øe}, or \text{e}): The vowel \text{o} did not normally occur in a position where it would be subject to umlaut, since PGmc. \text{u} was not lowered to \text{o} when \text{i} or \text{j} appeared in the next syllable (§4.3). It might be introduced analogically, however, or it might undergo umlaut in a loanword. Examples: PGmc. *\text{murginaz} reformed as *\text{morginaz} (on the basis of the alternative stem *\text{morgjan},- , as in OHG \text{morgan}) > \text{mergen (cf. OIcel. myrgin, morginn); OE ele ‘oil’ (Northumbrian ale) from Lat. oleum.} \]

\[ \text{o} > \text{ē} \text{(Anglian \text{æ}, spelt \text{øe}): PGmc. *\text{bōcere} ‘people’; see also \text{o} > \text{ē} \text{(inv.)}: PGmc. *\text{brūki} ‘scholar’; PGmc. *\text{mor} > \text{muns} \text{ (cf. OE \text{man})}.} \]

\[ u > y \text{(Kentish \text{e})}: \text{PGmc.} *\text{muniz} > \text{myne ‘mind’ (cf. Go. muns); PGmc. *\text{bærjana} > \text{bycgan ‘buy’ (cf. Go. bugjan).} \]

\[ \text{ū} > \text{ȳ} \text{(Kentish \text{e})}: \text{PGmc.} *\text{füliþō} > \text{fyld ‘filth’ (Kentish fēlp; cf. fūl ‘foul’); PGmc. *\text{brūkit(j)i}(i) > \text{brýcō ‘enjoys’ (cf. Go. brūkeþ).} \]

\[ \text{ea (breaking of \text{æ}, §4.13) > ë} \text{ (non-WS} \text{ e): PGmc. *\text{kalōþ}(i) > \text{hielt ‘holds’ (cf. inf. \text{healdan); PGmc. *\text{balþijana} > \text{bieldan ‘embolden’ (cf. beald ‘bold’, and see §6.17 on *-lþ- > -lð-). The same development is seen in the WS palatal diphthongization of \text{æ} (§4.13), e.g. \text{giest ‘guest’ < *\text{geastī} < *\text{gæstī} < *\text{gastiz} and be-sciered ‘deprived’ < *\text{scearid} < *\text{scearða ‘steward’).} \]

\[ \text{ēa (from \text{au}) > ïe (non-WS ë): PGmc. *\text{laužiz} > \text{fiug ‘flame’ (Anglian læg; cf. Go. \text{lāuhmuni ‘lightning’); PGmc. *\text{baugijana} > \text{biegan ‘bend’ (Anglian bēgan; cf. bēag ‘ring’). In EWS \text{nēhvst(a)} < *\text{nēahist-} < *\text{nēhist-} is seen the same development of the breaking of \text{ēa} (§4.13).} \]

\[ \text{ėo > ïo (> ëo, but Northumbrian ūo): The diphthongs} \text{ eo and ėo should not have occurred before \text{i} or \text{j} in the next syllable (§4.4), but they could be introduced into the environment for umlaut on an analogical basis. The plainest evidence of this is words in which EWS īe might be expected but is not found, e.g. geþode (also EWS geþode) ‘language’ < *-þōði for earlier *\text{piuði}, by analogy to *\text{þōdō} > \text{þōd ‘people’; see also n. 14 and A. Campbell 1977: §202.} \]

\[ \text{io (breaking of} \text{i} > \text{ie (Northumbrian io, Mercian, Kentish eo): PGmc. *\text{irrijaz} > *\text{irrijrī} > \text{ierre ‘angry’ (Northumbrian iorrre, Mercian corre; cf. OS irri);\text{14 EWS gesiehō ‘sees’ (Kentish -siōh) < *sioþ < *sixiþ(i).} \]

\[ \text{īu (from PGmc. iu, §4.4) > ïe (non-WS ë): PGmc. *\text{kiusij(i) > cīest ‘chooses’ (cf. inf. Go. \text{kiusan}; PGmc. *\text{liuxtijana} > \text{līehtan ‘illuminate’ (cf. Go. liuhtjan).} \]

\[ \text{Front umlaut could also occur when} \text{īj} \text{ appeared in the third syllable of words with initial stress, e.g. āmyrgge, ëmerge ‘embers’ < *\text{āmyrjæ} < *\text{aimurjæ} (cf. OHG eimûrja): see A. Campbell 1977: §203.} \]
Old Frisian. Although front umlaut must have produced a variety of sounds in the prehistoric period, they had all fallen together as ē by the time of the historical records:15

\[ a > æ (§4.12) > e : \text{PGmc.} *bādiz > \text{bed} \text{ ‘bed’}; \text{PGmc.} *lāzijana > *leggijan > leđza ‘lay’. \]

\[ ā (\text{from PGmc.} \text{a}y \text{before x, §4.1, and NSGmc.} \text{a}n \text{before a voiceless fricative, §4.11, and Anglo-Frisian} \text{ā before a nasal consonant, §4.12}) > ē : \text{PGmc.} *fānixīp > fēth ‘takes’; \text{PGmc.} *tanbīz > *tārīpīz > tēth ‘teeth’; \text{PGmc.} *wēnijana > wānjon > wēna ‘expect’. \]

\[ ū > iu, as in liuten ‘make a sound’ (cf. lūt). \]

\[ o > ë : \text{PGmc.} *blōdijana > blēda ‘bleed’; \text{PGmc.} bōtijana > bēta ‘atone’. \]

\[ u > y > e : \text{PGmc.} *kustiz > kest ‘choice’ (cf. OE cyst); \text{PGmc.} *kunja > kenne ‘kind’ (cf. OE cynn). \]

\[ ū > ë : \text{PGmc.} *brūōiz > brēd ‘bride’ (cf. OE brýd); \text{PGmc.} *kūpjana > kētha ‘announce’ (cf. OE cŷdan). \]

\[ ai > ë : \text{PGmc.} *laizijana > lēra ‘teach’ (cf. OE lēran); \text{PGmc.} *dailiz > dēl ‘part’ (beside dei); \text{OFGmc.} teil, OE dēl). \]

\[ au > ë : \text{PGmc.} *hauzijana > *hārjan > hēra ‘hear’; \text{PGmc.} *lauibjana > lēva ‘believe’ (cf. Go. ga-laubjian). \]

\text{PGmc.} \text{iu} remains unchanged (rather than developing to iā, §4.14) in uumlaut environments, except that it becomes a rising diphthong, e.g. \text{PGmc.} *diupijana > diūpa ‘deepen, dip’ (cf. LWS dyypan < *diepan).

Old Saxon. Only the umlaut of a to e (and ai to ei) is undeniably indicated in the orthography, and even then forms with a by analogical replacement are frequent beside those with e, e.g. \textit{mannisk} beside \textit{mennisk}- ‘human’ and acc. pl. \textit{händi} beside \textit{hendi} ‘hands’. The evidence of MLG, however, shows that other back vowels and back diphthongs must have been mutated: see, e.g., Lasch 1914: §§42–60. Occasional spellings in OS itself could also represent the native umlaut of vowels besides a (see, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §41h), but other explanations are possible.17 Unlike in OE, syncope (§5.6) antecedes i-umlaut in heavy-stemmed verbs, e.g. \textit{sanda ‘sent’}: OE sende (cf. Go. sandida).

Old High German. As with OS, only the early umlaut of a (‘primary umlaut’) is indicated in the spelling, as e, though Notker (late 10th cent.) uses (iu) for the umlaut of /u/, and MHG evidence shows that other back vowels and back diphthongs must have undergone mutation (‘secondary umlaut’, which by most accounts includes umlaut of a in environments in which it had earlier been prevented), as the i or j that caused the umlaut evidenced in MHG had been lost or lowered to e already in the OHG period, with signs of weakening as early as the start of the ninth century.18 On the basis of rhyme in MHG poetry it may be concluded that the e derived from PGmc. e and the e resulting from the umlaut of a were discrete phonemes, /e/ and /e/, respectively, and thus in modern grammars they are often distinguished as ë and e (or e), respectively.19 Examples of the umlaut of a are PGmc. *lambjīz > lembīr ‘lambs’ (cf. nom. lamb) and PGmc. *brannjiana > brennen ‘burn’ (cf. pret. branta). This umlaut of a begins to appear in the OHG records ca. 750 and is carried through by the ninth century, spreading southward. It fails before h + consonant and before consonant + w (as also, in part, in OS), as in mahtīg ‘mighty’ and garawen < *garwijīana. Also as in OS, occasional spellings, especially late in the OHG period and early in the MHG, seem to evidence attempts to represent the effects of umlaut: examples are ē > ē/ē, as in unsēlic ‘misfortunate’ (12th cent.); uo (from o) > ue, as in gruen ‘green’; u > ū (spelt i, ui, iu, y), as in ibilo ‘evil’ < *ubīl- (11th/12th cent.); ū > iu, as in liuten ‘make a sound’ (cf. īūt.
‘sound’; Notker, ca. 1000); and ō (from au) > ø, spelt oi in troi̇stest ‘console’ (2 sg.; 11th century). Because they are late, such spellings are unlikely to represent Anglo-Frisian orthographic influence.


2. Cf. Kleiner 1999a: 95. Palatalization of /l/ is probably the best explanation for the failure of diphthongization in OE tellan < Proto-WGmc. *talljan (for expected OE *tielljan < *tealljan: see Barrack 1998: 153–5). Otherwise, however, it should probably be assumed that /l/ in the syllable coda was normally velar in prehistoric OE (see §4.13).

3. Howell & Salmons (1997) argue that front umlaut is most regular when it affects vowels most different in place of articulation from the conditioning sound; hence, a is umlauted first and most regularly, u least regularly.

4. The form niuhaustum on the Stentoften stone (mid-7th cent.) has repeatedly been said to show front umlaut in dat. pl. -gestum ‘guests’, analogical to nom. sg. *gastj < *gastin (cf. gast on the Gallehus horn, ca. 400), but it now appears that the inscription should be interpreted as niu ha[n]gestum ‘nine steeds’: see Santesson 1989: 227b; Schulte 1998: 76–82.


6. That umlaut at first affected vowels in heavy syllables but not light is nonetheless an idea that is to be found still in recent literature, e.g. Lahiri 2000: 120 and Voyles 2005: 268, the latter adopting the unorthodox position that “many—if not most” phonological changes are governed from the start by morphosyntactic conditioning.

7. This formulation assumes that the i-stem gen. sg. and dat. pl. endings were replaced early by a-stem desinences, as otherwise there are no i-stem case-forms that can be assumed with confidence not to have undergone umlaut. Replacement of the fem. i-stem endings by ā-stem ones must have been far advanced at the time of syncope, since umlaut has been removed entirely from the fem. paradigm.

8. Wadstein 1892. There is also the mythological name Bergelmir, the prototheme of which, as suggested by the context (Valfríðsmál 29, 35), should mean ‘barley’ and thus be derived from *bari(z): cf. OIcel. barr, OE bere ‘barley’ (i-stems, originally s-stems), Go. barteins ‘made of barley’: see Full 1989: 317.

9. Analogical change in spekō, etc., is essentially the view of Schulte (1998: 250–1), who distinguishes usefully among i-, j-, and i-umlaut.

10. So Hesselman 1945: 25–45, esp. 29, and earlier Seip (1919: 86), the latter assuming i > a; similarly Reid 1990, assuming i > a. The corpus of Runic inscriptions yields no evidence on this point. Reversion may seem questionable if i had been lost already after heavy stems and the umlauted vowel in such stems therefore had been phonemicized. If the new sounds were regarded as separate phonemes in heavy stems, why not also in light? The alternative of supposing that i was lowered to e after light stems only, and before the loss of i after heavy stems (as seems to be suggested by Gordon 1957: 272), is surely unlikely, as the loss of i after heavy stems shows that the vowel was weakened earlier there.

11. For a synopsis of attempts to explain the failure of umlaut in light radical syllables, see Schulte 1998: 30–58.

12. They explain (2012: 117) that with the replacement of *i-ōh- by *-ō-, “the motivation for retaining umlaut in ‘telhō, now from /tal+ōh/, simply disappeared.” A similar, though lightly sketched, explanation was offered by Kleiner (1999a). Yet umlaut should originally have applied to all forms within the paradigm, and so it is difficult to see how the underlying stem could have escaped lexicalization as *telh- rather than *tal-. Another possibility is that reversion in the pret. ind. served to differentiate the ind. from the sj., a difference already eliminated in the heavy stems. But the problem of how the light umlauted stem persisted unlexicalized remains. Some of these issues are treated in Fertig 2013, where comparison is drawn to the disappearance of umlaut in nouns that lost OHG -e and MHG -e in the gen. and dat. sg., e.g. OHG dat. sg. anst beside enstí ‘favor’ and MHG gen./dat. sg. kraft beside krefte ‘power’.

13. The argument of Collier (1987) that i-umlaut preceded breaking and the WS digraph (ie) represents i/ cannot be reconciled with the evidence of the ME dialect of the Southwest, in which the reflex of WS ie is a rounded vowel: see §4.13.
This word, however, with PGmc. *rz-, is something of an exception (due to the geminate), since in Anglian, breaking usually failed before r when i appeared in the next syllable. EWS hierde ‘herdsman’ (PGmc. *xirðijaz; Northumbrian hierde, Mercian heorde) probably has the umlaut of eo extended analogically from heord ‘herd’. See A. Campbell 1977: §§154, 201.

See further Russ 1996.

OFris. ei rather than ð is common before dental sounds and l.

Thus, for example, Holthausen (1921) explains forms like andwirdi ‘answer’ and fisid ‘inclined’ (for andwirdi, fisid), as scribal errors (§88 Anm. 4), and forms like ehtin (< PGmc. *ǣxtinaz ‘regarded’) and mērī ‘glorious’ (< Proto-WGmc. *mērja) as possibly due to English or Frisian influence (§§89, 92).

Braune 2004a: §§51, 56. This analysis, however, is not universally accepted, as some are of the opinion that umlaut was not phonemicized, or perhaps not even realized allophonically, until late in the OHG period: see, e.g., Kastovsky 1995: 231 n. 8, Voyles 1996 (with refs. to his earlier work, and to opposing views of H. Penzl), Klein 2013: 184. Voyles, in particular, has argued in various studies that umlaut spread on a morphological or morpholexical rather than a phonological basis and thus need not have arisen in OHG before the tenth century. For an overview of the controversy, see Iverson & Salmons 1996 (arguing that primary umlaut did antecede secondary) and M.R. Barnes 1999. For criticisms of morpholexical approaches, see Holsinger & Salmons 1999: 245, though their concern is solely the status (phonological or morpholexical) of primary umlaut. Gütter (2011) highlights and discusses twelve names in documents from the period 827–957 which show umlaut of vowels other than å. Some further studies relevant to OHG umlaut are van Coetsem & McCormick 1982, McCray 1983, Kortlandt 1993, Salmons 1994, Iverson, Davis, & Salmons 1996, Janda 1998, Rauch 1999, Isakson 2002, and Panieri 2012–13.

For discussion, see Liberman 1987.

### 4.8 Back mutation

In both North and West Gmc., a back vowel may exert influence upon a front vowel in a preceding syllable. In some instances, especially in NGmc., the process closely parallels front mutation, in that the affected vowel remains monophthongal and assimilates one or more features of the back vowel, but more commonly the result is fracture—that is, development of the front vowel to a back diphthong. These processes are also sometimes referred to as u-umlaut (or u/a-umlaut) or back umlaut, or labial (or labiovelar) umlaut, though in ON studies these terms are not commonly used to refer to fracture.

**Old Icelandic.** When a appears in the next syllable, u is lowered to o, as in koma ‘come’ (cf. OE cuman), gen. sonar ‘son’ (nom. sunr). This change, known as a-umlaut, is very commonly reversed on an analytical basis, e.g. guð ‘god’ beside god. See Noreen 1970: §61.1 for details.

Stressed e before a in the next syllable (but not before nasalized a) undergoes fracture to the falling diphthong ea, with subsequent conversion to the rising diphthong ja, as with PNorse *berjaz > hjarga ‘save’ (cf. Go. bairgan) and *herta > hjarta ‘heart’ (cf. Go. hærtō). In parallel fashion, e before u in the next syllable undergoes fracture to a falling diphthong that may be represented eo, later developing at least in West Norse to a rising diphthong jo, but jo before a geminate velar stop in Olccl. (e.g. bjokkr ‘thick’ < NWGmc. *bekkus) and jó when lengthened (§4.9, e.g. mjólk ‘milk’; cf. Go. miluks). There is thus u-fracture in PNorse acc. pl. *skeldu > skiplu ‘shields’ and dat. pl. *heltum > hjörtum ‘hilts’. There has been disagreement in the literature about the specifics of u-fracture.

In addition to these instances of fracture, there is rounding of a stressed non-back vowel or diphthong, often referred to as back umlaut, labial umlaut, or u/v-umlaut. The
vowels $a$ and $ā$ are rounded before $u$ in the next syllable; similarly, $e$, ę, and $ei$ are rounded before either $u$ or $o$:

\[
\begin{align*}
  a & \rightarrow o: \text{PGmc. } *\text{päkō} > *\text{pakku} > \text{pokk} \text{ ‘pleasure’ (cf. Go. } \text{pägkjan} \text{ ‘think’);} \\
  \text{PNorse } *\text{allum} & > \text{ollum} \text{ ‘all’ (dat. pl.; cf. nom. sg. } \text{allr).} \\
  ā & \text{ (from PGmc. } ė \text{ or ū) } \rightarrow \dot{\dot{ō}}: \text{The } \dot{\dot{ō}} \text{ produced by this change subsequently fell together with } \dot{ā} \text{ by about 1250 and is represented thus in normalized orthography; however, } \dot{\dot{ō}} \text{ is required by the rhymes in some earlier skaldic verse. Examples: } \text{PNorse } \text{dat. sg. } *\text{gātu} > \text{gōtu, later } \text{gātu} \text{ ‘riddle’; PGmc. } *\text{axō} > *\text{āiu} > \dot{\dot{ō}}, \text{ later } \dot{\dot{ā}} \text{ ‘river’ (cf. Go. } \text{ahā);} \\
  \text{PNorc.e. } 1 \text{ pl. pres. } *\text{fāxum} & > \text{Ocel. } \text{fōm, later analogical } \text{fōum, fāum} \text{ ‘take’}. \\
  e & > œ: \text{This change is infrequently caused by } u \text{ because } e \text{ in the relevant position underwent fracture except after } r \text{ or next to } l \text{ (see supra). Examples: } \text{PNorse } *\text{rēru} > \text{rēru } \text{ ‘rowed’ (3 pl.); PGmc. } *\text{malwijana} > *\text{melwan} > \text{mölva} \text{ ‘crush’ (cf. Go. } \text{gā-malwjan);} \\
  \text{PGmc. } *\text{stīkjana} & > *\text{stekkwā} (§6.14) > \text{stokkva} \text{ ‘spring’ (cf. Go. } \text{stigkan).} \\
  i & > y: \text{NWGmc. } *\text{mirkwiz} > *\text{mirkur} > \text{myrk}r \text{ ‘darkness’; PGmc. } *\text{singţan}a > \text{syngva} \text{ ‘sing’ (cf. Go. } \text{si̯ggwā).} \\
  ĭ & > ū: \text{PGmc. } *\text{fiwaz} > *\text{fīwur} > \text{Týr (name of a god; cf. Lat. } \text{dīvus \ ‘god’);} \\
  \text{PNorse } *\text{strīkwā} & > \text{strýkva} \text{ (but usually analogical } \text{strýkja} \text{ ‘stroke’ (cf. OE } \text{strīcan).} \\
  ei & > ey: \text{PNorc.e. } *\text{aiwa} > *\text{ei}u > ey \text{ ‘ever’ (cf. Go. } \text{ni-áiw \ ‘never’);} \text{Proto-West } \text{Norse } *\text{kveik< } > \text{kveykva} \text{ ‘kindling’ (more commonly } \text{kveikjā).} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Changes of this sort could also apply to vowels of lesser stress, e.g. in $*\text{-težur} > -\text{tōgr}$ in $\text{brīlōgr}$ ‘30’. According to the standard view, $a$ in a medial syllable was mutated to $o$, later developing to $u$, as in nom. sg. fem. $*\text{žamalō} > *\text{žamól}u > \text{gμmul} \text{ ‘old’};$ only on the possibility that this might be the result of an earlier change, see §5.5. In combination with various consonants, $u$/umlaut could produce further changes, referred to collectively as analogical back mutation, e.g. PGmc. $*\text{wērum(p)} > *\text{wārun} > \text{oru} \text{ ‘were’ (beside analogically restored } \text{vōru, later } \text{vāru, though } \text{oru} \text{ is required by the poetic form in some skaldic verse: see } \text{Hornklofi, } \text{Haraldskveðí } 2/2 \text{ and } \text{PNorc.e. } *\text{nahtu} > \text{nōtt} \text{ ‘night’ (§6.14).} \\

As with $i$/j-umlaut (§4.7), there appear to have been two patterns of this back umlaut, (1) whereby the umlaut is always carried through and the $u$/w is lost in the early period, and (2) whereby the $u$/w is preserved and the umlaut is usually missing in East Norse. The East Norse results, however, cannot be due to phonological developments only, as there is evidence for the earlier occurrence of pattern (2) in East Norse: see Hreinn Benediktsson 1963, with references.

**Old English.** A front vowel may be diphthongized by a back vowel in the following syllable, though conditions for this set of developments vary by dialect, the changes being most widespread in Mercian and least in WS, where they are generally limited to the position before a lone labial or liquid consonant ($f, p, w, m, l, r$). With few exceptions (noted below), the change does not occur in closed syllables, and only in Kentish (and Mercian, if the change is not analogically induced) does it take place before a velar consonant. This change is most likely coeval with, or postdates, the earliest manuscript evidence (ca. 700: see the references in Fulk 1992: 347 n. 170).

The product of this change is diphthongs that are orthographically indistinguishable from diphthongs inherited from PGmc., but their subsequent histories show them to have differed from those diphthongs. In poetic meter they are treated like short vowels, whereas diphthongs inherited from PGmc. have the same scansion as long vowels. Despite the typological objections that have been raised, e.g. by Stockwell & Barritt (1951), it is generally assumed that phonemically long and short diphthongs were
4.8 Back mutation

Distinguished in OE, the former marked here with macrons. Indeed, repeated attempts have been made to explain the digraphs produced by back mutation (as well as breaking and diphthongization by initial palatal consonant, §4.13) as non-diphthongal, but the alternative proposals all face daunting obstacles (see Hogg 1992: §§2.20–30 for discussion and references). ME spellings of the Southwest like *seothen < OE *seophan ‘afterward’, *souen, *seoue(ne) < OE *seofon ‘seven’, and *hor < OE *heora ‘their’ do not prove that the result of back mutation was an actual back diphthong, but such spellings are also used for the reflexes of OE long diphthongs (e.g. *leosen, *leose < OE *léosan ‘lose’), just as the long and short diphthongs are spelt identically in the two periods, and so the orthographic evidence is hard to dismiss.

The change is caused by a or u (or its allophone o), whether etymologically long or short:


\[ e > eo \] PGmc. *xorotaz > OE heorot ‘hart’; PGmc. *bebruz > OE beofor ‘beaver’ (cf. Skt. bahhrīḥ ‘reddish-brown; mongoose’).

\[ i > io \], which yields eo in all dialects except Northumbrian and, in part, Kentish. Examples are WGMc. *klipōdē > Northumbrian OE clopade (WS cleopode; cf. WS inf. cliopian beside analogical cleopian) ‘called’; PGmc. *sibun(-) > Northumbrian OE sioft, WS seofon (cf. Go. OHG sibun). The vowel i in the environment for back mutation, and regardless of the following consonant, may undergo so-called combinative back mutation when it follows w, as in OE wudu ‘wood’ < *widu (also attested) and swugian beside swigian ‘be silent’.

Although back mutation is rare in closed syllables, it does occur in a few forms, which the commonest of which are seodōdan ‘since’ and siōndon ‘are’ beside síōdan, sindon.

Old Frisian. The vowel i was diphthongized to iu, a rising diphthong, before u or w in the next syllable, e.g. niugen ‘9’ < NSGmc. *nizun and diunk ‘dark’ < WGMc. *diŋkwa.

Old Saxon and Old High German. The vowel e is raised to i before u in the next syllable, e.g. OS OHG filu ‘many’ (cf. Oldc. fjeλ- < PNorse *fæλt-), OS OHG sihu ‘(I) see’ (cf. OE sēo < WGMc. *sēu-, and OS miluk, OHG miluh ‘milk’ (cf. OE meol(o)c). The change often fails even when there is no analogical basis for restoration of e, e.g. OS ebur, OHG ebur ‘boar’ (cf. OE efof < PGmc. *erbuz).

1. So, most notably, there is no fracture in verbs of strong classes IV and V because a or remained nasalized after a light stressed syllable (see §2.5 on the Germanic foot), hence, e.g., geta ‘get’ rather than *giata.

2. This change is attested in Runic inscriptions of the seventh century (Björketorp, Istaby).

3. This is the convincing explanation of Hreinn Benediktsson (1963: 428–31), who argues that when e was diphthongized, its off-glide could be identified with any of the extant back vowels, and was the sound it was usually identified with in Old Icelandic. The handbooks of Oldc. grammar generally instead assume a change of of to jo by ca. 1250 on the basis of orthographic evidence (countered by Hreinn).

4. Before Hreinn Benediktsson (1963) offered his analysis there were two prevailing views: (1) that a- and u-fracture produced different diphthongs from the start (as Hreinn assumes), and (2) that they both initially produced ea, which subsequently underwent back mutation and stress shift to jo, just as a is mutated to o. Hreinn (1963: 431) demonstrates the unreliability of the orthographic evidence for the latter view. A third view, that fracture is an unconditioned change, initiated by a general diphthongization of e to ie (so Svensson 1944), appears to have gained no adherents.

6. When $n$ is the cause of this change, it must immediately follow $i$.

7. For details of the conditions of the change in other dialects, see A. Campbell 1977: §§205–21.

8. This is because Mercian is the only dialect in which $ae$ could occur before a back vowel, due to so-called Second Fronting, whereby $a > e$ and $a > ae$ for the conditions, see Hogg 1992: §§5.87–92.

9. In a form such as geolōja ‘yolk’, from WGmc. ‘yelokō’, $e$ would have been diphthongized to $ie$ by the initial palatal consonant, and this appears to have been converted to $io$ (later $eo$) by back mutation: see A. Campbell 1977: §220.

4.9 Changes of stressed vowels and diphthongs in Proto-Norse

PGmc. $e$, has become NGmc. $a$ already in the earliest NGmc. Runic inscriptions, e.g. in the name-element -maraz on the Ellesstad stone (ca. 550–600?). Koivulehto (1986: 286) finds that PGmc. $e$ appears as $a$ already in the earliest loanwords into Finnish, borrowed ca. 300–200 BCE.

In Proto-Norse, $ai$ was fronted to $æi$, later giving Olccl. $ei$. In the older runic inscriptions it is still represented by $ai$ (there being no separate rune for $æ$), as in stáina on the Tune stone (ca. 200–ca. 450) and stáin on the Eggjum stone (ca. 700). But under certain conditions it was monophthongized to $â$: (1) $ai > æi$ immediately before $/x/$, which was subsequently lost, as in PGmc. *aɪx(e) > Olccl. â ‘owns’ (still ah in the Maglemose bracteate, ca. 400–ca. 650). The change is perhaps attested as early as ca. 400–ca. 600 on the Åsum bracteate in the form fahid[do] ‘color[ed]’ and on the Halskov bracteate (ca. 450–550?) in the form fahide. (2) $ei > æi$ before $r$ (but not before $k$), as in PGmc. *sairu > Olccl. sår ‘wound’ (Go. sær, OE sár) and PGmc. *airuz > õrr, later ærr ($§4.8$) ‘messenger’ (Go. ærrus, OE õr); cf. PNorse *gairar > Olccl. geïr ‘spear’. (3) $aei > æi$ in some medial syllables of lesser stress, $§5.6$. In addition, Proto-Norse $æi$ developed to ON $æ$ (i.e., /æ:/) before $w$ (which might be lost, $§6.14$), as in *áiwín- > Olccl. ævi ‘age’ (cf. Go. àivos < *áiwaz) and hræ ‘corpsre’ (cf. Go. hraíw).

Parallel to (1) above there are the changes $î > ë$, $û > õ$, and $au > õ$ before (lost) $/x/$, as in *rixítjana > rëtt ‘straighten’ (cf. OHG rihian), 3 sg. pret. *pîxtē > ðótti ‘seemed’ (cf. OE pëhte), and *pauh > *ðoh (borrowed into OE; cf. ME ðój) > ðó ‘though’ (cf. Go. ðáuh). The $/x/$, thus lost may represent the devoicing of *æ (§6.14), as in *flauã > *flauh > *flôh > õ ‘flew’. As the example of rëtt shows, vowels were lengthened before $xt$ (probably at the time of the lenition of $x$ to $h$), which subsequently developed to $tt$.

Also in Proto-Norse, a nasal consonant was lost before non-final $s$, $f$, $r$, $l$, with nasalization and compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel. Examples: *ansuz > âursors > Oscl. ÿ ‘god’ (cf. Latinized Go. ansex, OHG ansi-); *fimfíla > *fíla > fíl ‘fool’; PNorse *þunrar > *þýr > Pôrr (name; cf. OE gen. sg. þunres ‘thunder’); PNorse *ánlaibaz > *áleibar > Áleifr (name, beside Oláfr, with -ei- required by the rhyme in some skaldic verse, e.g. Sigvatr þóðarson, Vikingsvísur 9/8 and Nesjavísur 4/4). See Krogh 1996: 221–3. Compensatory lengthening attends the loss of various consonants, as in PNorse *piwir > þir ‘maid servant’ (cf. Go. þiwi), PGmc. *mapla > mál ‘speech, affair’ (cf. Go. mapl ‘market’), PNorse *fôðrir > fôrir ‘4’ (cf. Go. fôðvör), and PGmc. *axtô > åtta ‘8’ (cf. Go. ahtau).

Some further lengthenings may be mentioned. There is lowering and lengthening of high vowels before $r$ in OWN monosyllables, e.g. dat. *mir > mér ‘me’; cf. the short vowel in 3 pl. pret. *kuruñ > *kuru > kuru ‘chose’ (with $r$-umlaut, §4.7; cf. OHG
churun). There is thus lowering without lengthening otherwise before r, as in eru ‘are’ < *eru < *izun. Starting about 1200, back vowels and diphthongs are lengthened before l plus a labial or velar consonant (m, f, p, g, k), rarely a dental, as in hjálmr ‘helmet’, sjálfr ‘self’, úlför ‘wolf’, böglinn ‘swollen’, fólk ‘people’, hálš ‘neck’, skáld ‘poet’ (requiring a short vowel for the rhyme in early skaldic poetry, e.g. Bragi’s exchange with the troll-woman 1/1)

With the loss of postconsonantal w, a following a or e might become o, and i might become y, as in tolf ‘12’ (later tôlf; cf. Go. twalif), sofá ‘sleep’ (cf. OE swefan), and synt ‘sisters’ < *swistr. There is lowering of e after w, as in PGmc. *wixtiz > *vētr (with i > ē, as above) > vētr ‘weight’.

There is general shortening of long vowels before geminate consonants, as with nom. sg. neut. gott ‘good’ : masc. gödr and nom. sg. masc. þinn ‘your (sg.)’ : dat. þinum, though an exception is before tt < xt, as in PGmc. *xaxtuz > háttr ‘manner’. The diphthong ei became e under such conditions, as in ekki ‘not’ < *xitt-gi and edda ‘grandmother’ (cf. poetic eída ‘mother’). The effects of this change are often removed on an analogical basis, e.g. in nom. sg. masc. finn ‘fine’ (cf. dat. finum), nom. sg. neut. litt ‘little’ (cf. masc. littil), and stórr ‘large’. Likewise, there is general shortening in closed syllables, including syllables closed as a result of syncope, as with nom. pl. masc. ymsir ‘various’ (nom. sg. ýmiss), brullaup ‘wedding’ < brúð-lauf, Porsteinn (name, from Pó́r-), Skírnir (name; cf. skíra ‘cleanse’), and mestr ‘most’ (cf. Go. máists). Once again, however, analogy commonly removes irregularities, e.g. dýrð beside dýr ‘glory’ (cf. dýr- ‘costly’) and árna beside arna ‘intercede’ (cf. Go. árinøn ‘be an emissary’ and Olcel. ár- ‘messenger’).

In Old West Norse, PGmc. eu develops to eo, whence jó, before dental consonants, x, and m; otherwise it appears as jú. Examples: PGmc. *keusana > Olcel. kjósa ‘choose’, *þeuxa > hjó ‘thigh’, *xleumaz > hljómr ‘sound’, but *leuzana > ljúga ‘lie’, *leubaz > ljúfr ‘dear’. Contrariwise, the back diphthong that developed in preterites of class VII (§12.20) gives Olcel. jó regardless of what consonant follows, as with hljóp ‘sprang’, jók ‘increased’.

On front and back umlaut, and fracture, see §4.7–8. For further details of Proto-Norse vowel developments, consult the grammars cited in §1.14.

1. The form fahido occurs also on the Rö stone (ca. 400), but there perhaps a for ai is due simply to omission of a rune, given the form saira ‘wound’ in the same inscription (so Antonsen 1975: 13, 43).

4.10 Changes of stressed vowels and diphthongs in the protolanguage of West Germanic

The handbooks (e.g. A. Campbell 1977: §120.2) prescribe that new diphthongs developed when the sequences -awj- and -iwj- underwent WGmc. gemination (§6.15), e.g. *strawjana > *strawwjan > *strawwjan > EWS *stréegan, Anglian strégan ‘strew’, and *niwijaz > *niwija > *niwwja > OE niwe, OS OHG niuwe ‘new’. There are, however, significant reasons to doubt this.1 Similar diphthongs developed as a consequence of the Verschärfung (if the Verschärfung did not result from the analogical extension of diphthongs rather than doubling of glides: see §6.10), with or without umlaut, e.g. *klajjó > *klaijó > kláju > OE clég, similarly OFris. kláy, MLG klei, and *trewwó > *trewwu > OE tréow ‘faith’, OS trewua, OHG triuwa (cf. Go. triggwa). New diphthongs also arose as a consequence of the WGmc. loss of w before u (§6.16), as with
∗prawō > *prawu > *praú > OE þrēa ‘affliction’, or when postvocalic w became final and thus formed a diphthong, as with *trewe > *treu > OE trúo, OS trio ‘tree’, or when final -ō became -u and contracted with a preceding vowel, as with *hi-ō (with analogical fém. -ō added to the stem hi-) > *hiu > OE hēo ‘she’.

1. It is difficult to imagine how w could have remained consonantal in forms like *straujana and *niwjaz (cf. Go. straujan, niuji), and at all events WGmc. *straujan should be expected to have developed not to EWS *strīegan but to *strīewjan > *strīewan (§6.15). See also §6.10 on the unlikelihood of the dismantling of geminates in this fashion. Rather, EWS *strīegan may be derived unproblematically from PGmc. *straujana, and OE nīewe may be assumed to have undergone the same sort of paradigm regularization that affected words like OE þēow, gen. þēowes ‘servant’ (§7.12).

4.11 Changes of stressed vowels in North Sea Germanic

In a change comparable to that seen in PGmc. *faŋxana > fāŋxana (§4.1), in North Sea Germanic a nasal consonant was lost before any voiceless fricative, with nasalization and compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel. The change thus affects mf, ns, nh and produces ān, āp, ūr. The first of these yields ō in Anglo-Frisian (as does ān inherited from PGmc.), but either ā or ō in OS (whereas PGmc. ān is always reflected as ā, as in OS OHG brāhnta : OE brōhte, OFris. brochte ‘brought’); for details, see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 142–6. Examples: WGmc. *fimf > *fif > OE Ofris. OS fif (cf. Go. OHG fīm); WGmc. *jans > OE Ofris. MLG gōs, but OHG gans ‘goose’; PGmc. *funsaz > OE OS fās, but OHG funs ‘ready’; *anheraz > OE ŏder, Ofris. ōher, OS ādar, ōdar, but Go. anpar, OHG ander ‘other’. Compare the similar developments in NGmc. (§4.9).

At least in some instances, final stressed *-wō yields -ū, as in OE Ofris. OS hū ‘how’ (beside Ofris. OS huō) and OE neut. ū ‘two’. The same change probably results in OE cū, Ofris. kū ‘cow’ (also OIcel. kyr, dat. & acc. kú, but OS cō, OHG kuó), since this derives from PGmc. *kvw- (cf. Lat. bōs, and see Szemerényi 1956, idem 1996: §7.5.5; De Decker 2011), and OE neut. bū ‘both’ can be explained as analogical to ū. The facultative nature of the change in NSGmc. suggests generalization of paradigm alternants. See Lane 1936: 22 for references, and Hollfield 1979 and Schrijver 2004: 201–4 for an alternative analysis assuming development of final ō to ū even in a stressed syllable without a preceding labial element. To the contrary, Ringe (2017: 223) suggests a Pre-PGmc. paradigm alternant due to a change *gyw- > *gyw- > *gū-, whereas Euler (2013: 91–2, following Grieppentrog 1995: 238–40, 246) thinks the forms with ū are by analogy to *sū- ‘sow’. See also Boutkan 1995b: 44–5.

4.12 Changes of stressed vowels and diphthongs in Anglo-Frisian

(N)WGmc. āe (< ē) appears as ē in WS, but as ē elsewhere in Anglo-Frisian.1 An exception is before nasal consonants, where it is reflected everywhere as ō, presumably from earlier ān, as in OE Ofris. móna ‘moon’ (cf. Go. möna, OIcel. máni, OS OHG māno) and 3 pl. pret. OE c(w)ōmōn, Ofris. kōmen ‘came’ (cf. Go. gēmōn, OS quàmūn).

Parallel to these developments in the long vowels are changes affecting a: (1) Before a nasal consonant it was nasalized. In Ofris. and in some dialects of OE the resulting ān was subsequently rounded, hence Ofris. OE (Mercian) noma ‘name’, lomb ‘lamb’, hond ‘hand’, long ‘long’.2 (2) Elsewhere, a was fronted to ē. In the absence of
further conditioning (see below) it remained as such in OE, whereas it is reflected in OFris. as e. Examples: OE feðer ‘father’, deòg ‘day’, læt ‘slow, late’, OFris. feðer, deì, let (cf. Go. fadar, dags, lats). This fronting is commonly referred to as Anglo-Frisian Brightening. Except in umlaut environments, PGMc. a remains unchanged in OFris. before /x/ (cf. acht ‘eight’, sax ‘knife’, slā ‘kill’ (< *slaxan)), before checked l (cf. salt ‘salt’, ald ‘old’), between w and checked r (cf. warm ‘warm’, swart ‘black’), and in some unaccented words, e.g. was ‘was’. In Anglo-Frisian a notable asymmetry between the long and short vowel inventories of WGmc. (with no short vowel corresponding to ā, no long vowel corresponding to a) was thus eliminated by the fronting of a to æ, whereas elsewhere in WGmc. (and NGmc.) it was eliminated by the backing of ā to ā (§4.6). See further Kortlandt 2008: 266.

This fronting of a applied also to the diphthong au in OE, producing ēa, at first a diphthong with a rounded off-glide, as shown by early spellings, e.g. 〈æodbald〉 (i.e. Æadbald, name) in Bede, with rounding persisting in late Northumbrian. There probably was no such fronting in the development of au in OFris., where it produces ā, before which there is no palatalization (§6.17; see Kortlandt 2006a). Examples: OE ēac ‘also’, ēage ‘eye’, bēam ‘tree’ : OFris. āk, āge, bām (Go. āuk, augō, OHG boum), but OE ēac ‘cuckoo’ (with palatal initial) : OFris. gāk. PGMc. ai appears as ā in OE3 and is represented by 〈e〉 or 〈a〉 in OFris., probably [ɛ:] and [æ:], with the cause of the divergent outcomes still debated (see Goblirsch 1991, Hofmann 1995, with references).

Examples: OE OFris. gād ‘lack’, rāp ‘rope’, fem. & neut. twā ‘two’ (cf. Go. gāíd, -räüps, twái), but also OFris. (n)ān ‘(n)one’, hām ‘home’, klāth ‘garb’ beside (n)ēn, hēm, klēth.

1. The evidence of Insular North Frisian shows that in the dialect out of which it developed the sound was probably ā, as in WS: see Århammar 2001: 750–3.

2. Only in the West Midlands did this rounding persist in OE, and to the present day. The vowel appears to have lost any vestige of its nasal quality elsewhere by the end of the OE period (so A. Campbell 1977: §130).

3. Uncertainty about whether ai became æ in Anglo-Frisian stems from doubts about whether æi could have developed to OE ā: so, e.g., A. Campbell 1977: §132.

4.13 Changes of stressed vowels in early Old English

PGMc. eu develops to ēo in Old English, as in *freusana > frēosan ‘freeze’ and *deuza > deòr ‘beast’. This ēo develops to ið, ìa in Kentish.

Front vowels may become back diphthongs before certain consonants, usually in the syllable coda. These are r, l, h, and (by some accounts) w.1 The standard view is that these consonants were velar, as one might expect on the basis of their modern reflexes, though this is not the only explanation that has been offered.2 This so-called breaking (which antedates front umlaut, §4.7) takes place before r and l only in closed syllables (and not when the sonorant is simply word final), whereas h causes breaking in both open and closed syllables. The vowels that undergo breaking are æ, ē, ĕ, producing what were presumably otherwise identical long and short diphthongs, though some of the same controversy attends the interpretation of the OE digraphs as in the case of back mutation (§4.8). The specific environments and results of breaking are these:

Before r plus any consonant other than j (and always before rr), the short vowels æ and e are broken to ea and eo. Examples are bearn ‘child’, heard ‘hard’, weorð ‘worthy’, stëorra ‘star’ (cf. Go. barn, hardus, wairþs, stairnō). In Northumbrian, æ
often is retracted to a instead, especially after a labial consonant, as in farr ‘bull’ and darf ‘need’.

Before l plus any consonant, æ is broken to ea, whereas e is broken to eo in WS only when the consonant after l is h. Examples: healp ‘helped’, healdan ‘hold’ (Go. halp, haldan) and seoth ‘seal’ (OHG selah). Breaking also occurs in a-seolcan ‘become languid’ and in non-WS seolf ‘self’. Breaking of i before l cannot be proved. Before checked l the Anglian dialects show retraction rather than breaking of æ, as in cald ‘cold’ and all ‘all’ (WS ceald, eall).

Before h (i.e. [x] on the standard view) in both open and closed syllables, Æ, Ė, and Ī are broken to ēa, ēo, and īo (>). Ėo in most dialects). Examples: *xlastraz > *xlastr > hleahtor ‘laughter’, WS *nēx > nēah (but non-WS *nēh > *nēoh, later Anglian nēh, Kentish *nōh); *fēxtana > feohtan ‘fight’; Peohtas ‘Picts’; *liŋxtaz > *liōxtaz > liōht, lēoht ‘light’ (adj.; cf. Go. leih). At the time of breaking, short i occurred in an open syllable only in umlaut environment, e.g. *-sixipi > *-sioxiþ > -sioh ‘sees’.

Before w, Ā was retracted to ā, as in WS ge-sawen ‘seen’ and pret. pl. sāwón ‘saw’. In open syllables it was also retracted before a back vowel in the following syllable, hence nom. pl. dagas ‘days’ (sg. dag) and dat. pl. māgum ‘kinsman’ (nom. sg. māg), though ā is often found for ā.

A source of short diphthongs besides back mutation (§4.8), as well as breaking, is diphthongization by initial palatal consonants (which precedes front umlaut but not breaking: cf. ceorl ‘commoner’, not *čierl, from *čerlaz). In Anglo-Frisian, front vowels palatalize an initial velar consonant (§6.17), producing OE palatal c, sc, g, and in WS, ā and ē are in turn diphthongized by the initial palatal. Examples are ceaster ‘town’ < *castru < *kastrō (borrowed from Lat. castra); 3 sg. geaf ‘gave’ < *gæf < PGmc. *ʒæƀ(e) (Go. gaf); pl. gæfon ‘gave’ < *gæƀun < PGmc. *ʒæƀunh (Go. gēbun); scieran ‘cut’ < *skerana (cf. Olcel. skera); gē ‘you (pl.)’ < *ʒē. Similar changes occur less regularly in Northumbrian: see A. Campbell 1977: §186 for details. The digraphs in such forms are of disputed significance (see §4.8 supra and Hogg 1992: §5.49), but the vocoids resulting from ē and from the umlaut of ā, Ė affected by initial palatals are reflected in ME with spellings indicating rounding (e.g. Southwestern ME juue < EWS giefan ‘give’), strongly suggesting that at least originally the result of this change was a set of back diphthongs (see Fulk 2012: §20 & Remark 3).

At about the time of the earliest manuscript records, in a process referred to as smoothing, the diphthongs ēa, ēo, īo were monophthongized to ē, Ė, Ī in the Anglian dialects before c, g, h, which were thus presumably palatal (see Hogg 1992: §5.93 for discussion). Subsequently, Ā as the result of smoothing developed to ē, and before r or l plus a back consonant æ became e. Examples: wæx ‘wax’ (WS wæx, OS wahs); ferh, ferh ‘pig’ (WS fērh, OHG far(a)h); hēh ‘high’ (WS hēh, Go. hauhs); werc ‘work’ (WS weorc, Olcel. verk); flēge ‘fly’ (WS flēoge, OHG flioga); mixen ‘dunghill’ (WS mœxen < *mixi(t)-); fil ‘file’ < *fœxlū < *fœxlō (WS ðōl). Smoothing of ēa to ē occurred in LWS before or after a velar (palatal) consonant, though the change is expressed only irregularly in the orthography, e.g. LWS ehta ‘eight’, hēh ‘high’, ēge ‘eye’, pret. sg. geaf ‘gave’, cēs ‘chose’, gēr ‘year’ beside ehta, hēah, etc.

By various means, such as loss of intervocalic h, w, or j, or analogical re-fashioning, vowels (and diphthongs) could become contiguous and undergo contraction. The results are various: see A. Campbell 1977: §§234–9 for details. Examples are gǣð ‘goes’ < *gǣ-iþ (§12.63); fōn ‘take’ < *fōhan < *fǣxtana; sēon ‘see’ < *seohan <
*sex*ana*; sleness ‘strike’ < *sleahan < *slæxan < *slaxana*; frend ‘friend’ < *fri(f)jōnd*.
Compensatory lengthening occurs upon loss of x between voiced sounds, even with an intervening liquid consonant, as in gen. sg. meares (cf. nom. mearh ‘horse’), pveal ‘washing’ (cf. Go. pwhalh), cored ‘troop’ < *ehør-rāð-. Poetic meter sometimes preserves evidence of the state before the application of contraction and compensatory lengthening (see Fulk 1992: 92–121).

In a process referred to as palatal umlaut, e (or eo or io developed from it, where Anglian smoothing did not apply) before /x/ plus consonant in absolute finality was raised to i, as in cniht ‘boy’, riht ‘right’, wrixt ‘change’. It cannot be determined whether the digraph in siex ‘six’ represents an actual diphthong.

On front and back umlaut, see §§4.7–8. For further details of OE vowel developments (especially changes of the literate period, which are for the most part left considered here), consult the sources cited in §1.16.


2. Howell (1991b) argues on the basis of parallels chiefly in German dialects that breaking in OE is instead a consequence of weakening of the relevant consonant. The chief difficulty confronting this view is that /x/ would appear not to have been weakened in the relevant environments in OE, as shown by later developments, including Anglian smoothing and LWS smoothing (see A. Campbell 1977: §§222–33, 312–14), and development of [x] to [ɣ] (§6.17) resulted in the rise of a new diphthong ei, as in *waʒnaz > *wæʒn > wein ‘cart’ and *xuʒiz > *hyʒi > hei ‘mind’ (§4.7).

§4.13 Stressed vowels in early Old English 75

4.14 Changes of stressed vowels in Old Frisian

There is breaking of e and i to iu, a rising diphthong, before /x/ + /x, s, t/, as in *tessō- > tiuče ‘team, parcel of land’, 2 sg. *sixist > *sixst > siuchst ‘see’, *fextan > fiuchta ‘fight’. Breaking is prevented by i in the following syllable, as in *plixti- > plecht ‘duty’. Unlike in OE, i-umlaut antecedes breaking in OFris. (see Stiles 1995: 194–5).1

As in OE, adjacent vowels contract upon loss of intervocalic h: -a-a- contracts to -ā-, as in WGmc. *slaxan > slā ‘strike’; -e-a- contracts to -ī-, as in *sexcan > siā ‘see’, and -ō-a-, whether in verba pura or due to loss of intervocalic x, yields -ū-, as in *do-an (§12.61) > dūā ‘do’ and WGmc. *xāxan > *hōxan > hvā ‘hang’.

PGmc. eu develops to a rising diphthong iā (cf. Kentish OE, §4.13 *supra*), as in PGmc. *leuβaz > liāf ‘dear’ and *beuðana > biāda ‘offer’.

Palatalization of ʒ (§6.17) resulted in the rise of a new diphthong et, as in *waʒnaz > *wæzn > wein ‘cart’ and *xuʒiz > *hyʒi > hei ‘mind’ (§4.7).
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On front and back umlaut, see §§4.7–8. For further details of OFris. vowel developments, consult the sources cited in §1.17.


4.15 Changes of stressed vowels in Old Saxon

WGmc. ë (PGmc. ē) is realized as ā, even before nasal consonants, as in lātan ‘let’ and māno ‘moon’. Unlike in OE and OFris., PGmc. āⁿ results in ā, as in wāh ‘evil’ (cf. OE wōh ‘crooked’) and brāhta ‘brought’. PGmc. ē₂ is usually reflected as ē, but in some texts the result may be ie (as in Franconian dialects), as in hēr, hier ‘here’ and tieglan ‘tile’ (Lat. tēgula). PGmc. ō is usually reflected as ő, but it may also be diphthongized to uo, as in OHG, as in brōdar, burodar ‘brother’ and stōd, stūd ‘stood’. PGmc. ai usually results in ē, as in *stainaz > stēn ‘stone’ and lēm ‘loam’, but before j it is unumlauted to ei, as in gen. pl. ei(i)ero ‘eggs’ (= OE ëegra < *āj- < *aij-, and cf. OIcel. eggja) and hneihida (misspelt (henthida)) ‘neighed’ (= OE hnēgede). PGmc. au becomes ź, as in lōn ‘reward’ (cf. Go. laun) and rōd ‘red’ (Go. rāufs), though this ź is rarely spelt uo, and au before w usually remains unchanged, as in thau ‘practice’ (OE þēaw < *pauw-) and skauwon ‘view’ (OE sceawian). PGmc. eu is reflected as eo, io, later also ea, ie, as in breoest ‘breast’, fliogan ‘fly’. But eu remains (or is spelt iu) before w, as in hreuwan ‘rue’, eu, iu ‘you (pl.)’.

There is often contraction of adjacent vowels upon loss of intervocalic w (§6.16) or h (§6.20), and in instances of the removal of hiatus between vowels, though not commonly in poetry. Examples: gimālda beside gimahalda ‘said’, vē beside fehu ‘herded animal’, and perhaps dōn beside duan, doan, etc. ‘do’. When the first vowel in such sequences was originally long, it is shortened, as shown by the change of eo to io, ia, ie, as in *aiw > *ē-u > eo, io ‘ever’ (Go. āiw; Holthausen 1921: §108 Anmm. 1–2).

Long vowels are shortened before geminate consonants (as in OE), e.g. ettar ‘poison’ (OE ātor, attor), ellevan ‘11’ (cf. Go. *āínlf). Various changes of vowel qualities are encountered on a facultative basis under the influence of neighboring consonants, e.g. farah beside ferah ‘life’, old beside ald ‘old’, soster beside suster ‘sister’: see Holthausen 1921: §§109–14. On the raising of e to i before u in the next syllable, see §4.4.

1. See §12.61. The loss of hiatus in originally reduplicating preterites, e.g. 3 sg. pret. lēt ‘let’ (< *l-e-ēlt, §12.20), is perhaps earlier; at all events, contraction is carried through consistently even in poetry.

4.16 Changes of stressed vowels in Old Low Franconian

The vowels of OLF are similar to those of OS, hence PGmc. ē₂ > ā and PGmc. āⁿ > ā. But ai is monophthongized to ē only before r or w (and possibly before h (ix/)) or in final position, as in OHG, though no relevant forms are attested, as in sēo ‘sea’ and mērra ‘more’ (Go. sāivs, máíza). Likewise, au becomes ź only finally or before h, r, or an alveolar consonant, as in ďra ‘ear’ (Go. āusō); otherwise it becomes ou, as in ouga ‘eye’. The new ē and ź do not undergo the diphthongization regularly suffered by PGmc. ē₂ and ź, as in hiera ‘here’ and fuot ‘foot’. These changes are nearly identical to those of OHG.
4.17 Changes of stressed vowels in Old High German

PGmc. *iu generally remains as such in OHG, though in Central German before a non-high vowel in the next syllable *eu develops to *io, the usual form beside occasional *eo (the earlier form).1 In Upper German this change occurs only before an alveolar consonant or *h (/x/). Examples: inf. beotan ‘offer’, but 1 sg. biutu, imp. biut, and leoht, lioht ‘light’ (noun), but liuhten ‘illuminate’ ≪*liuxtijan. PGmc. *eu appears early as *eo, more generally as *io.

PGmc. *ē and *ā were diphthongized to *ie (ia, ea) and *uo (ua, oa), as in hier (hēr, hear, hiar) ‘here’, mieta ‘reward’ (Go. mizdō, §3.5), buoh ‘book’ (Go. bōka), suohhen ‘seek’ (Go. sōkjan), fuoz ‘foot’ (Go. fōtus). Diphthongized spellings of *ō start to appear in Franconian in the eighth century, of *ē in the ninth, spreading to Upper German.

PGmc. *ai is reflected as *ei, except that it is monophthongized to *ē before r, w, or *h (/x/), as in ēr ‘early’ (Go. āir), ēht ‘property’ (Go. āihts), and gen. sg. snēwes ‘snow’ (Go. snāwis); cf. stein ‘stone’ (Go. stāins), reit ‘rode’, etc. There is also monophthongization finally in a few interjections, e.g. sē ‘look!’ (= Go. sái). Comparably, au developed to *ou except before h and dental consonants, where it was monophthongized to *ō, hence hōh ‘high’ (Go. háuhs) and tōd ‘death’ (Go. dāuþus), but loufan ‘run’ (Olcel. hlaupa), ouga ‘eye’ (Go. ãugō). The new monophthongs did not undergo the diphthongization that affected PGmc. *ē and *ō, and whereas *h from PGmc. x caused the change, *ē from k by the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21) did not, hence hōh: ouh ‘also’ (Go. ãuk). These changes begin to be expressed in the orthography in the eighth century, first in Franconian, spreading southward. See Taylor 1989, with references.

As in OS and OLF, PGmc. *ā yields ā in OHG, as in fāhan ‘take’ ≪*fāxnān.

On the raising of *e to *i before *u in the next syllable, see §4.4.

1. The change fails when the next syllable originally contained j, hence diuten ‘signify’ ≪*tiudfan. That is to say, the original conditioning of the PGmc. eu : iu contrast remained relevant.

4.18 Summary table of the development of Germanic stressed vowels

The following table summarizes the vowel developments outlined in §§4.1–17, though a number of changes described there cannot conveniently be indicated in the table:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PGmc.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
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<th>OFris.</th>
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CHAPTER 5

The Germanic Vowels in Syllables of Lesser Stress

5.1 General remarks

Many uncertainties about vowel development in syllables of lesser stress remain unresolved, even a number of basic issues, and especially matters pertaining to the differentiation of bimoric and trimoric vowels and diphthongs. The general trend in unstressed syllables is for vowels to weaken or disappear, with loss of a earlier than of i or u. Likewise, vowels are generally weakened and lost earlier after heavy syllables than light, as a consequence of Prokosch’s law (§2.5). Prokosch himself provides a useful if self-admittedly overly schematic account of the trend, stating that in the first two or three centuries CE “final syllables lost one mora. About five hundred years later a second mora was lost; another five hundred years later, a third” (1939: §49a). Especially notable are changes in final syllables, for which Auslautgesetze ‘laws of finals’ have been formulated, generating a weighty body of scholarship.1 Developments in final syllables are difficult to determine for a variety of reasons, including the rarity of attestation of some types of final syllables (especially in Runic), uncertainty as to their form in PIE, uncertainty in any given case as to whether analogy has interfered with phonological development, and notable points of disagreement among the Gmc. languages. In general, however, Prokosch’s dictum appears to hold true: Proto-Germanic desinences lost one mora, either a final non-high vowel or a final consonant other than s/z or r, and otherwise vowels toward the end of the word should not be expected to have weakened in PGmc. itself. For convenience’s sake, vowels in syllables of lesser stress will be referred to in this discussion as unstressed. It must be recognized, however, that not all syllables that did not bear primary accent were stressed to the same degree, as the following discussion will demonstrate, and as was shown in §2.2. On ablaut in unstressed syllables, see §3.6.

1. The more salient literature includes Walde 1900, Lane 1963, Hollifield 1980, d’Alquen 1988, Voyles 1988, Boutkan 1995b, Antonsen 2002: 237–60, and Schrijver 2004, with references to many others provided by these. The last five of these represent a trend in the renewed scholarly interest in the laws of finals to attempt to explain developments without recourse to trimoric vowels.

5.2 Short vowels of final syllables

On the standard view, all PIE short, unstressed non-high vowels (e, a, o) in absolute finality were lost in PGmc.1 Examples: PIE 1 sg. perfect *yojda and 3 sg. *yojde > Go. wáit ‘know’ (cf. Gk. ὥσθαι and ὥστε); PIE *-eso > Go. -is in gen. sg. dagis ‘day’ (cf. Gk. gen. sg. θεόσο < *θεόσο ‘god’); 2 pl. imp. *bherete > Go. baírip ‘bear’. Final high vowels were more resistant to loss, but even they disappear in the post-PGmc. period
after heavy syllables, already in Go., later elsewhere, as in dat. sg. PGmc. *brōþri 'brother' > Go. brōþr, OE brēðer (where the umlaut confirms retention of final *-i relatively late), rare OIcon. brēðr beside usual, analogical brōður; and PGmc. *tagru 'tear' > Go. tagr, OE teagor (cf. Gk. δάκρυν). ³

³Compare the retention after light syllables in OE mere 'sea' < *mēri < PIE *mori and PGmc. *fēxu 'property, goods, livestock' > Go. faihu, OS fēhu, OHG fīhu, as well as *fēlu 'much' > Go. OS OHG fīlu. That the Go. situation is in part the result of analogy is suggested by OE (Anglian) dat. sg. milc < *milyki < *miluki 'milk' (or *-i?); by comparison, there is no dat. sg. *mēn(e)þ < *mōnaþi < *mēnōþi 'month'. Under Prokosch's law (§2.5) it might be expected that there would be variable loss in trisyllables, e.g. dat. sg. *zumini 'man' > *zumin but *attini 'father', without change after a heavy initial syllable, also 3 sg. pres. *farīpi > *farīp 'goes' but *biōði 'awaits', without change. If there ever existed such variation, however, Gothic has generalized the apocopated endings (gumin, attin, farīp, beidib, and there is no secure evidence that the other Gmc. languages did not do the same.⁴

⁴Monosyllabic words of lesser stress retained a final short vowel regardless of its height: examples are PIE *ne > PGmc. *ni > Go. OHG ni, OE ne, Offris. OS ni, ne 'not' and PIE *so > PGmc. *sa > Go. sa, lengthened in OLcel. sā 'this'; cf. loss of the final vowel of the enclitic in Go. sa-h 'and this' < *so-kwē.

Vowels originally protected by a final consonant were not regularly lost in PGmc., though only Runic preserves a under such circumstances, as in pp. haitinar 'called' (cf. Go. háitans, OE hāten). This a is preserved as well in early loan-words into Finnish (§1.7), e.g. kulta 'gold', borrowed from PGmc. *zulgar < PIE *gōlom. Gothic has also lost i before final s in most case-forms of i-stems like gastis 'guest' (cf. the umlaut in OLcel. gestr, OE giest), but u is preserved in u-stems (e.g. Go. handus 'hand'; cf. the back umlaut in OLcel. hōnd), showing that there is regularization of stems in opposite fashion in the two stem classes in Gothic:⁵ to analogically reformed i-stem qums 'arrival' (cf. OE cyme < *kʷumiz) cf. hatis 'hatred' (transferred to the a-stems; cf. i-stem OE hete, OS hetti); also fem adj. navis 'dead', etc.⁶ In most instances the final consonant that prevented loss of the preceding vowel was itself dropped, as is shown by the loss in forms like PIE 3 pl. *ḥud̪h̪t > PGmc. *budun(pl) > Go. -budun, OE budon, etc. 'offered'; PIE o-stem acc. sg. *-on > PGmc. *-ær (with nasalization) in Runic staïna 'stone' (but OLcel. stein, Go. stāin, OE stān, etc.); cf. o-stem acc. pl. *-ons > PGmc. *-ans in Go. stāïnans, Runic stāba 'runestaves'. There must have been loss of i early, perhaps in PGmc. itself, in the ending *-omiz reflected in the dat. (orig. instr.) pl. of a-stems (and the 1 pl. ind. of verbs), since the ending is reflected as -am already in Gothic; cf. Runic -umr (2×) on the Stentonfen stone (mid-7th cent.).⁷ The only exceptions to the loss of a lone final consonant after an unstressed vowel are s/z and r. Where-as s/z is plainly preserved in NGmc. and in Gothic (and see §§6.6, 6.12 on the fate of z in Go.), its development in WGmc. is contested, the commonest assumption being that z was lost but s preserved (see §6.16). Examples: PGmc. *dazaz > Go. dags, ON dagr, OE dæg OS dag, OHG tag 'day'; PGmc. *under > Go. undar, OElcel. undir (without umlaut), OE under, OS undar, under, OHG untar.⁸ On the development of final consonants, see further §§6.12, 6.14, 6.16.

When a was lost in a final syllable (after the PGmc. period, but uniformly across the branches of Gmc.), a preceding glide was neutralized. The process is partly obscured in WGmc. by the analogical extension of geminates within paradigms, but due to Stevers' law (§5.8), WGmc. high vowels thus generated may in some instances be preserved after heavy stems. Examples are *kunja > Go. kuni 'kind', OElcel. kyn (<
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*kuni, as shown by the umlaut); *rīkija* > Go. reiki, Olcel. riki, OE rīce, OS rīki, OHG rīchi ‘dominion’; *ząrważ > Olcel. gopr (Proto-Norse *gpruk*), OE gearu, OS OHG garo ‘ready’. The significance of Go. -w in a form like gāidw (OE gād < *gāidwaz) ‘want, lack’ is disputed: see Krause 1968: §88, Braune 2004b: §42. Very likely -w is due to paradigm regularization; cf. skadus ‘shadow’ (u-stem, originally wa-stem: cf. OE gen. pl. sceadwa, etc.).

1. Antonsen (2007) argues that Runic wraita on the Reistad stone (Norway, ca. 450) is a 1 sg. pret. ‘wrote’, and thus -a was not lost in second syllables in PGmc. The usual interpretation of the word as a noun (and hence with -a) is, admittedly, dubitable, but see Ringe 2017: 134, declaring Antonsen’s analysis impossible.

2. The evidence of breāð, however, is insecure. Other forms suggest early loss of final -i in Scandinavia after a heavy syllable, as in Runic ist ‘is’ (Vetteland stone, Norway, mid-4th cent.) from PIE *hes-ti, and Olcel. umb. Note the absence of umlaut, though the word is difficult, since retention of the final vowel in OE ymbe (but also ymb), OS OHG umbi raises doubts about the direct equivalence of Gk. ἰγφί around usually assumed (e.g. by Hollifield (1980: 33). On this problem see §11.5. The final vowel in such forms perhaps derives from prep. *žei; rather, Klingenschmitt (1987: 187) explains ymbe, umbi as proclitic, and thus the final vowel was not, in a sense, word final. Olcel. ār ‘early’ (Go. ār), without umlaut, probably derives from a loc. *aj(e)(en) (§6.11 ad fin.); cf. OE ār, OS OHG ār, with umlaut, though it is not impossible that the comp. should have been substituted for the positive in WGmc.

3. OE teagor (which is poetic, ultimately Mercian) shows back mutation of æ, suggesting retention of rounding from lost final -a late enough to color the final syllabic sonorant consonant as or rather than *ër, as might have been expected after the front vowel in the root (§5.6).

4. A dissenter is Ringe (2002, and in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 289–96 et passim), but see §5.6 n. 13 infra.

5. That is to say, Gothic must originally have lost unstressed i and u before a final consonant after a heavy syllable but not a light. That unstressed i or u before a final consonant was not regularly lost in PGmc. (despite the seeming claim of, e.g. Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §120; but cf. §122) is demonstrated by, among other considerations, Runic forms like unīja ‘friend’, -maurīs ‘famed’ (with å: name element, Thorsberg chape, ca. 200), and warūr ‘enclosure’. Prokosch (1939: §49c) argues rather that i and u were lost already in PGmc. after heavy syllables or after two syllables (though his remark “which phonetically, or metrically, amounts to the same thing” is not quite right, due, ironically, to Prokosch’s law: see §2.5), otherwise preserved. This would explain some matters, for example why i in the inflections of most case-forms of i-stems is lost in Gothic (since there must be phonological loss under some circumstances to motivate analogical loss in other environments; but this change appears to be Go. rather than PGmc.), and why there is no umlaut in the sg. of i-stems in OS and OHG. The idea faces some rather severe difficulties, however, such as the consistent preservation of i even after heavy stems in Runic i-stems as early as 200 (as above), i of after heavy syllables in loanwords into Finnish, e.g. tiuria ‘beast’ from PGmc. *diuriz (> OE deór), and the consistent umlaut in ON and OE heavy-stemmed i-stems, given that the general trend in i- and u- stems is replacement of the original inflections by a-stem (or å-stem) inflections (which thus makes it easier to account for the GO and OHG forms as analogical than the ON and OE ones). The nom. pl. u-stem ending *-iuz is sometimes said to have developed to *-ius already in PGmc. (so., e.g., Heusler 1967: §102; cf. Boutkan 1995b: 83–6), but this need not have been the case. There is valuable material in Streitberg 1896: §§146–7, though his conclusion that i (but not u) in a final syllable was lost already in PGmc. after a heavy syllable appears to be mistaken.

6. Some form the reduction of *-is to *s (and loss of final *-i) in Go. as unconditioned, e.g. Bjorvand 1991: 107, Boutkan 1995b: 59–62, 374–5. Thus, for example, framis ‘farther’ is to be regarded as analogical to a comp. adj. *framiza-. Neither analysis appears to be capable of definitive proof, but it is worth observing that categorical loss of i would create an imbalance in the phonological development of the high vowels, since u, though usually restored, is lost after heavy syllables, as in, e.g., acc. sg. root-stem baúrg < *burzuz (Krause 1968: §69.2d).

7. Was loss in the ultima earlier in a third syllable than a second? So, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §121, calling the change “gemein-germ.” Boutkan (1995b) and Antonsen (2002: 241) work with similar assumptions. If PIE e in unstressed syllables is assumed to have become i except before r (§5.5), the assumption of earlier loss in third syllables would be the simplest way to explain why in the pres. ind. of strong verbs there is not umlaut throughout the paradigm in North and West Gmc. Certainly, i is preserved in second syllables in Runic, but rather than regular loss in all third syllables there might be expected conditioned loss governed by Prokosch’s law (§2.5; e.g. *dasomz : *stainomiz), with subsequent generalization of the syncopated form. The
assumption of early loss in third syllables leaves some WGmc. forms with umlaut unexplained, e.g. OE nd-stem nom. plurals like friend ‘friend’ and hettend ‘enemy’ (not hettand).


5.3 Bimoric vowels and diphthongs of final syllables

The bimoric syllables of PGmc. reflect diphthongs (originally vowel + glide, §3.1) and long vowels derived from PIE, as well as vowels lengthened upon loss of a final or ante-consonantal laryngeal consonant, e.g. PIE *-oh₁ > *-ō and PIE *-eh₂-ti > PGmc. *-ēhp(i).

Although they are sometimes grouped with the trimoric vowels (see §5.4), vowels contracted already in PIE from vowel sequences without an intervening laryngeal consonant (e.g. PIE thematic masc. nom. pl. *-ōs < *-o-es) are almost certainly to be regarded as bimoric.

In absolute finality, PGmc. ō develops to Go. a but NWGmc. u; cf. Runic 1 sg. pres. w*ritu ‘write’ on the Järnsberg stone (ca. 450) < PGmc. *wrītō. In NGmc. this u is lost altogether (after causing fracture and u-mutation, §4.8), whereas in WGmc. it is lost only after heavy syllables, though it is frequently restored on an analogical basis, especially in OS and OHG. Examples: PGmc. *zebō ‘gift’ > Go. gibā, Olcel. gījō, OE gījū; PGmc. *laibō ‘remnant’ > Go. láiba, Olcel. leif, OE ōfē; PGmc. pres. 1 sg. *farō ‘go’ > Go. fara, Olcel. fer (with analogical e), OE (Anglian) færo, fearu, OHG fōhar. Developments in monosyllables of lesser stress are less certain: PIE fem. *sō ‘this’ gives Go. sō but Olcel. sū (perhaps lengthened from *su: see §8.10); but to PIE *dō > Go. du ‘to’ cf. OE OFris. OS tō, OHG zuo; plainly, the mutual influence of stressed and unstressed forms played a role.

For the most part, PGmc. ō was preserved as such when a consonant originally followed. This ō is reflected as ō in Gothic, a in NGmc., and probably a in WGmc. Under such circumstances final -s/z was preserved in PGmc. (§6.11), and the development of ō before it may be illustrated by the reflexes of the PIE nom. pl. masc. o-stem ending *-ōs (< *-o-es) reflected in Go. dagōs ‘days’, Olcel. dagār, OE dagas, OS dagos, -as; yet the WGmc. evidence is mostly insecure, due to the possible analogical influence of the acc. pl. inflection (§7.8). Final r was also preserved, and before it ō apparently remained in Gothic and developed to a in WGmc. (> OE OFris. e), as in Go. fidvōr, OE fǣower, OS fi(u)war ‘four’ (Stiles 1985–6); perhaps also *watōr > OE wāter, OS water, watar, OHG wazzar ‘water’ (cf. Gk. ὕδωρ). When final n (PIE n, m) originally followed, it was lost and the vowel nasalized, the vowel still reflected as ō in Runic NWGmc. (e.g. runo on the Einang stone, ca. 350–400), resulting otherwise in a (OE and OFris. e < æ), as with the PIE acc. sg. ā-stem ending *-eh₂-m > *-ān > *-ōn, as in Go. giba ‘gift’, OE gīfē, OFris. gīfe, OS gēba, OHG gēba. The same change is seen in monosyllables of lesser stress, except that the Go. reflex is ā, e.g. PIE fem. acc. sg. *tah₂-m ‘this’ > *tām > PGmc. *pō > Go. pō and re-lengthened Olcel. þā, OE þā.

In absolute finality, ēj (æ/Æ) developed to a, which is securely reflected only in Gothic, as in PIE instr. *-eh₁ > *-ē in Go. dat. stāina (cf. original instr. þē in Go. ni þē haldis ‘none the more’; also Go. dat. hwanmēh ‘every’ < PIE *-eh₁-kē < hwanma ‘who’ < PIE *-e-h₁, but see §7.8 on the a-stem dat. sg.). It is perhaps lost altogether in WGmc. endlessless locatives (§7.8 under dat. sg., but for alternative explanations see Dahl 1938: 51–5, Braune 2004a: §193 Anm. 8), and in the gen. of dual and plural personal
pronouns, e.g. OS āser ‘of us’ (§8.2). Final ē in a monosyllable of lesser stress is preserved in Go. ǣð (above; cf. Gk. (Thera) ἔπε ‘in this way’) and OE ǣð (as in nā ǣð rædor ‘none the sooner’). When originally protected by a final consonant, ē is preserved as such in various developments in the other Gmc. languages, as in the PIE ablative ending *-ēd > PGmc. *-ē(t) in Go. hidrē ‘hither’ Olcel. hēdra, OE hide, like Go. huadrē, OE hwæder ‘wither’.4 A possible exception in Gothic is before final r, assuming the development PIE *phaēr ‘father’ > PGmc. *fāēr > Go. fadar, Olcel. fadar (without umlaut; cf. Runic swestar ‘sister’, §5.6 n. 4), OE fæder, OS fadar, OHG fatar. Yet now it seems likelier that Go. fadar reflects the stem *fader- found in the voc. and acc. (cf. Gk. acc. πατέρα, and see Stiles 1988), given that long vowels protected by a final consonant are generally unshortened in Go.

PIE i in absolute finality is reflected as i in Gothic (not ei, hence short). Elsewhere in Gmc. it should have developed the same way as i before a final consonant, being lost everywhere in ON, and after heavy syllables in WGmc., though the evidence is insufficient to prove this. Examples: Go. fem. frijōndi ‘friend’ (§7.40), likewise mawi ‘girl’ < *mâyōnī, fem. to magus ‘boy’. Before an original final consonant, i preserved its length, to judge by the nom. sg. of the in-stems, e.g. Go. managei, OHG menig ‘multitude’: see §7.34.

There is no secure evidence for PIE ū in a Gmc. final, unstressed syllable.

PIE oi and ai are reflected in absolute finality as Go. a; in NWGmc. they were monophthongized to ā (thus falling together with PGmc. ē), as shown by Runic hypercorrect spellings in ai for the reflex of ē, e.g. talgidai ‘carved’ (Novling clasp, ca. 200: see Antonsen 1975: 5, but cf. Hollifield 1980: 150, H.F. Nielsen 2000: 160–4). This NWGmc. ā develops to Olcel. e > i, OE ðē > e, OS OHG a. Examples: PIE 3 sg. middle *-tōi is reflected in Go. hātada ‘is called’ (Olcel. 1 sg. heite > heiti, with PIE *-ai; see §§12.5, 12.29), OE hātta < *hāttæ. The reflexes of PIE ou and au in absolute finality cannot be determined: Go. u-stem vocatives have both -u and -āu.

A developmental distinction needs to be drawn between PIE short and long diphthongs in Gmc. unstressed syllables.5 The only very convincing evidence for the distinction, however, is the u-stem dat. (originally loc.) sg. inflection, PIE *-ēy > PGmc. *-ēu > Go. RUNIC OHG -iu (§7.25); cf. PIE *-euy- in u-stem nom. pl. PIE *-euy-es > PGmc. *-iuz > Go. -jus, NWGmc. *-uiz > *-iz. To be sure, PIE *-ēy and *-euy-es are not directly comparable, but the distinction between, e.g., OHG -iuz and -i is suggestive, given that the original extra syllable in the latter ending might have been expected to provide greater protection for the diphthong that developed. The corresponding i-stem ending is inconclusive (see §7.21), and the other examples of PIE long diphthongs generally cited in support of a distinction (e.g. by Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §129) either develop the same way as short diphthongs or are actually trimoric as the term is defined in §5.4.

1. In OS and OHG ð-stems the acc. inflection -a has been substituted for the nom., hence OS geha, lēba, OHG geha, leiba.

2. Olcel. giþf is modeled on the nom. The original ending is reflected as -a in fem. adjs., e.g. acc sg. spaka ‘prescient’.

3. For this reason it is difficult to see how the weak 3 sg. pret. suffix can be reconstructed as PIE *dhēt > PGmc. *-ō(e)(þ) yielding Go. -da and NWGmc. *-ō(e) > Olcel. -di, OE -ðer > -de, OS -da, OHG -ter. See §12.60, and cf. NWGmc. ǣ or Æ in Runic 3 sg. pret. tawide ‘made’ (Garbolle Box, Zealand, ca. 400). It is thus tempting to suppose (with Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §§47, 124) that Go. a is the regular development of bimoric ē in all final syllables. But if the final vowel of Go. hidrē is trimoric in origin, as they suppose, the definition of trimoricity offered below in §5.4 cannot be correct unless ē is not in origin an ablative ending (so
Hollifield 1980: 37). The matter cannot be resolved here. But possibly when originally protected by a final nasal consonant, bimoric ē developed to ū in Gothic, elsewhere to a (> OE æ > e), hence PGmc. *simlé (?) > Go. simlē ‘formerly’, OE sim(b)le ‘always’, OS sim(b)la.

4. Long diphthongs are technically trimoric, but in the present context long diphthongs are to be regarded as involving PIE lengthened grade rather than later lengthening upon loss of a laryngeal consonant, and so long diphthongs in the present context do not belong to the category of trimoric vowels as defined in §5.4. On the other hand, it cannot be proved that the distinction is genuine, since there is no evidence for a trimoric Gmc. ēu in opposition to merely long ēu.

5.4 Trimoric vowels and diphthongs

A persistent problem in the analysis of final syllables is a set of inconsistencies in the development of certain long vowels. For example, the PIE o-stem gen. pl. ending *-ōm and ā-stem acc. sg. *-ām should both have developed to PGmc. *-ōn, yet they yield Go. -o and -a, respectively. Of the various attempts to account for such discrepancies, the one that now enjoys the most favor is the assumption that in PGmc. there were two types of long vowels. Most long vowels were simply bimoric. But when two syllabic segments were separated by a PIE laryngeal consonant, hiatus might remain upon loss of the consonant, delaying contraction. The plainest evidence of this is in Indo-Iranian, where the meters of Vedic Sanskrit and Avestan verse sometimes require that a long vowel be scanned as two syllables. This is relatively common in, e.g., the gen. pl. of all genders, where Vedic -ām is not infrequently equivalent to -aam. On the commonest view, the distinction between the reflexes of long vowels and uncontracted vowels is maintained in Gmc., where the two develop differently. In Gmc. linguistics the latter are referred to as trimoric. At one time it was the standard view that the difference between bimoric and trimoric vowels was intonational, the former bearing Stoßton, the latter Schleifton, an opposition that may be characterized as distinguishing even intonation and changing intonation, respectively (on which see §2.1). This view is no longer current, since Kuryłowicz (1958: 106–368) showed that the intonation oppositions of Greek and Lithuanian cannot have been inherited as such from PIE. Thus, for some scholars the term ‘trimoric’ is intended literally, denoting vowels three morae in length (so, e.g., Jasanoﬀ 2004). To such an assumption it has been objected that since trimoric vowels are found only in final syllables, the assumption of such vowels requires a greater number of quantitative distinctions in unstressed than in stressed syllables (Schrijver 2004: 199), a typological improbability. Yet that is not necessarily the case, since stressed bivocalic sequences due to loss of an intervening laryngeal consonant must have occurred at some point in the development of Gmc.; there is simply no evidence that they developed differently from other long vowels in stressed syllables, nor should any such difference be expected. It is also possible, however, that trimoric vowels were simply uncontracted vowels which remained uncontracted until unstressed bimoric vowels were shortened, and then trimoric vowels contracted and remained as long vowels for a time. In reconstructions in this book, trimoric vowels and diphthongs are indicated by a circumflex diacritic, e.g. ē, ō, ōi, etc., though other notational devices will be encountered in the literature.

It was once widely agreed that trimoric vowels arose in environments in addition to the perilaryngeal one just described. The PIE thematic masc. nom. pl. inflection *-ōs < *-o-es was regularly regarded as an example (so, e.g., Fulk 1992: 420, Ringe 2017: 92), but it is now to be doubted that vowels arising in this manner were trimoric.
Likewise, compensatory lengthening upon loss of a final consonant has sometimes been thought to result in a trimoric vowel: so, e.g., Bammesberger 1990: 167 n. 275, 169. Similarly, Prokosch (1939: §49n) analyzes the trimoricity in the PGmc. gen. sg. inflection *-ôz of the ð-stems as due to compensation for the loss of a final vowel in PIE, i.e. ‘-ð-so > *-âs (ðōkā)’ (cf. masc. *-so), but rather the ending is to be analyzed as *-ehy-es or *-ehy-os, given that the consonant-stem inflection is *-ēs or *-os (§§7.2, 7.15). Very likely trimoric vowels did arise in PGmc. upon the loss of j between unstressed vowels (§6.11 ad fin.), though the evidence is not unassailable (see below). On PIE long diphthongs, see §5.3 n. 4.

In addition to the differing developments of bimoric and trimoric vowels, some evidence for trimoric vowels in Gmc. is furnished by the meter of Beowulf, in which originally trimoric vowels, like inflections ending in a consonant, prevent resolution under secondary stress, whereas final, originally bimoric vowels, at least when shortened, demand resolution, a principle now known as Kaluza’s law. The fem. ð-stem gen. sg. inflection (as above), for example, is one that prevents resolution (see Beowulf 2118a).

It will thus be seen that in studies of trimoricity it has commonly been the assumption that the distinction between bimoric and trimoric vowels rests upon whether or not they could be shortened in PGmc., with Gothic providing the most reliable evidence. But it was shown above that bimoric vowels protected by a final consonant were not generally shortened in PGmc., and thus, many endings formerly thought to reflect trimoric vowels can be better explained as preserving length because of the original presence of a final consonant. The distinction is of some significance, since bimoric and trimoric vowels and diphthongs in final syllables closed by a consonant do not always develop identically. An example is Go. ð-stem acc. sg. *-a < *-ôa < *-ehym : gen. pl. -ô < *-ôn *-oHom; another is Go. 3 sg. pass. -da < PGmc. *-ðai < PIE *-toi : Go. ð-stem dat. sg. -ái < PGmc. *-áí < PIE *-ehy-ej; a probable example (see §5.3 n. 3) is Go. weak 3 sg. pret. -da < *-ôep < *dheht : adverbial -e (as in jáindrē ‘thither’, hidrē ‘hither’) < *-êð < *-ehet. In addition, bimoric and trimoric vowels in absolute finality develop differently, as with Go. 1 sg. pres. ind. -a < PGmc. *-ô, but cf. Go. pret. 3 sg. saisô < PGmc. *se-zô < PIE *se-sôh-e. Ringe (2017: 91; not his notation) tabulates the different developments of bimoric and trimoric o-timbre vowels as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PGmc.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>ON</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>*-ô</td>
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The most securely attested trimoric vowels and diphthongs of PGmc. (as defined here) and their developments are as follows:

The PIE o-stem ablative sg. ending *-o-hed is reflected as an adverbial ending in PGmc. *-ô(e), e.g. Go. ga-leikō ‘in like manner’, OIcel. lika, OE ge-lícce, OFris. like, OS gi-liko, OHG gi-líhho. PGmc. ð in the gen. pl. a-stem inflection *-ô < PIE *-HOM (?) develops similarly, except that the Go. inflection -ê is of disputed origin (§7.8), and in Anglo-Frisian the nasalized (and thus unfroncted) vowel remains relatively late, as shown by the treatment of the inflection as heavy in the meter of Beowulf under Kaluza’s law: so, e.g., gen. pl. Go. dagē, OIcel. OE daga, OS dago, OHG tago ‘day’.
A trimoric vowel must be assumed in certain masc. and neut. n-stem inflections, e.g. Go. neut. nom. sg. hairtō ‘heart’, masc. OE nama, OHG namo (cf. PGmc. -ō in acc. sg. Go. giha, OE giēfe, OFris. giē, OS geba, OHG geba ‘gift’). In this instance, however, ō is certainly not due to loss of an intervocalic laryngeal consonant, and although there are parallels to the trimorcity in Balto-Slavic (see Jasanoff 2002), such forms present a considerable obstacle to explaining Gmc. trimorcity purely on the basis of derivation from PIE. An example of a trimoric ō in absolute finality was given above, Go. saisō, Olcel. sera ‘sowed’ < * se-sō̄hẹ. The endings of the 1 & 3 sg. pres. sj. of weak verbs of class 2 (Go. -ō, OHG -o, etc.) give evidence of a trimoric vowel that arose in PGmc. by the loss of intervocalic j (Ringe 2017: 160). A fairly plain demonstration of the different developments of bimoric and trimoric vowels is afforded by the OE ō-stem inflections (§7.15), originally nom. pl. -a < *-ōz < PIE *-eh₄es : acc. pl. -e < *-ōz < PIE *-eh₄ns (Hollifield 1980: 43).

The PIE i-stem nom. pl. ending *-ēj-es should have developed to PGmc. *-i(j)iz > *-ịz, and this accounts well for Go. -ēis and ON -ir, though *-ịz would probably produce the same results, and the WGmc. endings are difficult to explain (see §7.21).

The PIE ā-stem dat. sg. inflection *-ahy-ēj gives PGmc. *-ōi, which develops regularly in Gothic (-āi) and in OE (-e < early -e < NWGmc. *-ē); on the reflex elsewhere in Gmc., see §7.15. Compare the development of final bimoric ai to Go. a in 3 sg. pass. -da. The meter of Beowulf attests to a trimoric vowel in the masc. nom. pl. inflection of adjectives; perhaps the best explanation is that pronominal PGmc. *-ai (PIE *-oj) was added to the ending -a (Brunner 1965: §150.1).7

If the analysis of weak verbs of the third class offered by Bennett (1962) is correct, certain forms in the present paradigm of these might be expected to show PGmc. *-āi- < *-a(j)i- < PIE *-hā-e-, e.g. Go. 2 sg. habáis ‘have’, OE (Anglian) hafas(t), OS habes, -as; but Olcel. hef(i)r is hard to reconcile with this view (§12.47).

It will be seen, then, that if trimoric vowels result only from the loss of a laryngeal consonant between vocalic segments or the loss of j between unstressed vowels in PGmc., the undeniable examples are few—many fewer than the handbooks generally allow—and undeniable exceptions do occur.8 A great many of the supposed discrepant developments of bimoric and trimoric vocoids must instead be due to differences between the development of bimoric vowels in absolute finality and before an original final consonant.

An alternative to the assumption of PGmc. trimoric vowels is the hypothesis that PIE ā and ō developed differently in WGmc., and perhaps elsewhere, when unstressed, except in absolute finality, where they both result in PGmc. ō (Möller 1880, Jellinek 1891a, 1895, van Wijk 1907–8, A.W. Jones 1979; cf. Boutkan 1995b: 105–9). The idea has been revived and defended by Schrijver (2004), with extensive discussion and the theory of a Saami substrate in NWGmc. Earlier it was supposed that the Auslautgesetze could be regularized on the basis of accentual considerations: so, originally, Paul 1879: 178–208, later Hamp 1959, Wagner 1986b: 43–8, d’Alquen 1988.

1. For most purposes it matters little what the precise nature of trimoric vowels was, though certain analyses depend upon a particular specification, e.g. the argument of Jasanoff (2002: 37) that an extra mora was added to final ō in Gmc. and Balto-Slavic, creating a trimoric vowel (see §7.31 n. 4) and the argument of Lane (1963) that trimoric vowels arose only when one of the two vowels involved was long. Similar to Lane’s is the view of Ringe (2017: 93, 153–64), though he also credits trimorcity as a result of contractions like PIE *-a-es > *-ōs and of word-final vowel plus laryngeal, and he suggests that trimoric vowels may have been glottalized. Similarly, rejection of the theory of trimorcity generally depends upon a particular interpretation of what is meant by trimorcity: for example, Boutkan, who describes trimorcity as a matter of quantity and rejects the theory, nonetheless reconstructs a bivocalic sequence for the gen. pl. (1995b: 140, following F.
§5.4 Trimoric vowels and diphthongs

2. Hirt (1894: 99–117, summary 115–17) identifies four sources of trimorcity in PIE: contraction (e.g. abl. sg. *o-ed > *-âd), loss of a syllable (e.g. i-stem gen. sg. *q[i/ö] > *-âs), compensatory lengthening upon loss of a consonant (e.g. â-stem acc. pl. *-âns > *-âs), and some other, unknown factor (e.g. Gk. diphthongal stem voc. βασιλεύ ‘king’: nom. βασιλεύς).

3. So, e.g., Jasanoﬀ (2004: 22–3). Lane (1963: 165) remarks that although this plural ending *-âs (→ Skt. -âs) must occasionally be scanned as disyllabic in Vedic verse, so must a number of endings that cannot be the result of contraction of any sort, and neither they nor this *-âs is disyllabic with anything approaching the frequency of the corresponding fem. ending -âs < *-êh-ês. Disyllabic scansion in these other endings thus must be analogical. See also Lindeman 1987: 45–6 on analogical scansion. The meter of Beowulf unfortunately provides no evidence on this score.

4. For example, in the verse wîs wordcwîda there must not be metrical resolution of -cwîda (with -a < PGmc. *-ö), as the verse would otherwise comprise just three metrical positions rather than the requisite four, whereas in the verse nîdwracu nîþgrim there must be resolution of -wracu (with -u < Gmc. *-ô) to reduce the verse from five positions to four. For discussion and references, see Fulk 1992: §§153–68, and for subsequent scholarship, Neidorf & Pascual 2014.


6. It is noteworthy in this context that the reﬂex of the PGmc. ô-stem acc. sg. ending *-ôi prevents metrical resolution at Beowulf 596a, though it, like the n-stem endings here discussed, does not involve loss of an intervocalic laryngeal in the usual reconstruction (*-ôi < *-ôm < *-êh-m, not *-êh-ôm). This inﬁnction is not commonly disyllabic in Vedic, but the Proto-Baltic ending also points to a trimorctic vowel (see Hoffer 1980: 28), and so perhaps the same process that produced a trimoric vowel in the n-stem masc. and neut. nom. sg., whatever that process was, also produced trimorcity here.

7. The possibility must be recognized, however, that trimoric and unshortened bimoric vowels were treated identically under Kaluza’s law. The (non)resolvable verses in Beowulf relevant to this question are few.

8. For a tabulation of endings containing trimorctic vowels according to the handbooks’ most liberal interpretation, see Boutkan 1995b: 115–20.

5.5 Changes of medial vowels in the early preliterary period

For the most part, in the PGmc. period vowels in syllables of lesser stress underwent the same changes as fully stressed vowels, but some differences are to be remarked.

It is commonly reported that PIE e develops to PGmc. unstressed i except before r, so, e.g., A. Campbell 1977: §331.2; Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §45. Examples are nom. pl. *lamberzô > *lambizu > OHG lembir ‘lambs’ and pp. *kumenaz > *kumin > OE cymen ‘come’, but *afteraz > OE æfter ‘after’ (without umlaut; cf. Go. aftar ‘in back of’, with analogical -ô, and Skt. apataram ‘farther off’); also PGmc. *anheraz > Go. anhar, Olcel. annar, OE öðer, OS öðar, ôðer, aldor, OHG ander, andar ‘other’; *faeder- > Go. fader, Olcel. faðir, OHG fater. There are exceptions, however, such as 2 pl. pres. *gribelpe > Olcel. grafidô, OHG grabet ‘dig’ (without umlaut) and gen. sg. *dages(a) > OHG tages (see §7.8 on the inflection), though of course these can be explained as due to substitution of e for i after the PGmc. period, or other analogical developments. Accordingly, some suppose that in unстressed syllables as in stressed there was raising of e only before a high vowel in the next syllable (so, e.g., van Helten...
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1891: 460, Hirt 1931–4: 1.41, Boutkan 1995b: 72–89; but see §4.4 supra regarding the reliability of this formulation for stressed syllables), as for instance in 2 sg. pres. *grēbesi > *grēbis(i)/-iz(i) > Occoli. grefr, OHG grēbis ‘dig’. Even if the latter is the case, though, it must be assumed that e yields i before final z, as in the s-stem nom. sg. (so, e.g., Antonsen 2002: 240–1). Yet once again there are exceptions. The PGmc. suffix *-il- causes umlaut wherever it can (OE yfel ‘bad’, micel ‘large’, lýtel ‘little’, etc.), though it corresponds to both -ελ- and -ul- in Greek (στυφελός ‘solid’, ποικίλος ‘pied’, etc.); likewise, PIE *ne ‘not’ (Skt. ná, Lat. ne- in nesciō ‘not know’, nefās ‘abomination’, etc.) gives PGmc. *ni (Go. Ofris. OS OHG ni, unstressed). It was shown above (§4.4) that the raising of e to i in stressed syllables is subject to many exceptions, probably due to elimination of paradigm alternations, and the same should be expected in unstressed syllables if the change was similarly a type of distance assimilation. The assumption that unstressed e was everywhere raised except before r has in its favor the development of e to i in unstressed monosyllables, e.g. PGmc. *ek > OE ic, OS ik, OHG ih (Occoli. ek reflects the tonic form), and PIE *ne > PGmc. *ni (above). The evidence is too insecure to draw any firm conclusions at present, but certainly the reflex of PIE e in Gmc. unstressed syllables is most commonly i, except before r.1

As for PGmc. *er, it is sometimes asserted that this changed categorically to *ar in PGmc. or in NWGmc.2 Yet the handbooks of ON (e.g. Heusler 1967: §§105, 113) relate that this change is to be expected only in originally medial syllables: to Occoli. ānarr ‘other’ < *anperaz cf. undir ‘under’ < *under (§5.6 & n. 3). Moreover, it is most commonly assumed that PGmc. final *-er remains as such in Anglo-Frisian (so, e.g., Brunner 1965: §44 Anm. 4, A. Campbell 1977: §369), though it is also possible that final *-er changed to *-ar in WGmc., becoming *-ar by Anglo-Frisian Brightening (§4.12), later -er. In support of the latter view, Ringe points out that WGmc. *-ar does, after all, yield OE -er in OE fēower, Ofris. fœower, füower ‘four’ (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 18). Yet this observation does not demand that OE under be derived from WGmc. *undar. The spelling of ‘after’ with (er) in early Northumbrian (in both Cædmon’s Hymn and Bede’s Death Song) speaks for the usual interpretation, but then early Anglian spellings of ‘over’ with (ær) (Leiden Riddle, Épinal Glossary, in the latter beside (er)), must be assumed to show confusion of unstressed vowels. OHG ander ‘other’, after ‘after’, however, are hard to explain if *er became *ar in PGmc. (Braune 2004a: §§64, 65 Anm. 3). The question cannot be settled conclusively, though one’s view about this is likely to parallel one’s view about whether PGmc. ē developed categorically to â in NWGmc. (§4.6).

Although PIE o regularly developed to a in PGmc. stressed syllables (§3.2), it is usually thought to have remained o longer under certain unstressed conditions.3 According to this view, as a connecting vowel in compounds it probably remained rounded before labial consonants, given the evidence of early Germanic names preserved in Latin texts, such as Ario-vistus and Lango-bardi. In NWGmc. it is reflected as u (but Go. a) before m, as with the development of PIE *-omis to PGmc. *-o-m(i)z in dat. pl. Go. stānum but Occoli. steinum, OE stānum, OS stēnum OHG steinum, and of PIE *-omes to PGmc. *-om(i)z in 1 pl. pres. Go. baíram but Occoli. berum (and cf. OHG berumēs) ‘bear’.4 A similar development is commonly said to affect both this same o and also ō, which developed to u and ū, before u in the next syllable.5 This change is sometimes regarded as coeval with the other (see, e.g., A. Campbell 1977: §331.6), though the NGmc. evidence is insecure. Examples: PGmc. *-on-um > *-onēu > -un in the acc. sg. of masc. n-stems, e.g. OS gumon, -un, OHG gomon, -un ‘man’, OE North-
§5.5 Medial vowels in the early preliterary period

umbrian Rune) galgu ‘gallows’; PGmc. *-ōn-um > *-ōnu > -ūn in the acc. sg. of fem. n-stem nouns, e.g. OHG zungēn ‘tongue’, OE (Northumbrian) foldu ‘earth’, eordu ‘earth’. The ON evidence for these latter changes is almost all capable of alternative explanation, and perhaps even seemingly convincing examples can be accounted for otherwise, such as agitative nouns in -ōður < *-ōðuz, e.g. OIcel. mjótur, OE me(o)tođ, OS metōd ‘God’ (*‘deliberator’; cf. *metōjan > Go. mitōn ‘plan’; further examples in Kluge 1926: §29). For details, see van Helten 1891: 460–7, Walde 1900: 167–79. See also below (§5.6) on õð > ū in NWGmc.

There is no scholarly consensus about the development of PIE syllabic laryngeals in Gmc. unstressed syllables. From the equation PIE *dhug(h)y̞stér > Skt. duhitār- = Gk. θυγατέρ = Go. daithter ‘daughter’ it would seem that a syllabic laryngeal was simply lost. Yet it has been questioned whether the laryngeal in this word was actually syllabic in PIE or whether it was vocalized on a dialectal basis (see Fulk 1988: 153; Hackstein 2002). Not infrequently it has been argued that a syllabic laryngeal may under some conditions be reflected as u (so, e.g., Streitberg 1896: §56, Lehmann 1952: 53–5). The hypothesis of Bennett (1978, supported by Ringe 1988: 429) that H was lost in medial syllables but preserved as u in final ones, aside from lacking any straightforward phonological rationale, faces the difficulty that the securest example of PIE H > Gmc. u, OE ened, anet, OHG anut, anot ‘duck’ < *anud- (cf. Skt. āth, Lith. ėntis, Gk. νῆσσα Lat. anus, gen. anatis) is to be reconstructed as an i-stem, and thus H would not have appeared in a final syllable in any PGmc. case-form. By contrast, the likeliest explanation of OE birce ‘bitch’ (< PIE *bherH̞g-) and its Gmc. cognates is that H has been lost from such forms without a trace: cf. PIE *bhrH̞g- in Skt. bhūṛja-. A comprehensive explanation remains to be devised.

1. For discussion and references, see Boutkan 1995a, 1995b: 72–89, who concludes that in NWGmc., e was raised to i only before i or j in the next syllable, or before the reflex of PIE s. In the latter study he draws this conclusion on the basis of four inflections: (1) PIE 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind. *-esi, *-eti > *-is, *-if; (2) PIE o-stem gen. sg. *-eso as reflected in OHG -es; PIE 2 pl. ind. *-eti(He) as reflected in OHG -er; and (4) PGmc. n-stem gen. & dat. sg. *-e(i)es, *-enti as reflected in OHG -en, -in, respectively. Cf. the discussion in Ringe 2017: 147–51 (contra Lloyd 1961), with counterexamples.

2. See, e.g., Stiles 1988: 133, 136 n. 4, Ringe 2017: 150. The relevant article cited by Stiles as forthcoming, however, appears never to have been published.

3. See Eulenburg 1904, responding to Bremer 1903 (where it is argued that all the evidence of personal names may be due to inflectional endings in the classical languages, or to Celtic influence); likewise Banta 1980, Polomé 1994: 4–5. Boutkan (1995b: 90) credits Bremer’s argument, but the restriction of preserved o almost entirely to the position before a labial consonant (as pointed out by Eulenburg) raises significant doubts. Still, as Boutkan remarks, the allophones of PGmc. /a/ cannot be known, and it is not necessary to assume the maintenance of a phonemic distinction between PIE a and o in any environment in PGmc., as /a/ may have been rived in some environments.

4. Beeler (1979) proposes instead that o developed normally to a, which was subsequently lost, producing vocalization of m, leading to -um.


6. Note, however, that Walde (1900: 169) explains Northumbrian -u in such masc. forms as analogous to WGmc. fem. forms with ū < õ. Streitberg (1893: 49–50) objects to a phonological change õ > ū on the ground that ū does not become ū before i, but it must be remembered that the PGmc. (and NWGmc.) inventory of long vowels was asymmetrical.

7. The WGmc. s-stems are sometimes invoked in evidence of this change, but on some of the difficulties involved see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.99 nn. 1–2, and cf., e.g., von Unwerth 1910: 11.

8. The handbooks of ON (e.g. Noreen 1970: §148) generally prescribe that u (o) in a form like nom. acc. pl. neut. heilig ‘holy’ (< *xalard) is developed from r, the latter due to back mutation of a (§4.8). This would
place the development of \( u \) in such forms well after the close of the NWGmc. period. Inscriptions in the Older Futhark afford no unambiguous evidence, but since PGmc. -er- develops to -ar- in NGmc. (but perhaps not throughout WGmc.: §5.5), the development seen in PGmc. nom. sg. fem. *\( anþerō \) > *\( anþaru \) > *\( annǫru \) > Ofcel. *\( òmnur \) ‘other’ would seem to date the change to the post-NWGmc. period.

9. The change has not yet occurred ca. 500 CE in the form haukoþur on the Vånga stone from Sweden (if in fact -øjur, with ò, represents this same agentive suffix).

10. See the references in Szemerényi 1996: §5.3.4 Addendum.


5.6 Later preliterary changes of medial and final vowels

Go. \( iu \) from earlier \( iw \) by loss of a following vowel became \( ju \) in unstressed syllables, as in nom. pl. sunjus ‘sons’ < *sunivis. Final *-\( i \) was shortened in Gothic, as in acc. hairdi ‘herdsman’ < *xirðija*, voc. hairdi < *xirði(j)i*.1 Possibly \( ai \) was monophthongized to \( e \) in (N)WGmc. middle syllables, as it was in final (§5.3), as is suggested by the correspondences of the Go. comparative suffix -\( æiz- \) = OHG -er- on adjs. and of Go. \( libäin- \) ‘life’, \( lubäin- \) ‘hope’ = OE lifen ‘sustenance’, lufen ‘hope’. If so, \( au \) was probably correspondingly monophthongized to \( ò \), though there is no relevant evidence.

It is commonly assumed that PGmc. \( ò \) yields NWGmc. \( ù \) before tautosyllabic \( n \) (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §84d, Krahe & Meid 1969: I, §47).2 This assumption seems necessary in order to account for developments in the \( òn-stems \) (§7.33). For discussion, with references, and a vigorous defense, see Hill 2010: 432–43; also Ringe & Taylor 2014: 63. Certain NGmc. evidence discourages the assumption that this could be a development of the NWGmc. protolanguage, most notably Runic (so, e.g., OHG dat. sg. zungūn < *zungōn(i)), betrays no acquaintance with similar, earlier proposals (see Hill 2010: 440–1). For a review of alternative analyses, see Boutkan 1995b: 289–90.

It is sometimes assumed that \( ë \) developed to \( ë \) in both unstressed and stressed syllables in NWGmc.: so, e.g., Bazell 1937, Hollifield 1980: 103–4. It was shown above (§4.6) that this is improbable in stressed syllables if Ingvaenic is regarded as descended from Proto-WGmc. (cf. Antonsen 1975: 27). In unstressed syllables, too, it was more likely \( ë \), represented as \( e \), and perhaps \( a \), in Runic (tawide, swestar: see above, §5.3, and below, n. 4); so also Korlandt 1989: 103–4, 1990: 5–6.

**Old Norse.** The development of unstressed vowels in NGmc. is especially complex. Most short vowels in final syllables (whether originally final or due to PGmc. loss of a final syllable) are lost, but not before causing front or back mutation, where possible. Unlike in WGmc., short vowels are lost after both heavy and light syllables, though the facts of front umlaut show that \( i \) must have been reduced (with lowering) and lost earlier after heavy stems than light (§4.7). Examples are *\( dagar \) > dagr ‘day’, acc. sg. *\( staína \) > stein ‘stone’, *\( maþra \) > mogr ‘boy, son’, and PNorse *feruf in the expression \( í fjörð \) ‘last year’ (cf. Skt. parút, Gk. πέρυσι). However, short vowels were...
preserved before a nasal consonant or r (not r), as in NGmc. 3 pl. pret. *gābun > gāfū ‘gave’ and PGmc. *ubir(i) > yr > ‘over’. Before a nasal consonant in a closed syllable, a develops to e (later i), as in *wīdanar > Īðinn (name, without i-umlaut) and pp. *faranar > farinn ‘gone’; likewise before g, as in *ainazar > einigr ‘any’ (but heilagr ‘holy’). In As, e before r yields a, as in hvaðar ‘which of two’ (Go. hāfar, OE hwæðer). On the dating of apocope, see Isakson 2000, H.F. Nielsen 2000: 259–61.

Long vowels were shortened in final syllables, as in *sвестēr > NGmc. *sвестēr > systēr, later systir ‘sister’ (showing that was developed differently in stressed and unstressed syllables: see §4.6); gen. sg. óstem *manôk > manar ‘mane’; PGmc. -ai in *haitē > heite, later heiti ‘am called’, and so forth. In some middle syllables, however, ai developed to a, as in vītadr ‘known’ < *vitādar (cf. Go. witāþs): see Noreen 1970: §139 for details. The diphthong iu was also reduced, as in *suniur > synir ‘sons’.

After the loss of vowels in the ultima, as outlined above, an unstressed short vowel was syncopated in what was now the penultima if it was an open syllable or if the syllable was closed only by a cluster st or sk, which thus was treated as a unitary phoneme, the way it is for the purpose of alliterilation in early Gmc. verse. Thus, for example, there is syncope in NGmc. acc. sg. masc. *gamalame > gamlan ‘old’ (but nom. sg. gamall < *gamalak) and nom. pl. masc. *haitanēk > heitner, later heitmir ‘called’ (cf. gen. sg. heitins < *haitanas). When this resulted in stem alternations within the paradigm, often one stem was extended throughout, as for example in superlatives in *-ist- (e.g. dat. pl. *juggistōm > yngstum ‘youngest’, with yngst- then extended to the nom. sg., hence yngstr rather than yngistr).

Under the same conditions, NGmc. ē and i were lost, whereas ó is reflected as a, though again there is much stem uniformization within paradigms. Examples: NGmc. gen. sg. fem. *pazēnōr > þagnar ‘silence’ (cf. Go. neut. þaháins); acc. sg. fem. gulna ‘golden’ (cf. Go. gulþena); 1 sg. pret. hvarfōda ‘went about’ (cf. Go. hurbōda). Under all other conditions, long vowels in medial syllables were shortened, with ó again yielding a. Examples: NGmc. nom. sg. *blindōstak > blindastr ‘blindest’; NGmc. 1 pl. pres. sj. *gebēm(e) > gefem, later gefim ‘give’; NGmc. 1 pl. pret. sj. *grōbīme > grefem ‘dig’.

West Germanic. In final unstressed syllables, a and a* were lost regardless of the weight of the preceding syllable, as in PGmc. nom. sg. *dazaz > *dazā > OE dæg, OS dag, OHG tag ‘day’, acc. sg. PGmc. *dazā > OE dæg, OS dag, OHG tag. When this change resulted in a word-final postconsonantal sonorant (e.g. *wundraz > *wundr), the sonorant remained nonsyllabic for a time, as shown by the meters of alliterilation poetry. Although it is commonly regarded as belonging to the WGmc. protolanguage, nuclearization (vocalization, syllabification) of final sonorants cannot have taken place very early, and it must be assumed to have occurred on a dialectal basis, as suggested also by the divergent results in English and elsewhere (see below). Indeed, in some instances OE spelling suggests that certain final resonants remained nonsyllabic in the historical period, as with botm ‘bottom’ and ādl ‘disease’.

Glides which became final in this manner, however, were vocalized early, e.g. PGmc. *xarjaz > WGmc. *hari > OE here, OS OHG heri ‘army’ and PGmc. *sarwa > WGmc. *saru > OE searo, OS OHG saro ‘device, armament’. When thus nuclearized, the resultant high vowels underwent the same development as original high vowels, being lost after heavy syllables, though not infrequently the sound is restored on an analogical basis. Examples are OE miēd ‘meadow’ (pl. miēdwa), OS sē ‘sea’ (beside analogical sēo), gen. sēves, OS OHG analogical kunni ‘kin, kind’ (cf. OE cynn < PGmc. *kunja*). In addition to such nuclear-
ization there is anaptyxis in the WGmc. languages: it is infrequent in OE (see Hogg 1992: §6.34–7); in OHG it occurs between a liquid and h (e.g. *forhta, *foroha beside forhta ‘fright’) and in some clusters containing w (e.g. *gararwër beside garwar ‘ready’: see Braune 2004a: §69); and in OS it is particularly common, occurring in a considerable variety of consonant combinations (see Holthausen 1921: §144). Unlike inherited vowels, such vowels are unstable.

Although the change did not take place in the WGmc. protolanguage itself, the pattern of retention of unstressed high vowels after light syllables but not heavy is plainer in WGmc. than elsewhere, though OS and OHG obscure the original pattern more than OE through analogical change. In Anglo-Frisian this syncope took place later than the application of i-umlaut (cf. OE giest, OFris. iest ‘guest’) but before i-umlaut elsewhere in WGmc. (OS OHG gast). The change does not occur in a closed syllable, nor in a syllable closed by a consonant, as this would result in unwieldy consonant clusters. Examples: PGmc. *winiz > WGmc. *wini > OE wine, OS OHG wini ‘friend’; PGmc. *brūdiz > OE brýd, OFris. brēd, OS brūd, OHG brūt ‘bride’; WGmc. *aćisiōn > OE egesa, OS OHG egiso ‘fear’; PGmc. 3 sg. pret. *xauziðō > OE ĕhīre, OS hōrdō, OHG hōrtā ‘heard’, but PGmc. pp. *xauziðaz > WGmc. *xaurid(a) > OE ĕhīred, OS ĕhīrid, OHG -hōrīt; PGmc. *sunuc > OE OS sunu, OHG sun, sunu ‘son’; PGmc. *xantuc > OE OS hand, OHG hant; WGmc. gen. pl. *eburō > OE eofora, OHG eburo ‘boar’; (Greek-derived) Lat. diabolus borrowed as *diubul- (see A. Campbell 1977: §492) > OE dēofol, OS diubal, diubul, OHG tiufal, but OE dat. pl. dēoflum, OS diublun, OHG tiuflun (Wessobrunn). Again, a sequence of light syllable plus another of any weight is equivalent to a heavy syllable (§2.5) in regard to this change, as in OE neut. pl. we(o)rod < *werudu, though there is much analogical leveling of alternants. An exception to the rule is that, at least in OE, although a medial high vowel in an open syllable might be expected to have been syncopated after a heavy syllable, it is instead preserved before the inflection -u, as in OE (Mercian) neut. nom./acc. pl. lītelu ‘little’ < *lātīlo and nētenu ‘cattle’ < *nēatinu < *nautīnō: see Fulk 2010b.

Ingvaeonic and Anglo-Frisian. In general, in Ingvaeonic and Anglo-Frisian the same changes occurred medially as in stressed syllables. Thus, there is the NSGmc. loss of a nasal consonant before a voiceless fricative, with compensatory lengthening (and later shortening) of the preceding vowel (§4.11), as with *zugunbḥ > OE geoguþ, OFris. iogethe, OS jugud, but OHG jungund ‘youth’ (cf. Lat. juvent- < *juHnt-) and the 3 pl. pres. ind. inflection *-anþ(i) > OE -āp, OFris. -at(h), -eth(h), OS -ad, but Go. -and, OHG -ant. As in stressed syllables, Anglo-Frisian a was nasalized before a nasal consonant (but only a tautosyllabic one if the vowel was unstressed), otherwise fronted to æ (§4.11, later e: see below), as in OE fāran, OFris. fāra ‘go’ and acc. sg. OE naman, OFris. nom,a, but with fronting in OE masc. a-stem gen. sg. -ēs (early -ēs), OFris. -es, and before heterosyllabic u in inflected forms of OE OFris. pp. faren- ‘gone’ < *faren-< *fāran-. The same change appears to have applied in OS, where the fronted vowel is variously spelt (a) and (e), as with the a-stem gen. sg. inflection -as, -es (Klein 1977: 390–537). Front mutation is fully operative in unstressed syllables, as in *apalijaz > *apali > OE aðe, OFris. ete, but OS adal; OE -eðe in æpplede ‘embossed’ (cf., e.g., OS hringodi ‘ringed’).

Unaccented non-high vowels (that is, a, as well as short vowels derived from it—fronted æ, umlauted e, raised i before palatal consonants—and e preserved before r), were lost in all medial open syllables in Anglo-Frisian, regardless of the weight of the preceding syllable, as in acc. sg. masc. OE OFris. gōdne ‘good’ < *-anō (cf. OS
gōdan(a), OHG guotan); OE dat. pl. mangum ‘many’ < *manazum(iz) (cf. nom. sg. manig < *manaz < *mazaz), later analogical manigum, OFr. monige; PGmc. *samanōjanā > OE samnian, OFr. somnia, samenia, OHG samanōn ‘gather’; PGmc. *daga-werkā > OE dægweorc, OFr. deiwerch, OHG tagawerk ‘day’s work’; WGmc. *ala-$maxifaz > OE ælmihtig, OFr. elmectich, OS alamahitig, OHG alamahitig ‘almighty’. An exception to the rule appears to occur when a, in an open syllable following a heavy syllable, is followed by final -u in the next syllable, as in OE (Mercian) nom. sg. fem. üdelu ‘idle’ < *ūdalō and ēadigu ‘blessed’ < *audagō: see Fulk 2010b.

The nuclearization of final postconsonantal sonorants conforms to a recognizable pattern in OE, and it is possible that the change is Anglo-Frisian, though this cannot be proved, since unstressed short vowels are generally reduced to e in Frisian. In OE the quality of the syllabic sonorant was at first determined by the quality of the vowel in the preceding syllable: after a front vowel the sonorant was written with preceding i (later ē), otherwise u (later o). Examples (from names in early Latin texts) are -caestir (later ceaster, borrowed from Lat. castra) and Eorcun- (already beside Earcon-). There is no i-umlaut in forms with ē before the sonorant, though it cannot be determined whether that is because the change postdates umlaut or because i does not represent an actual vowel but the fronted quality of the syllabic resonant. At all events, in course of time spellings like er and or could be used interchangeably, after front or back vowels, and thus they can represent only syllabic sonorants rather than a sequence of vowel plus sonorant. For further evidence, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.96.

Old English. All remaining long vowels in unstressed syllables were shortened, but not necessarily at one time. Thus, for example, ē was shortened early enough medially to be syncopated before most inflections, as in dat. pl. glyrdmum ‘golden’ (cf. Go. gulþeínāim) and Anglian dat. pl. nētum ‘cattle’ (but cf. acc. pl. nētenu, §5.6); compare the final development in hierde ‘herdsman’ < -i < -ē < *-i(j)az, with ē arising (and being shortened) too late to be syncopated. At least some long vowels were shortened earlier in final syllables, so that ā (< ai, as in stressed syllables, §4.12) developed to e in final syllables but o in medial, and the resulting paradigm allomorphy led to much mixture of stems, as with earfēp beside earfōp ‘difficulty’ < *earhōp; cf. Go. *arβaihps ‘labor’. WGmc. ë < ę is reflected in OE as e, as in bōcere ‘scholar’ < *ōlēri(z).

Breaking did not apply to syllables of low stress, though it is found in certain derivational suffixes, e.g. -weard beside -ward, with alternation due originally to alternate stressed and unstressed forms, e.g. stressed after the unstressed syllable in ūeweard ‘external’, unstressed in òward beside commoner tōward ‘impending’. Rather than break, æ was retracted to a (and later commonly rounded) before l or r plus consonant, as in hlāfard, hlāford ‘lord’ < *xlaiba-warōæ and anwald, anwold ‘control’.

Old English evinces some salient exceptions to the deletion of medial short vowels treated above (in part under West Germanic). In the notably conservative language of the Mercian gloss on the Vespasian Psalter, both syncope and apocope fail to affect disyllabic stems with a heavy initial syllable when they bear the inflection -u (fem. nom. sg. or neut. nom./acc. pl.), e.g. ídelu ‘idle’ and nētenu ‘cattle’, as opposed to forms bearing other inflections, e.g. ídlan < *tīdalðanu and nētā < *nētāinō. Such forms are in almost perfectly consistent contrast to those of originally monosyllabic stems made disyllabic by the nuclearization (syllabification) of a final sonorant, e.g. fēcān ‘crimes’ and wēpen ‘weapons’ (< *fēcān, *wēpnu). Also exceptional in WS and (in part) Kentish are 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind. forms of verbs, with syncope occurring after both heavy and (less regularly) light stems, as in WS giefst, giefð ‘give’ and brŷcest, brŷcō
‘enjoy’ (Anglian gefest, gefęp, brűcest, brűcep, with analogical removal of i-umlaut). The commonest explanation now for such verb forms is that they underwent syncope when followed by a pronoun, the prosodic group acting like a single word, so that the inflectional vowel was in a position to be syncopated. The syncopated forms were then generalized in WS, the unsyncopated in Anglian.13 Syncope also affects some superlative adj.s. of high frequency in WS, e.g. hiehsta ‘highest’, gingsta ‘youngest’ (beside gingsesta), due either to treatment of -st- as a unitary phoneme (so that the syllable was open) or to the analogy of comparatives, in which the connecting vowel had been syncopated.

Although, as noted above, high vowels were not at first syncopated in a medial light syllable after an open syllable (e.g. nerede < *nazidē), already at a prehistoric date there was loss of i in such an environment when the consonant following the vowel was l or r, as in gen. sg. masc. miclēs ‘large’ < *nikilaes and betra ‘better’ < *battizō: see Brunner 1965: §159 for exceptions. The vowel u remained resistant to the change longer: cf. inflected sweotole ‘plain’, efoře ‘boar’. Loss of i (and u) before consonants other than l, r is less regular, e.g. eg(e)sa ‘fear’, ef(e)stian ‘shear’, heolstor ‘darkness’ (cf. early pl. helustras); and monosyllabic endingless forms could appear by analogy to inflected ones, e.g. fir(en) ‘crime’, meol(o)e ‘milk’. Syncope is constant in a few such words, e.g. elm ‘ell’, hvelc ‘which’, twelf ‘12’. It is generally absent when it would create a syllable coda with a disfavored sonority sequence, e.g. wæter ‘water’, bydel (PDE beadle).

In general, unstressed æ and i are retained in early texts but are soon reduced to e, as in a-stem gen. and dat. sg. -æs and -æ, later -es and -e, as well as masc. i-stem nom. sg. -i, later -e. The vowel a remains, whereas u may appear as u or o. The front vowels that coalesced as e, however, will appear as i in a palatal environment, as in mihtig < *-īʒ, ēdag ‘blessed’ < *-æʒ (cf. early dat. pl. ēadgum, later analogical ēadegum, where g is velar), Denise ‘Danish’, sārlic ‘painful’ and so forth.

As in the other WGmc. languages, unstressed vowels tend to weaken and be variously spelt with the passage of time. For further details, and for developments of the literary period, see the grammars cited in §1.16. One pattern that may be remarked, however, is the tendency to dissimilate identical or similar vowels in successive unstressed syllables, e.g. -edon for earlier -odon in the 3 pl. pret. of weak verbs of class 3 and -esta for -osta in superlatives (A. Campbell 1977: §385).

**Old Frisian.** There is the same late development of -ī in the ja-stems as in OE, e.g. *riki(a) → riike ‘realm’. Most remaining unstressed vowels are reduced to e, as in WGmc. *zebu > ieeve ‘gift’ and nerede ‘saved’ < *naziđē. Before palatals, this i may or may not be found instead of e (as in OE), as in Rūmiska, Rūmeska ‘Roman’ and wēldic, wēlede ‘potent’. But the ending -um was mostly preserved as such, and WGmc. ō from a variety of sources is generally reflected as a, as in hona ‘cock’ < *xanō, mōna ‘month’ (cf. Go. mēnōbs), and achta ‘8’ < PIE *oktō(u).

**Old Saxon.** When a postconsonantal final sonorant is nuclearized, usually a is written before it, occasionally e, as in wintar ‘winter’ (cf. Go. wintrus) and hunger ‘hunger’ (cf. Go. hūhrus). But before m usually o is written, occasionally u, as in wastom, -um ‘growth’.

Non-final short vowels for the most part retain their original quality, as with thiodan ‘lord’, fadar ‘father’, egiso ‘terror’, and sibun ‘7’. But there is a tendency especially in the non-high vowels to be assimilated to the quality of a following vowel, as in gen. sg. hebenes ‘heaven’ (nom. heban) and gen. pl. thesoro, -aro ‘these’ (cf.
OHG *desero). The composition vowel in compounds is most commonly retained but is subject to fluctuation in quality, as in *ala-jung ‘quite young’ beside *alo-waldand ‘(the) Almighty’.

Changes in quality indicate that the remaining unstressed long vowels were shortened both internally and finally, e.g. *fiskari ‘fisherman’ beside dōperi ‘baptist’ < *-ārī; sikur, siker, from Lat. sēcūrus; dat. sg. daga, dage ‘day’ < NWGmc. *daṣē.

Old High German. The treatment of unstressed vowels is similar to the treatment in OS. In final syllables, the short vowels a, e, i, o, u generally remain distinct until ca. 900, at which point they start to be confused, gradually tending toward the representation of all of them as e; earlier in absolute finality than before a final consonant, and earlier in Upper German than in Central German. In all dialects the opposition between u and o is weakened early in favor of o. Already in the earliest texts, in medial syllables the five-vowel opposition tends to be reduced to a three-vowel one, a, i, u. As in OS, a syllabified sonorant has usually a written before it, but often u in a labial environment, especially before m.

The most remarkable feature of OHG unstressed vocalism is the retention of long vowels, as indicated especially in the Isidor and Notker (§1.20). Long vowels corresponding to all five short ones appear in final syllables that are closed by a consonant, whereas the variety of long vowels is reduced in other unstressed syllables.14

1. Phonological shortening is the usual assumption, though Wright (1954: §154) notes that if this is correct, weak imperatives like sōkei and hazei must have their vowel by analogy, and he notes the possibility that heavy-stemmed voc. acc. sg. hairdī and such have their vowel by analogy to light-stemmed voc. acc. sg. harī, and there was no final shortening. It should be noted, however, that light-stemmed hazei can be explained only on an analogical basis, and so it is more economical to assume final shortening.

2. Given the history of this idea, it cannot justly be referred to as ‘Boutkan’s law’ (Kortlandt 2006b: 4).

3. Perhaps originally only in medial syllables: cf. undir ‘under’ < *under, and see §5.5.

4. The suffixal vowel in Runic swestar (Opdal, Norway, ca. 425) is usually assumed to represent *e: so, e.g., Krause (1971: 52), who remarks that, otherwise Olcel. systr would be difficult to explain; similarly Hollifield 1984: 65. Pantière (2013) argues instead for *a, whereas Stiles (1984, with extensive references) makes a strong case that swestar reflects an old vocative in PIE *-er.

5. But under such circumstances NGmc. *e yields a before an alveolar consonant, e.g. *-aþ- > -að- in pass. parts. of weak verbs of class 3, such as sagadr ‘said’.

6. Note, e.g., the loss of final *e in kaba (for kamba) on the Frientstedt comb (ca. 250–300).

7. Thus, e.g., OE hleohtor ‘laughtor’ < *slaxtraz must be scanned as a monosyllable at Beowulf 611a, and OS möðom- ‘treasure’ < *maiłma- at Heliand 3261a, 3772a: see Fulk 1992: §§76–98, idem 2005: 151. Similarly, Olcel. gestir ‘guest’ < *gastin (and similar words in postconsonantal -r) remain monosyllabic in Icelandic poetry until the fourteenth century, and -n in vatn ‘water’ < *watna= remains nonsyllabic to this day in Icelandic and Faroese. But words of this kind in OE are variably to be scanned with syllabic and nonsyllabic final sonorant consonants, even the same word within a single text, and so it must be recognized that the change is prehistoric, the nonsyllabic scan at least in some instances a consequence of the conservatism of poetic tradition.

8. It must be borne in mind that syllability is not a matter of physiological facts but of native speakers’ perceptions. See Fulk 1992: §§77–8, with references. For further evidence of the lateness of this change, see Vennemann 1991. The literature shows much confusion on this head, with frequent references to a final postconsonantal sonorant consonant (as in OE fiegī ‘bird’) as ‘syllabic’ (so, e.g., Boutkan 1995b: 172). WGmc. spelling does not permit a distinction to be drawn between nuclearization and epenthesis in connection with final sonorant consonants: see Hogg 1992: §§6.34–45.


10. Syncope of i after heavy syllables is the norm in OS and OHG only in the preterite of weak verbs of the first class. The morphological distribution of the change allows Kiparsky (2009) to argue that such preterites lost i because they remained prosodic compounds (of stem plus ‘do’) in OHG. Plainly, however, u was
syncopated in a form like OHG tiuflun ‘devils’, and, equally plainly, analogical restoration did affect such forms, producing, e.g., gen. tiufalles beside nom. tiufal. See, e.g., Schatz 1927: §94. The loss of high vowels described here is the standard view, rejected by Antonsen (2002: 237–60), who denies that umlaut occurred earlier in OE than in OHG and argues that the root-stems were a productive class in Gmc.

11. In such forms the vowel of the suffix -en- should have been lost before a vocalic inflection (see below). It must be assumed that before that loss the fronted æ was extended to cases in which the following n was tautosyllabic (e.g. nom. sg. masc. faren), and after the syncope in open syllables the disyllabic stem was extended analogically throughout the paradigm.

12. For discussion, see Fulk 2010b.

13. This explanation originates with Walde (1900: 125 n. 1). For discussion and references, see Fulk 1992: §§320–2. Objections and an alternative analysis covering all these exceptions to medial vowel deletion have been offered by Ringe (2002, and in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 289–96 et passim), but see the counter-objections of Bermúdez-Otero (2015: 13–14). Alternative analyses also face the difficulty that there does not seem to be any plausible explanation how Mercian could correctly have distributed the inflection in otherwise identical paradigms like those of ĭdelu and ĭćen if the former represented an analogical restoration rather than a phonological result.

14. The relevant inflections with final long vowels are nom. acc. pl. of masc. a-stems (-ā), nom. acc. pl. of ō-stems (-ā), nom. acc. sg. & pl. of in-stems (-ī), weak pret. sj. 1–3 sg. (-ē in Alemannic), and perhaps pres. sj. 1 & 3 sg. (-ē once in the Benedictine Rule). At least some of these long vowels may have been analogically induced by related forms, especially -i in the fem. abstract nouns (e.g. hōhī by analogy to gen. pl. hōhīno, dat. pl. hōhīm: so Russ 1978: 58–9). For a list of all relevant inflections, see Gabriel 1969: 105–8.

5.7 Vowels in prefixes

Like prepositions, with which they are often identical, prefixes might be stressed (as in nouns) or unstressed (verbs: §2.2). Under Prokosch’s law, prepositions with final vowels should show vowel lengthening when stressed.¹ The lengthened vowels could then be extended to the corresponding stressed prefixes. Thus, for example, *bi > OE be or, when stressed, bī, and to the verbs be-ġān ‘traverse’ and be-nemnan ‘name’ may be compared the nouns bīgenga ‘inhabitant’ and bīnāma ‘pronoun’, though many nouns show variable lengthening or none in the prefix, e.g. OHG bījīht ‘witness’ (NHG Beichte; cf. OHG bi-jehan ‘attest’). As in some other grammatical categories (see, e.g., §2.5 n. 2), Gothic appears to have generalized the short vowels, having only bi(-), never ˈbei(-).

Aside from such lengthening, vowels in PGmc. monosyllabic prefixes underwent the same changes as stressed vowels. Thus, for example, there are the Gothic forms and(a)- (prep. and ‘throughout’; cf. Gk. ἀνά ‘opposite’), fau(r)a(-) (prep. fau(r)a ‘before’; cf. Lat. por-), uf- (prep. uf ‘under’; cf. Gk. ὑπό ‘under’), and so forth. Later the vowels in unstressed prefixes weaken, as with OE ge- (early gi-), of-þyncan ‘displease’ (stressed in æf-þuncan ‘source of offense’) and op-ġān ‘escape’ (stressed in ûþgenge ‘evanescent’). Occasionally such vowels are lost in the individual WGmc. languages, as with OE bli màn ‘cease’ < WGmc. *bi-linnan,² OE OS būtan ‘except’ < *bi-ūtan, MHG gloube ‘belief’ < OHG gi-loubo and NHG bleiben ‘remain’ < OHG bi-līban. Occasional forms of a similar nature are to be found in OlCsl., e.g. greiða ‘arrange’ (cf. Go. ga-rāidjan) and frýja ‘defy’ (cf. Go. fra-wröðjan). But usually prefixes of both verbs and nouns are lost altogether in North Germanic. The former presence of a prefix is not infrequently detectable in verse, where the meaningless particle of or um replaces it, as required by meter (see Kuhn 1929). New prefixed forms arose, however, with stress on
the prefix, e.g. *af-rāð ‘payment’ (cf. rāða af ‘get off’) and *fram-ganga ‘advance’ (noun; cf. ganga fram ‘go forward’).

1. A preposition was stressed when it did not stand immediately before its object, as shown by the meters of alliterative verse.

2. So also with OE *ni, proclitic to verbs, as in nis ‘is not’ and næbbe ‘have not’.

5.8 Sievers’ law

According to Sievers (1877–8: 129), in Indic, i or u, when it bears no accent (not even the svarita, comparable to the Greek circumflex), is a consonant after a light syllable, a vowel after a heavy, regardless of which other syllable bears the accent.1 Thus, for example, there is y after a light syllable in Skt. ávya but i in mārtia. He proposed that the same variation can explain certain inflectional alternations in Gmc., such as that between the Go. ja-stems gen. sg. harjis ‘army’ and hairdeis ‘herdsman’, from *korjēso and *kērdhijēso. The conditioning and scope of the law have been much debated (as has its status as derived from PIE itself).2 For a time there prevailed a virtual orthodoxy based on the elaborations of the law formulated by Edgerton (1934, 1943, 1962), who regarded the law as exceptionally regular, applying also to liquid and nasal consonants (e.g. *-atra- in alternation with *-āṭṛa-), and resulting automatically not just in the nuclearization of the relevant segment after heavy syllables but denuclearization after light, e.g. *-ät-i-y-a- > *-atya- (in Edgerton’s notation), the latter development referred to in the literature as the ‘converse of Sievers’ law’. But Sievers was aware of the many exceptions to the law in Sanskrit, and current scholarship tends to treat the law more conservatively, recognizing the extent to which (de)nuclearization is morphologically regulated.

In Gmc. only i/j (and not u/w) attests to alternations of this type, and evidence for it is not found in all the environments in which it might be expected. For example, although Go. masc. ja-stems like harjis and hairdeis attest to the variation, jō-stems do not—there is no inflectional difference between, e.g., bandi ‘band’ and mawi ‘maidens’—and denuclearization has subsequently applied after heavy syllables, giving, e.g., nom. pl. háirdjōs rather than *-iŷōs (see Kortlandt 1986). Even in ja-stem nouns the law does not apply without exception, e.g. gen. sg. arbjis ‘heritage’ for expected *arbeis, and andbahtjis beside andbahteis ‘service’.3 The alternation is also detectable in weak verbs of the first class, e.g. 3 sg. pres. ind. nasjēþ ‘saves’ beside sókeiþ ‘seeks’, with PGmc. *-jiþ and *-i(j)iþ, respectively, though here, too, there are exceptions, including imp. sg. -ei after both heavy and light stems, and exclusively -ei- in verbal derivatives like naseins ‘salvation’ and haezens ‘praise’. Verb stems of more than one syllable group with the heavy monosyllables in this respect (e.g. mikileiþ ‘magnifies’, swōgateiþ ‘sighs’, and sipōneiþ ‘is a disciple’), but there is OE evidence that this is a Go. innovation, and originally a disyllable with a light initial syllable patterned with the heavy stem, whereas a disyllable with a heavy initial syllable patterned with the light. Thus, WGmc. gemination occurs in OE ja- and jō-stems like fastenn ‘evening’ < *fastunjaz and heafenn ‘captivity’ < *saftunjō, but not hyerele ‘cup-bearer’ < *furilījaz or acc. sg. gydene ‘goddess’ < *guōnijō (Dahl 1938: 74–81; Erdmann 1972; Barrack 1998).4 The different effect of the two types of disyllables on a following segment is paralleled by the effect of the two in respect to OE high-vowel apocope, whereby, for
example, the nom./acc. neuter inflection -tu is retained in words like Mercian hēāfūdu ‘heads’, parallel to fatu vessels, but lost in words like weorod ‘hosts’, parallel to word ‘words’ (see §5.6 supra). Failure of breaking in OE tellan ‘tell’ (for expected *tiellan < *taljan), as opposed to fiellan ‘fell’ < *feallijan, with a PGmc. geminate, may also be explained on this basis (Barrack 1998: 151–5).

In the course of the development of West Germanic the distinction between *-ij- and *-i- was eliminated in favor of the latter, certainly not in Proto-WGmc. itself, given NSGmc. changes to weak verbs (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 156–7). In Runic, however, -ij- occurs regularly after heavy syllables, as in holtijaz ‘Holt’s son’ (or ‘from Holt’; Gallehus horn, ca. 400) and asm. makija ‘sword’ (with å; Vimose chape; 3rd cent.); but although, conversely, the suffix is -i- in harja (name; Vimose comb, 3rd cent.) and swaba-harjar (name; Rö stone, ca. 400), it is -ij- in harija (name; Skåäng stone, ca. 500), and always in the name-element -warjar (3x, e.g. staina-warjar on the Rö stone).5 In Olc., a reflex of the original alternation remains, inasmuch as when the following vowel is lost, postconsonantal *-i- is also lost, whereas *-ij- is reflected as -i(-): to jō-stem acc. sg. ben ‘wound’ compare heiði ‘heath’. On the other hand, if the following vowel is preserved, j remains, whereas *-ij- is lost except after velar consonants: to gen. sg. benjar cf. heiðar, but eggjar ‘blade’.

Sievers’ law has been explained variously as a product of syllable contact laws or footing in metrical phonology: see §§2.4–5, and for a critique of both approaches, Y. Kim 2001. For prosodic approaches and approaches on the basis of syllable structure subsequent to the overview of Barrack (1998), see Kiparsky 1998, Pierce 2006 (to which cf. Barrack 2010); see further Schulte 2000b.

1. “[U]nbetontes (nicht svaritiertes) i oder u vor einem vocal ist consonant nach kurzer, vocal nach langer silbe ohne rücksicht auf die sonstige accentlage des wortes.” Prokosch (1939: §33b) sees this variation as due to different syllabification, e.g. Go. saty-jis, har-jis, stō-jis: sō-keis, miē-keis, hair-keis, so that “interconsonant -ji- = i was contracted to i.” Although such syllabification has been advocated for PGmc., it is hard to reconcile with the orthographic and phonological evidence of some early Gmc. languages: see §2.4.

2. For the literature, see Seebold 1972: 25–175 and, more succinctly, Collinge 1985: 159–74. Debates about the law are particularly relevant to Gmc. syllabification: see §2.4. As for derivation of the law from PIE, Kovulehto (1986) finds evidence in early Gmc. loanwords in Finnish that at the time of borrowing, j was not automatically syllabic after a heavy syllable, given the change of dental consonant plus j to *-čč > Finnish -ts-; in ratsas ‘riding’ (cf. OE rǣde ‘ready for riding’ < *rađijas). Boutkan (1995b: 203) points out that Runic holtijaz would not have had the structure in PIE to produce nuclearization (PIE *klētj); further examples in Ringe 2017: 144–5.

3. For other exceptions, see Seebold 1972: 74–8; cf. Kiparsky 2000, with an Optimality Theory account. At all events, a form like harjas must be formed analogically (see §7.10), and certainly Go. alternations under Sievers’ law can be regarded only as relics of a once-active phonological process (Schuhmann 2011).

4. Words like fastenn may also appear with a non-geminate consonant, but this is due to degemination between unstressed vowels in late OE (see A. Campbell 1977: §457). Barrack (1998: 221–239) collects the data showing that, conversely, gemination never occurs in ja-stems like byrele, and it is vanishingly rare in jō-stems like gyden. Adamczyk (2001) was apparently unaware of Barrack’s work. It should be added, it is possible that some of the words collected by Barrack have their geminate from a source other than WGmc. consonant gemination: e.g., to OE fastenn, OS fastunnia cf. Go. fastubni ‘(observance of) fast’, and see §6.11 infra. Most of the evidence, however, cannot be explained this way.

5. For a comprehensive list of such Runic forms, see Syrett 1994: 80–1; for an attempt to make sense of them, see Syrett 1998. Bammesberger (2007) argues that -warjar contains a long vowel.
Consonants

6.1 The Proto-Indo-European consonants

The following represents a fairly standard reconstruction of the PIE consonant system as laid out in current handbooks:

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\text{p} & \text{t} & \hat{\text{k}} & \text{k} & \text{k} & \text{k} & \text{k} \\
\text{(b)} & \text{d} & \hat{\text{g}} & \text{g} & \text{g} & \text{g} & \text{g} \\
\text{bh} & \text{dh} & \hat{\text{gh}} & \text{gh} & \text{gh} & \text{gh} & \text{gh} \\
\text{m} & \text{n} & \text{l} & \text{r} & \text{h}_1 & \text{h}_2 & \text{h}_3 \\
\text{i} & \text{u} \\
\end{array}
\]

The consonant /b/ is marginal, as it probably did not occur at all in initial position in PIE. Among the oral stops, a phonemic distinction is to be drawn between plain voiced stops /b, d, ţ, g, gw/ and their aspirated equivalents /bh, dh, ġh, gh, ghgw/. Also to be distinguished are palatals /ţ, ġ, ġh/, velars /k, g, gh/, and labiovelars /kw, gw, ghw/: although generally this tripartite distinction is reduced to, at most, a bipartite one in the IE languages; the three series are recoverable because in some languages the palatal and velar varieties are collapsed into one category (the so-called centum-group, to which Gmc. belongs—named after the Latin reflex of PIE *zeptōm ‘hundred’) and in others the velars and labiovelars (the satem-group, named after Avestan satom ‘hundred’). The distinction between the two groups was once thought to demarcate an important historical division of PIE into two language families, though now it is plain that although the isogloss does probably represent some shared developments among IE languages, to a great extent the distinction is a matter of convergent developments in related but discrete languages.

The reconstructions /i/ and /u/ are generally in allophonic relation to /i/ and /u/, but see Mayrhofer in Kuryłowicz et al. 1986–2015: I, 160–1, 168 for evidence of phonemic /i/. The voiced aspirates /bh, dh, ġh, gh, ghgw/ are not attested as such in any IE language, though the murmured consonants /bh, dh, etc. of Indic, which reflect them (and probably represent their actual PIE value), are transcribed similarly. On the laryngeal consonants /h₁, h₂, h₃/, see §3.1.

1. A separate series of voiceless aspirates /ph, th, ġh, kh, kchw/ was at one time a common assumption to explain the voiceless murmured consonants of Indic, as well as certain Armenian phenomena, but these are now standardly regarded as (in origin) allophones of the voiced aspirates. The glottalic theory (see below) has prompted some to return to the earlier view (e.g. Joseph 1985, Gramkrelidze & Ivanov 1995; see also Szemerényi 1996: §§6.7.1.4–7), but cf. Kuryłowicz 1956: 375–82, showing that nearly all of the relevant evidence is due to secondary developments. The issue is of no relevance to Gmc. grammar.

2. Melchert (1987, 1989: 23–32), however, has shown that separate reflexes of /k, k/, /k'/ are discernible in Luvian, and perhaps of /g, g'/ in Lycian.
3. So, for example, Tocharian, in Central Asia, belongs (probably) with the majority of European languages in this respect, even though it is the easternmost of the IE languages, whereas Balto-Slavic is grouped with the Indo-Iranian languages. The centum-group includes the westernmost IE languages, including Hellenic, Italic, Celtic, and Germanic, whereas the satem-group includes Indo-Iranian and Balto-Slavic, and probably Armenian and Albanian, though the facts are disputed.

6.2 The glottalic theory

Jakobson (1958; so earlier Walde 1897: 468) pointed out the typological improbability of the reconstruction of the PIE consonant system outlined in §6.1. One problem is the rarity of $b$ in PIE reconstructions, a peculiarity for which there is no straightforward explanation, whereas languages lacking $p$ (such as Proto-Celtic) are well attested (as remarked by Pedersen 1951: 10–11). It is also typologically odd to reconstruct a language with voiced aspirates but not voiceless. Accordingly, it was proposed by Gamkrelidze & Ivanov (1973; 1995) and Hopper (1973) that these peculiarities can be explained if instead of the voiced series $b$, $d$, $g$, etc., there is reconstructed a voiceless series of glottalized stops (i.e., ejectives) $p'$, $t'$, $k'$, etc. The remaining series ($p$, $t$, $k$, etc., and $bh$, $dh$, $gh$, etc.) may then be reconstructed either as voiced and voiceless series with aspiration in free variation (i.e. $p(h)$, $t(h)$, $k(h)$, etc., and $b(h)$, $d(h)$, $g(h)$, etc., respectively), or (according to Hopper) simply as $p$, $t$, $k$, etc., and $b$, $d$, $g$, etc.). This reconstruction is also offered in explanation of the peculiarity of PIE root structure that roots consisting of two plain voiced stops under the older reconstruction are prohibited, e.g. †bed-, †deg-, etc. The prohibition can be attributed to the well-attested phenomenon of avoidance of successive ejectives in languages that have such.

Although the glottalic theory enjoyed no small degree of support at one time, it is not now generally accepted in IE studies. One problem is that ejectives such as those reconstructed are not found in any historical IE language but Ossetic (a language of Iran), where they are instead to be attributed to the influence of neighboring Caucasian languages. The chief implication of the glottalic theory for Germanic linguistics is that it permits Germanic (along with Armenian) to be regarded not as a highly innovative branch in its consonantism but as an exceptionally conservative one, whereas the IE languages usually regarded as hewing closest to the PIE consonant system, especially Sanskrit and Greek, turn out to do nothing of the sort. That Germanic should have remained so conservative while the European languages in closest proximity to it in prehistoric times all altered the inherited obstruents in similar ways is difficult to credit. And yet although the glottalic theory is not now widely supported, there is a considerable degree of concurrence that the reconstruction of PIE obstruents represented in §6.1 is implausible and awaits replacement by a creditable reconstruction. Nonetheless, it need not be the case that such an alternative reconstruction is what must be assumed for the latest stages of PIE, since it is of course possible that the typological peculiarities of PIE mentioned above are the consequence of an earlier obstruent system that had already changed before any of the extant IE families had developed individuating characteristics. That is to say, it is not a given that any IE language should directly reflect that earlier state of affairs rather than a later-developed obstruent system similar to that arrived at (in §6.1) by the comparative method. The supposition that Germanic is an especially archaic branch of IE is at all events unsupported by its verb system, which appears to be a simplification of that reconstructed for late PIE (§12.9), showing no marked resemblance to the Hittite verb system.
Prior to the glottalic theory, there were attempts to address the improbability of the reconstructed PIE consonant inventory by assuming that the voiced aspirates were actually fricatives: so Walde 1897, Prokosch 1918–19, 1939: §18, Peeters 1971. Other solutions are surveyed by Huld (1986).

1. Although there is disagreement in the literature, Szemerényi (1996: §6.7.1.8 & n. 1; so also Polomé 1994: 33 n. 24) remarks that the distribution of \( b \) word internally is normal, and this is typologically odd, given its absence from initial position—certainly a problem not solved by the glottalic theory. Melchert (1994: 93) offers examples of medial PIE \( b \) reflected in Anatolian. For possible explanations for the non-occurrence of initial \( b \), see Ringe 2017: 19.

2. In ejectives, closure and release of the oral and glottal points of closure are simultaneous, producing the sensation of a click.


### §6.3 Laryngeal consonants in Germanic

At the time when the study of PIE laryngeal consonants was still in the process of gaining the status of orthodoxy (see §3.1), a variety of studies suggested that laryngeals might have been preserved relatively late into the PGmc. period. The only proposal for the influence of laryngeal consonants in specifically Gmc. developments that is now widely credited pertains to the Verschärfung (though even this analysis is hardly secure), and the commonest view of the matter now is that it is not laryngeals but the hiatus left by the early loss of laryngeals that is responsible for this gemination of glides: see §6.10. (On the derivation of \( ê \) from a laryngeal source, see §3.5; Polomé 1988: 384–401; 1994: 21–4.) Some other proposals regarding laryngeal consonants are these:


(b) The reflex of PIE \( ø \) (i.e., \( H \) in laryngeal notation) did not always develop to Gmc. \( a \) or, in unstressed syllables, \( Õ \). For discussion, see §5.5 ad fin.

(c) Certain preterites in -r- in OHG, OE, and OIcel. have been assigned a laryngeal cause (Lehmann 1952: 56–61; idem 1954; Connolly 1983), e.g. OHG ki-screrot to scrōtan ‘cut’, OE leort to lētan ‘let’, and OIcel. snera to snúa ‘turn’; cf. §12.20. Cf. van Coetsem 1956: 68; Müller 2007: 157–8.

(d) The seemingly sporadic change of PGmc. *i to e, as in PIE *slibro- > OE slipor, OHG sleffar ‘slippery’, has been claimed to take place only in the presence of a laryngeal: see Connolly 1977, 1999; cf. Polomé 1988: 386–9, Voyles 1989b: 38–41, idem 1999.

(e) Lühr (1976) and Ritter (1984) argue that the gemination of certain sonorant consonants other than glides may be due to laryngeals, e.g. OS thimm ‘dark’ (cf. Skt. támisra- ‘dark night’) and Go. OHG OE spinnan ‘spin’ (cf. Lith. pinu, pinti
6.4 Grimm’s law

The oral stop consonants of PIE underwent a systematic change of manner of articulation commonly known as the First Consonant Shift, as described under the terms of Grimm’s law.\(^1\) Though many qualifications are necessary (on which see §6.5), in broad outline it may be said that the PIE stops developed as follows in PGmc.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIE</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p t ŧ k k(^w)</td>
<td>p t k k(^w)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b d ǵ g g(^w)</td>
<td>b d g g(^w)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bh dh ǵh gh gh(^w)</td>
<td>bh dh gh gh(^w)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That is to say, the voiceless stops became voiceless fricatives, the voiced stops were devoiced, and the aspirated voiced stops became voiced fricatives. (The middle step shows the coalescence of the PIE palatal stops with the plain velars: see §6.1.\(^2\)) There is thus (roughly) no change in place of articulation, and of voicing only in the series of PIE voiced unaspirated stops. The PGmc. results are displayed with the characters usually employed in the reconstruction of PGmc. words; as with the PIE consonants, the likeliest phonetic values are not always ascertainable. For example, ţ was certainly a voiceless fricative, but it could have been either dental or alveolar (probably not postalveolar); the series x, k, ź is called velar, but palatal or uvular articulation, at least under some circumstances, cannot be ruled out; and f, though the character connotes labiodental, was likelier bilabial [f].\(^3\) The PIE labiovelars remained unitary phonemes after the shift (PGmc. x\(^w\), k\(^w\), ź\(^w\)), though later they became diphonematic: see §§6.5 \textit{ad fin.}, 6.11 for discussion. Examples of these changes are as follows:

- PIE \(p >\) PGmc. \(þ\); PIE \(*\text{por} >\) Go. OE OS OHG faran, Olcel. \(\text{fara} \ ‘go’\) (cf. Gk. \(\text{πορεῖν}, \text{Lat. portō \ ‘convey’}\)); PIE \(*\text{pōd-ped} >\) Go. fōtus, Olcel. \(\text{fōr}, \text{OE OS fōt, OHG fōr ‘foot’}\) (cf. Skt. \(\text{pāt}, \text{pād-}, \text{Gk. πῶς, ποδ-, \ Lat. ped-}\)); PIE \(*\text{nēpōt} >\) Olcel. nefi ‘kinsman’, OE nefa ‘nephew, grandson’, OS nebo ‘nephew, grandson’, OHG nevo ‘nephew, kinsman’ (cf. Skt. nāpāt ‘offspring, son, grandson’, Lat. nepōs); PIE \(*\text{klep} >\) Go. hlīfan ‘steal’ (cf. Gk. κλέπτω, Lat. clepō ‘steal’); PIE \(*\text{apo} \ ‘from, away’ >\) Go. Olcel. OS af (cf. Skt. āpa, Gk. \(\text{ἀπό}, \text{ἀπὸ})\).

- PIE \(f >\) PGmc. \(\text{þ}\); PIE \(*\text{tong} >\) Go. \(\text{þagkjan \ ‘think’}\), Olcel. \(\text{þekkja \ ‘recognize’}\), OE \(\text{þencan, OHG thenkian, OHG denken \ ‘think’}\) (cf. Lat. tangeō ‘know’); PIE \(*\text{trei} >\) Go. \(\text{þrija} \ (\text{nom. neut.}), \text{Olcel. řír, \ OE říe, OHG \(\text{drī ‘three’}\) (Skt. \(\text{trāyāḥ}, \text{Gk. τρεῖς, \ Lat. treῖς})\); PIE \(*\text{mēνt} >\) Go. muṇḍhs, Olcel. muṇmr, muḍṛ, OE mūdh, OHG mund ‘mouth’ (cf. Lat. mentum ‘chin’); PIE \(*\text{vert} >\) Go. wair̄̄ha, Olcel. ver̄̄da, OE weordan, OS werdan, OHG werdan ‘become’ (cf. Skt. vártati, Lat. vertō ‘turn’).

- PIE \(k >\) PGmc. \(\text{þ}\); PIE \(*\text{kŋtōm} >\) Go. OE OS hund, OHG hunt ‘hundred’ (Skt. \(\text{satām}, \text{Lat. centum})\); PIE \(\text{klutōs} \) with lengthening in PGmc. \(*\text{hlūdaz} >\) OE OFris. OS \(\text{hlūd, OHG lūt ‘loud’}\) (cf. Skt. \(\text{śrutāḥ}, \text{Gk. κλονός \ ‘heard of, renowned’}\); PIE \(*\text{dēkŋt} >\)
Go. taíhun, Olccl. tiú, OE ţen, OS tehan, OHG zehan ‘ten’ (Skt. dáśa, Gk. δέκα); PIE *peku- > Go. fáihu, Olccl. fě, OE feoh, OS fehu, OHG fehu, fíhu ‘herded animal’ (Skt. pāśu-, Lat. pecū). PIE k > PGMc. x: PIE *kap-ō- in OE hafola ‘head’ (Skt. kapála-); PIE *kar- in Go. hardus, Olccl. haró, OE heard, OS heard, OHG hari ‘hard’ (cf. Skt. karkara- ‘hard’); PIE *keh-rō- in Go. hōrs ‘adulterer’, OE hōre ‘whore’, etc. (cf. Latv. kārs ‘desirous’, Lat. cārus ‘dear’); PIE *yeik- in Go. weihan ‘fight’ (cf. Lith. veikiū, veikti ‘work’, Lat. vincō ‘conquer’); PIE *leyk- in Go. liuhāp, OE lēoht, OS OHG lioht ‘light’ (noum; cf. Skt. rōkā-, Lat. lūx).

PIE kʷ > PGMc. xʷ: PIE kʷoter-/kʷeter- > Go. hwaþar, Olccl. hwaðarr, OE hwæder, OS hwedar, OHG wedar ‘which of two’ (cf. Skt. katará-, Gk. παράς); PIE *kʷod > Go. hwa, Olccl. hwat, OE hwæt, OS hwat, OHG (h)waz ‘what’ (cf. Skt. kād, Lat. quod); PIE *sekʷ- in Go. saithan, Olccl. sjá, OE sēon, OS OHG sehan ‘see’ (cf. Lat. sequor, Gk. ἐποιμα ‘follow’); PIE *leǐkʷ- in Go. leïhan, Olccl. ljá, OE lēon, OS OHG léhan ‘lend’ (cf. Gk. λύνω, Lat. re-linquiō ‘leave’).

PIE d > PGMc. t: PIE *dejk- in Go. gæ-teihan, Olccl. tjá ‘tell, show’, OE tēon, OS tihan, OHG zīhan ‘accuse’ (cf. Gk. δεικνύω ‘show’, Lat. diēcō ‘say’); PIE *du-ō-i in Go. masc. twáí, Olccl. twëir, OE fem. twá, etc. ‘two’ (cf. *dujgō in Skt. dvā, Homeric Gk. δύο, Lat. duō); PIE *sed- in Go. sitan, Olccl. sītan, OE sittan, OHG sizzen ‘sit’ (cf. Skt. sād-, Lat. sedē); PIE *med- in Go. mitan, Olccl. meta, OE OS metan, OHG mezzan ‘measure, assess’ (cf. Gk. μέδομαι, Lat. meditor ‘consider’).

PIE g > PGMc. k: PIE *gney- in Go. kniu, OE cnéow(w), OS OHG kneo, kniō ‘knee’ (cf. PIE *gōnu- in Skt. jānu, Gk. γόνον); PIE *ghn- in Go. OHG kunnan, Olccl. kunna, OE cunnan ‘know’ (cf. Skt. jānāti knows’ < *ghn-,neh-ti, and PIE *gneh- in Lat. nōsco); PIE hēgros > Go. akrs, Olccl. akr, OE accer, OS akkar, OHG akar, ackar ‘field’ (cf. Skt. ájrah, Gk. ἀγρός); PIE *roģ- in Go. uf-rakjan ‘stretch’, Olccl. rekja ‘spread out’, OE reccean ‘stretch’ (cf. Skt. ṣjyati ‘stretches’, Lat. rogō ‘request’ (< *strecth out the hand’)).


PIE gʷ > PGMc. kʷ (> kw): PIE *gʷem-/gʷm, in Go. qiman, Olccl. koma, OE cūman, OS kuman, OHG gueman, coman ‘come’ (cf. Gk. βαίνω ‘go’ (< *gʷn̩), Lat. veniō ‘come’); PIE *gʷen- in Go. qinô, OE cwene, OS OHG guena ‘woman’ (cf. OIr. ben, OCS žena); PIE *gʷō- in Go. naqâps, Olccl. nokkvîdr, OE naced, OHG nakut, nachut ‘naked’ (cf. Skt. nagnāb, Lith. nūgas); PIE hregʷ- in Go. riqis ‘darkness’, Olccl. rôk(k)r, rôkkr ‘twilight’ (cf. Skt. rájanī ‘night’, Gk. ἡπείος ‘underworld’); PIE *hengʷ- in Olccl. ākkr ‘lump, tumor’ and ōkkvinn ‘thick, clodded’ (cf. Gk. ἀόιν ἴ ‘gland’).
(< *h₂*Mw*gn̥-ēn), Lat. inguen ‘groin’). It cannot be determined whether kʷ was already indistinguishable from kw in PGmc., but even though Ullíñas uses a single character, (u) (q), to represent the reflex of PIE gʷ, this could be in imitation of Latin (q). The generally preferred derivation of the Go. dual pronoun igsis is from *īŋk- with analogical addition of w, borrowed from pl. izzwis (§8.3), demanding the assumption that Go. q was indistinguishable from /kw/. Certainly, the labial feature of PIE labiovelars is not infrequently reflected as a separate segment in West and North Gmc., as in OE cwicu ‘alive’ 

*kwɨkʷaz; probably also Oldcel. són-g ‘sang’ < *sangu < PGmc. *sangʷ(e); and certainly nokkiðr ‘naked’ (as above; cf. Go. naqaps).

PIE bh > PGmc. b (but b in initial position probably already in PGmc.): PIE *bher- in Go. bairan, Oldcel. bera, OE OS OHG beran ‘bear’ (cf. Skt. bharati, Lat. ferox); PIE *bhuhr- (possibly; cf. §3.4 n. 5) in Go. bauen, Oldcel. biu, OE OHG biuin ‘dwell’ (cf. Skt. bhavati ‘becomes’, Gk. φύω ‘produce’); PIE *leybh- in Oldl. liufs, Oldcel. ljófr, OE leof, OHG liob ‘bear’ (cf. Skt. lúbhyati ‘yearns’, Lat. libet, older lubet ‘pleases’); PIE *gerbh- in OE ceornfan, OHG kerban ‘carve’ (cf. Gk. γράφω < *grbh-).

PIE dh > PGmc. d (but probably d initially already in PGmc.): PIE *dhrs- in Go. ga-duirisan, OE *durran, dear, OHG *-turran, gi-tar ‘dare’ (cf. Skt. dhṛṣṇorti ‘is bold’, Gk. (Lesbos) ὑψαρος ‘bravery’); PIE *dhur- in Oldcel. dyrr ‘doorway’, Go. daúr, OE dor, OS dor, dur, OHG tor ‘door’ (cf. Gk. (Homeric) θύρα, Lith. acc. pl. duris); PIE *medḥos > Go. midjís, Oldcel. miór, OE midd, OS middı, OHG mitti ‘in the middle’ (cf. Skt. mādhyah, Lat. medius); PIE *medhu(-) in Oldcel. mjódr OE meodu ‘mead’ (cf. Skt. mādhu ‘sweet drink’, Gk. μέθυ ‘wine’).


PIE ghʷ. There is no scholarly agreement about the development of ghʷ in Gmc., except that it is plainly delabialized before u: PIE ghʷ > PGmc. 3 before u, as in PIE *ghʷn-īs (as in Skt. hatih ‘blow’) > PGmc. *zunp- > Oldcel. guðr (and later, analogical gunmr), OE guðo, OS guđea, OHG gundu ‘war’. Otherwise, examples are too sparse and etymologies too insecure to afford certainty. It is the argument of Seebold (1967, 1980) that initial ghʷ otherwise produces Gmc. b, for example in PIE *ghʷr-n-w- > Go. OS OHG brinman, Oldcel. brenna, OE beorman ‘burn (intrans.)’ (cf. Skt. ghrñōti ‘burns’); but see the criticisms of Polomé 1994: 20–1). This argument appears to have persuaded few (so Ringe 2017: 127–33 and Hartmann 2013); the literature in opposition is surveyed by Polomé (1987a). PGmc. *war- (Oldcel. varmr, OE wearm, OS OHG warm ‘warm’) seems to be paralleled by Gk. θερμός, Lat. formus, OPruss. gorme, but Seebold (1967: 108–9) is not alone in supposing that it should be tied to Hittite war- ‘burn’. Seebold’s
other conclusions (1967) may be summarized as follows: (a) Postvocalic ghw appears before liquids and nasals as w. Examples: PIE *negh₁ʷʷr- > Olcel. nýra, OHG nírō ‘kidney’ (cf. Gk. pl. νεφρα, Lat. (Praenestine) nefrōnēs); PIE *he₂ghʷ-n- > PGmc. *æn₁u > OE ēanjan ‘yean’ (cf. Gk. ἄμνος, Lat. agmus ‘lamb’). (b) Intervocalic ghw > PGmc. ʒw, developing further to w after e or ai, otherwise to ż. Examples: PIE *(s)nojghʷ- > PGmc. *snaíw- in Go. snåíws, Olcel. snjór, snær, OE snáw, OHG sno ‘snow’ (cf. Lat. weak grade niveus ‘snowy’, nasalized ninguit ‘it snows’, Gk. (Homeric) νεῖφει ‘it snows’); possibly PIE *hęghʷ-i- > PGmc. *aży- in OS egi-thassa, OHG egi-dėhsa ‘lizard’ (cf. Gk. ὀφνίς, Skt. áhi- ‘snake’). (c) PIE ghw and ghw appear to have developed the same way as ghw, though the evidence is scant. A possible example is OE wēde, OS wōdí ‘pleasant’ < *għwōdı- (Seebold 1967: 110). Kortlandt (1997) argues that labiovelars became labial obstruents before or after a sonorant consonant. Johnsen (2011) finds that PGmc. ʒw develops to w before i, but ż before j. For a tabulation of opinions from 1896 to recent times, see Hartmann 2013: 1–2.

1. The IE and Gmc. correspondences were described by Jacob Grimm in letters to Karl Lachmann of 25 Nov. 1820 and (in detail) 1 April 1821, and a full exposition published in 1822 in the second edition of Vol. 1 of his Deutsche Grammatik. Building on the work of earlier observers, Rasmus Rask, in his Undersögelse om det gamle nordiske eller islandske sprogs oprindelse (1818), had previously worked out the correspondences with Latin and Greek consonants later systematized and described by Grimm as a shift. Grimm acknowledged his debt to Rask in the preface to the first volume of the first edition of his Deutsche Grammatik. For a succinct discussion of the relations between Rask’s and Grimm’s analyses, see Prokosch 1939: §15, observing that Rask’s observations could in no sense be termed a law.

2. Although it seems likely, it cannot be proved that this coalescence occurred before rather than after the shift; the chronology has left no distinctive trace in the Gmc. languages.

3. This may be judged from its source in PIE p, from the use of (q) to represent it in Olcel. before t, as in ēptir ‘after’, probably also the change of n to ŋ in Go. OHG ðinf, Olcel. fımõ ‘five’, and from the parallel sound h, for the bilabiality of which there is evidence in OE until the ninth century (§6.6), though certainly OE f was labiodental before that.

4. As remarked above (§6.1), it is dubitable whether there was any word-initial ŋ in PIE. The forms provided here are accepted by Pokorny (1959–69). Their relative obscurity inspires little confidence.

5. However, Normier (1977: 185) supposes that PIE ghʷ always results in Gmc. b.

6.5 Exceptions to Grimm’s law

The commonest exceptions to Grimm’s law are governed by Verner’s law, on which see §6.6.

It should be noted that already in the Pre-PGmc. period a voiced stop, whether aspirated or not, was devoiced before t or s, with loss of aspiration, where relevant. Thus, for example, *gt, *ght > *kt, and *gs, *ghs > *ks. The change can be seen in, e.g., Lat. perf. nūšē, pp. nūptus to nūbō ‘wed’ (PIE *(s)nehb-); Skt. loc. pl. pat-sū beside loc. sg. pad-i ‘on foot’; and Lat. perf. junxt, pp. junctus to jungō ‘join’ (PIE *ju-n-g-). A sequence *tth thus produced developed to PGmc. *ss, on which see §6.8. In the other clusters, the voiceless first consonant became a fricative in PGmc., as was normal under Grimm’s law, but not the second. Examples: Go. ga-skafs ‘creation’ (cf. skapjan ‘create’); OHG gift ‘gift’ beside geban ‘give’; OE weft ‘weft’ beside wefan ‘weave’ (cf. Skt. ubhnāti ‘ties together’); OE wefts (also wæsp, wæps) ‘wasp’ (PIE *yobhs-; cf. Lith. vapsvā ‘wasp’, Avestan vawžaka- ‘scorpion’); Go. pret. waurhtā to waurkjan ‘work,
make’; Go. maihsts ‘dung’ beside Olcel. mīga ‘urinate’ (PIE *meīgh-, as in Skt. mēḥati ‘urinates’).

Grimm’s law fails to apply to a PIE voiceless stop preceded by s. Examples: PIE *spr̥n̥- in Olcel. sporna ‘spurn, tread on’, OE spurann, sparan, OS OHG spurann (cf. Skt. sprṇōti ‘averts’, full grade in Lat. spernō ‘reject’); PIE root *sth- in Go. OE OS standan, Olcel. standa, OHG stantam ‘stand’ (cf. Lat. stō ‘stand’, Skt. sthitāḥ ‘standing’); PIE *ghostis > Go. gastos (as above, §6.4); PIE superlative formation *-is-to-s in Go. -ists, etc. (cf. Gk. -ιστος); PIE *skih- (?) in Go. skeinan, Olcel. skina, OE scīnān, OHG skīnan ‘shine’ (cf. Gk. σκια ‘shadow’, and cf. Skt. chāyā ‘brilliance’); PIE suffix *-sko- in, e.g., *pyk-skō- > PGmc. *fur(x)sk- in OHG forsca ‘question’ = Skt. pṛcchā; PIE *skabh- in Go. OS OHG skaban, Olcel. skafta, OE sc(e)afan ‘shave’ (cf. Skt. scabō ‘shave’, Latvian skabrs ‘sharp’); PIE *pisk- in Go. fiksks, Olcel. fiskr, OE OHG fisc, OS fisk ‘fish’ (cf. Lat. piscīs, full grade in OIr. ïasc, gen. ëisce); there are no examples of PIE skw in Gmc.

Similarly, when PIE p or a velar consonant (k, kʷ) shifted to a fricative under Grimm’s law, a following voiceless stop (only t occurs) failed to undergo the usual change, and the labiovelar lost its labiality. Examples: PIE *kap-tō-s > Go. -haftis, Olcel. haptr, OE haeft, OS OHG haft ‘captive’ (= Lat. captus, OIr. cacht); PIE *oķō(tu)- > Go. ahtāu, Olcel. ātta, OE eahta, OS OHG ahto ‘8’ (cf. Skt. ās̥ת, Gk. ὀκτώ); PIE *slak-t- in Olcel. slātr ‘mowing’, OE sleht ‘blow’, OS man-slahta ‘murder’, OHG slahta ‘massacre’ (cf. Go. slahan ‘strike’, Middle Irish slacce ‘sword’); PIE *nok-t- > Go. nahts, Olcel. nāt, OE neaht, niht, OS OHG naht ‘night’ (cf. Lat. noctem ‘night’, OIr. i-nnocht ‘tonight’, Skt. naktaṃ ‘by night’, Hititite neku-).

The PIE voiced aspirates bh, dh, gh, ghʷ are reflected as voiced stops rather than fricatives after a nasal consonant. Examples are the following: PIE *hṛṇbhi > OE ymbH ‘about’ (= Skt. abhi, Gk. ἀφεῖ); PIE *gombh- in Olcel. kambr, OE camb, OHG kambr ‘comb’ (cf. Skt. jāmbhaḥ, Gk. γόμφος ‘tooth’); PIE *bhendh- in Go. OE OS bindan, Olcel. binda, OHG bintan ‘bind’ (cf. Avestan bandayaita ‘binds’, with PIE *bhṛṇḍh- in Skt. badhmāti ‘binds’); PIE *bhendh- in Go. blīnd, Olcel. blindr, OE OS blind, OHG blíni ‘blind’ (cf. Lith. blenda, bištā ‘sleep’, Latv. blenda ‘see poorly’); PIE *dgēn- in Go. tuggō, Olcel. OS tunga, OE tunge, OHG tunga ‘tongue’ (cf. Old Lat. dīngua, Lat. lingua, OIr. teng; Skt. jīvā and Avestan hīvā ‘tongue’ attest to PIE gh in the word, though the onset of each is unetymological); PIE *hṛṃgh- in Go. agywus, Olcel. ongr, ongr, OE enge, OS OHG engi ‘narrow’ (cf. Gk. ἁγγίω, Lat. angō ‘press tight’); PIE *ghonh- in Go. gagg, Olcel. gangr, OE OS OHG gang ‘going, way’ (cf. *ɡhṛng- in Skt. jāṅghā ‘shin’, Lith. žengū, žengtī ‘stripe’); PIE *dhk-ą-gh- in Go. lagg, Olcel. langr, OE OS OHG lang ‘long’ (cf. Lat. longus, Middle Persian drang); PIE *sengh- in Go. siggwan, Olcel. syngva, OE OS OHG singan ‘sing’ (cf. *songʷ- in Gk. ἀψον ‘divine voice, prophecy’, Middle Welsh de(h)ongl ‘explain’); PIE *lāghʷ- in OE lüngr, OS lungar ‘quick, strong’, OHG lungar ‘eager, fast’ (= Gk. ἀλεφός ‘light, quick’; cf. non-nasalized Lat. levis ‘light’ < *legh-).”

The PIE voiced aspirates bh, dh are nowhere reflected as fricatives in initial position, only as stops. Examples: PIE *bherHg- in Go. bairhts, Olcel. bjartr, OE beorht, OS OHG beraht ‘bright’ (cf. Skt. bṛhājatē ‘shines’); PIE *bhrār- in Go. brāpar, Olcel. brōdr, OE brōðor, OS brōðar, OHG broder ‘brother’ (cf. Skt. bṛhat-); PIE *dhrās- in Go. ga-daûrsan, OE *durran, dear ‘dare’ (cf. Skt. dhrās-ṇō-ṭi ‘dares’); PIE *dhum- in Olcel. dyrn, OE dyne, OHG tuni ‘din’ (cf. *dhyen- in Skt. dhvānati ‘sounds’). By contrast, PIE initial gh, gh must have developed to fricatives and remained as such.
§6.5 Exceptions to Grimm's law

in PGmc., given forms like OE *giefan (with initial /j/; cf. ME *yiven), OFris. *ieva, NLG *jewen, Dutch *geven /ˈxeː.və(n)/ ‘give’ < *sebana, though there is an initial stop in Icel. *gefā, NHG *geben; Go. *giƀan is ambiguous. Possibly *lō > *ld already in PGmc., since it is nowhere verifiably reflected as ld, and ld that arose by syncope in PNorse developed somewhat differently (§6.14). There was no change of ð after r in PGmc., however: cf. Olcel. *ordīnīm ‘become’ < *wurðanaz.

On the development of PGmc. consonants in gemination, see §§6.8–9.

It has sometimes been supposed that PIE labiovelars become plain velars before back vowels in PGmc. This is unlikely, given forms like Go. *hūþan ‘boast’, hōþa ‘threat, reprimand’, ga-*qūmbs ‘gathering’, OE *hwōsan ‘cough’, hwōstān ‘cough’ cwēme ‘pleasing’ (< PGmc. *kʰōmi̯-). There are nonetheless adjustments to labiovelars both in the PGmc. period and afterward according to environment. (a) Before the application of Grimm’s law, PIE kʷ became p (> Gmc. f) when it appeared in the same root as another labial consonant. Examples: PIE *kʰeytḗr̥ > Go. fidwōr ‘4’ (cf. Skt. cetvārāh, Lat. quattuor); PIE *pēnkʷe > Go. OHG *fīm, Olcel. *fimm, OE OS fīf ‘5’ (cf. Skt. pāñca, Gk. πέντε, Lat. quīnque); PIE *y̯kʰos > Go. wulfōs, Olcel. *uilfr, OE OS wulf, OHG wolf ‘wolf’ (cf. Skt. vykāh, Lat. lupus, Lith. vilkas). (b) Although PIE kʷ and gʷ are reflected as labiovelar h, q in Gothic, the orthography suggesting preservation of their status as unit phonemes (but cf. Wagner 2006 and §6.4 supra), there is no labialized g in Gothic, so that PGmc. gʷ perhaps should be assumed to have developed to z or w (§6.4) already in PGmc.5

1. Under Grassmann’s law, the first of two voiced aspirates in a PIE root is deaspirated in Sanskrit, as also in Greek.

2. It has been claimed (e.g. by Streitberg 1896: §117) that this change occurs also before IE o in PGmc., but that is hardly possible in view of forms like Olcel. hwaþr ‘keen’, hvalr ‘whale’, and Go. hafō ‘spume’ and saibhān ‘see’. The delabialization in Go. OS *ohg hāls, Olcel. *hāls, OE *hæds ‘neck’ < *kʰalsos antedates PGmc.: see Solmsen 1897: 547. There is delabialization in the Go. suffix -(u)h ‘but, and’ (cf. Lat. que); the usual assumption is that the change is limited to final position under low stress, which would also explain the failure of u to develop to ai before h in this form. But Mottausch (2001) argues cogently that the distribution of the variants -h and -uh, the latter occurring only after a consonant other than a liquid, is best explained on the assumption that the variants are purely phonological developments of PIE *kʰe.e.

3. This sound change was first posited by Kluge (1886: 560). Alternatively, f- in Gmc. ‘4’ could be by analogy to ‘5’ (so Prokosch 1939: §§99a, Voyles 1987: 492; first proposed by Zupitza 1896: 7). Bennett (1969) attributes such changes to contamination or borrowing from Celtic. Ringe (2017: 140–1) reserves judgment on the validity of the supposed sound change. Stiles (1985–6: 6.85) cites exceptions to the rule (e.g. Go. qīman ‘come’), but he sensibly observes that since the change is not phonologically random but always involves the change of a labiovelar to a labial, it is probably a genuine, if somewhat opportunistic, phonological change.

4. Sen (2000) argues rather that PIE kʷ became p before e in Pre-PGmc., explaining Go. wulf as reflecting a stem *wulp- that arose in the vocative (though this word can hardly have been used commonly in direct address).


6.6 Verner’s law

The most notable exception to Grimm’s law is the appearance of PGmc. voiced fricatives where voiceless ones might have been expected, for example ð for ð in Go. OS fadar, Olcel. faðir, OE fæder, OHG fater ‘father’ (cf. Skt. pītār-, Gk. πατήρ, Lat. pater).
The first to publish the correct explanation was Karl Verner (1877):¹ when the immediately preceding syllable peak did not bear the PIE accent, a PIE voiceless stop (p, t, k, kʷ, assuming prior coalescence of palatales and velars) between voiced sounds is reflected as a voiced fricative (PGmc. ƀ, Ȝ, ʒ, ʢ) rather than a voiceless one.² These voiced fricatives thus fell together with the PGmc. reflexes of PIE aspirated voiced stops and developed in precisely the same way. In addition, under the same conditions s was voiced to z, which, outside of Gothic, developed, where preserved, to r by rotacism, a development with parallels in Latin, e.g. gen. *generis ‘kind’ < *_genre.des-. The evidence for this analysis is plainest in strong verbs, which (outside of Gothic) continue to show paradigm alternations on this basis, whereas paradigm alternations due to the change were mostly eliminated in other grammatical categories before the literary period. And among strong verbs the evidence is plainest in the first three classes, in which the attested Gmc. alternations are paralleled by the accentuation of verbs in Sanskrit. That is to say, in Sanskrit normally the accent falls on the root in the perfect sg. (the PIE perfect being the chief source of the Gmc. pret.) but on the inflection in the dual and plural, and also in perfect participles. The accent in pres. forms is more various, but root accent is common. Accordingly, in at least the first three classes of Gmc. strong verbs there is to be found no voicing under Verner’s law in the present stem (including the inf. and pres. part.) and the pret. sg. ind. (hence in the first two principal parts),³ whereas there is voicing in the pret. pl., the pret. sj., and the pass. participle (the latter two principal parts). Comparison may be drawn between the alternation of accent seen in Skt. 3 sg. pres. ind. vārt-ati ‘turns’, 3 sg. perf. ind. va-vārt-a, 1 pl. va-vārt-imā, perf. pass. part. vart-ānā- and the corresponding forms of OS snīdan ‘cut’, kiosan ‘choose’, and tōohan ‘draw’:

| Pres. 3 sg. | snīdid | kiusid | tiuhid |
| Pret. 3 sg. | snēd | kios | tiōh |
| Pret. pl. | snidun | kurun | tagun |
| Pp. | gt-snidan | gt-koran | gt-togan |

Due to the general voicing of fricatives between voiced sounds outside of Gothic (§§6.14, 6.16), along with limitations imposed by use of the Latin alphabet, alternation of f and b is not demonstrable in the same fashion. However, the reflexes of the two sounds are to an extent distinguished as f and b in the earliest OE texts, though whether the distinction was by then one of voicing or of labiodental vs. bilabial articulation is contested (see Brunner 1965: §191 Anm. 1, with references). Neither is the alternation of xʷ and ʒʷ directly observable in verbs, due to later developments of these sounds (§6.4), but it may be inferred from, e.g., OE inf. sēon (< *seohan < */sexanda/) ‘see’, pret. 3 sg. seah : WS pret. pl. sāwon (< *sēwun < */sēʒ'un(p))], pp. sewen (< */sez'an-), but Anglian pret. pl. sēgon, pp. segen.⁴ In NGmc. only the alternation of s and r is observable (as in OIcel. kjösa ‘chose’ : pret. 3 pl. kuru, kør). But that between x (which was lost when word-initial) and ʒ may be inferred (as in pret. 3 sg. sló ‘struck’ : pl. slógu). Further alternations may be inferred after n or l in two verbs: pret. 3 sg. fann ‘found’ (< *fanþ) : pl. fundu; pret. 3 sg. olli ‘caused’ (*wulþē) : pp. valdinn. Verner’s law failed to apply to fricatives in voiceless consonant clusters (sp, st, sk, ss, ft, fs, xs, xt).

In Gothic, alternations under Verner’s law have been eliminated almost entirely by substitution of the voiceless alternant for the voiced, though in words in which there was little or no alternation the voiced consonant remains, as in fadar ‘father’ < PIE *ph₂d̥ar- and gen. sg. riqizis ‘darkness’ < */hrégʷes- (but nom. riqis due to final fortition,
§6.6  Verner’s law

Variants may be observed, however, in related forms, e.g. *fa Hispan ‘gladness’ beside *fagnoin ‘be glad’; *haurus ‘hunger’ beside *huggrjan ‘be hungry’; *filjan ‘conceal’ beside *fulgins ‘hidden’ (adj., originally pp.); *juhiza ‘younger’ (< *jujx-iz-, §4.1) beside *juggs ‘young’. The only words in which paradigm allomorphy persists are the pret.-pres. verbs *jaðran ‘need’ (1 sg. pres. *jarf, pl. *jaðrum) and *aðgan ‘have’ (1 & 3 sg. aðí 7× beside aíg 1×; pres. part. aðíands 5× beside aðhands 1×). Given that the voiced variant occurs in words in which there would have been little or no alternation, naturally it is the standard view that Verner’s law was once regular in EGmc., but its effects were eliminated in Gothic on an analogical basis, though it has also been argued that Gothic reflects a stage of PGmc. in which the variants had not yet developed fully. It should be recognized that the elimination of the effects of Verner’s law in Gothic is by no means exceptionless. It is not plain, for instance, why Gothic has *hazjan but *nasjan; Liberman (2010: 409–18, with discussion and references) suggests sentence stress as the cause.

Alternations like those in strong verb paradigms were termed grammatischer Wechsel, purportedly by Jacob Grimm, and certainly by Adolf Holzmann (1870: 171, 229, 342), apparently with grammatisch in the sense of Greek γράμμα ‘letter of the alphabet’, so that the original meaning of the phrase was ‘alternation of letters’ rather than ‘grammatical alternation’ (so, e.g., Lechner 2008–9: 6). But grammatical alternation is also observable on a comparative rather than a paradigmatic basis. A number of Gothic languages show generalization of a stem with root accent, whereas the other Gmc. languages show the reverse generalization: such are Go. *daups ‘dead’ (< *dăuha-), but OE *deōd, OS dōd, OHG töt (*dauð-); Go. alpeis ‘old’, but OE eald, OS ald, OHG alt; Go. ga-nōhs ‘enough’ but OE ge-nōg-, OS gi-nōg, OHG gi-nuog; Go. áusō ‘ear’, but Olcel. eyra, OE ēare, OS OHG ēra. Neuter a-stems afford a number of examples of differentiated leveling, due to accent shift in the nom./acc. plural (collective: §7.3), e.g. Olcel. glēr ‘glass’ but OE glæs, OS OHG glas; OE OS blōd, OHG bluot ‘blood’ but Go. gen. sg. blōpis. Alternations are also frequently in evidence when a PIE verb root forms more than one Gmc. present type, e.g. Go. class I (orig. with nasal infix?) weihan, OHG wihan ‘fight’ (= Lat. vincō?) : Olcel. class V vega ‘fight’; Go. strong verb with weak pres. haſjan ‘raise’ (= Lat. capiō ‘take’) : weak verb haban ‘have’; Go. strong leihvan, Olcel. ljā, OE lēon, OS OHG lihan ‘lend’ : Olcel. weak leiga ‘hire’; Go. strong (intrans.) fra-wairhan : weak (trans.) fra-wardjan ‘spoil’; OHG strong gi-fehan ‘rejoice’ : weak fēginōn; Go. class V (with n-suffix) fraiħnan ‘ask’ : OHG weak class 3 fraġēn; OHG class I zihan ‘accuse’ : weak class 2 zeigōn ‘show’. There is thus a fairly regular correspondence between strong verbs and causatives to the same root (with suffixal accent: §12.3), as with OE ge-nesan ‘survive’ : nerian ‘save’; OS līdan ‘go’ : lēidian ‘lead’; OHG háhan ‘hang’ (< *sauɔyana, intrans.), hengen (trans.); OE rīsan ‘rise’ : rēran ‘raise’ (< *raizijana). Similarly, verbs and related nouns may give evidence of alternations, e.g. OE staðol ‘foundation’ : standan ‘stand’; OE lēosan ‘lose’ : lyre ‘loss’; Go. fāhan ‘take’ : Olcel. fengr ‘booty’. Such correspondences are especially notable between strong verbs and deverbal fem. abstract nouns in PIE *-ā (as with Gk. τροπή ‘turn’ (noun): τρέπω (verb)), as with OE līdan ‘go’ : lād ‘course’ (< *laimō; Go. pret.-pres. lāis ‘know how’ : OE lār ‘instruction, lore’ (< *laižō; Go. freihan ‘press upon’ (< *priŋxana) : Olcel. prong ‘crowd’. For a succinct catalogue of grammatical classes in which Verner’s law should have applied in PGmc., see Ringe 2017: 244–8, highlighting causative verbs of weak class 1 (PIE suffix *-ēj-/+), e.g. OE lēran ‘teach’ (< *laizjana); weak inchoative verbs (with PIE accent on suffix *-néh- or the inflection), e.g. OE liornian ‘learn’ (< *liznō; masc. n-stem agentives with weak grade of the root,
e.g. OE heretoga ‘military general’ < *-tužō (cf. tēōn ‘lead’ < *tēuxana*); some a-stem neuters expressing action or result, e.g. OE gehror ‘destruction’ < *xruzō* (cf. hrēösan ‘fall’); and ō-stems of similar meaning (cf. OE lä̃d : līdan above).

The formulation of Verner’s law given above—voicing took place when the immediately preceding syllable peak did not bear the PIE accent—precludes voicing of initial fricatives if the domain of the rule is the word. There is one apparent exception, however: almost certainly the unstressed prefix *ga-* is cognate with Lat. co(n)-, demanding the assumption of voicing; the meaning ‘with’ is inferrable from correspondences like Go. ga-māins ‘common’ (cf. Lat. com-mūnis), ga-qiman ‘assemble’ (cf. Lat. con-veniō), ga-haftjan ‘join’ (cf. Lat. con-ciπiō), and ga-juka ‘companion’ (cf. Lat. con-jugō);8 compare also, without voicing, Franconian OHG (Lex Salica) ham- in Latinized ham-ēdīi ‘co-swearer’ and hamallus ‘assembly co-member’. Other prefixes show no such voicing, e.g. Go. fair-, faira-, fra-, pairh-.


1. Eduard Sievers perceived the correct explanation earlier and wrote to Wilhelm Braune about it in 1874. Although Sievers was too gracious ever to have mentioned the letter, the relevant portion was later published by Oshoff (1886: 13 n. 2).

2. Comparison is frequently drawn to the regularity in English that intervocalic x is voiced as /gz/ when the accent follows, as in exist, exert, examine. The parallel is imprecise, since either /ks/ or /gz/ may appear in many words when the accent precedes, as in exit, exile, but cf. exercise, execute, with /ks/ only. Comparison may be drawn as well to the opposition absolute : absolute, and to the Middle English voicing of fricatives in unstressed words, e.g. of : off. See Liberman 2010: 408. Voicing under Verner’s law is a type of lenition: voicing requires less effort between voiced sounds, since the vibrations of the vocal folds are continuous rather than interrupted. It is unsurprising that a variety of lenition should be restricted to positions of low accentual salience, but such need not be the case: voicing under Verner’s law is only a limited variety of a more general change that applied later in the Gmc. languages, the voicing of all nongeminate fricatives between voiced sounds.

3. Voicing would not originally have affected the pret. 2 sg. ind., where it is not found in NGmc., but WGmc. has adopted for the 2 sg. the same stem found in the plural: see §12.25.

4. OFris. has pret. pl. sēgon, pp. sēn, indicating that WS and Anglian have extended paradigm variants in opposed directions.

5. To Go. aqizi ‘axe’ cf. Olcel. ox, ox, OE (Mercian) oxes, OS acus, OHG achus. PIE patterns of accentuation in s-stems (and thus alternations under Verner’s law) are a matter of controversy: see §7.37.


7. In words like ‘old’ the evidence of OHG is crucial, since medial *-lp- changed to -ld- in NSGmc. (§6.17), as with OE OS gold ‘gold’ but Olcel. gull, OHG gold (not ✠golt), Go. dat. sg. gulpa.


6.7 The chronology and dating of Grimm’s and Verner’s laws

Grimm’s law specifies a type of sound change known as a chain shift, whereby a change in value in one sound or set of sounds precipitates a change or series of changes in another sound or set. Two types of chain shifts have been posited, push chains and drag chains.1 In a push chain, a phoneme or set of phonemes is said to change in such a way as to impinge upon the domain of another, causing the latter to change in value. For ex-
ample, given two phonemes /t/ and /d/, if the former begins to take on voicing as a quality it may result in a change of the latter (e.g. fricativization) in order to maintain the phonemic distinction: /t/ may thus become /d/, and the original /d/ may become /ð/. In a drag chain, one phoneme develops a new value and another changes to fill the gap supposedly left by the other. For example, if /d/ becomes a fricative /ð/, /t/ may be voiced to /d/. Grimm’s law has been analyzed as a push chain by Kretschmer 1932: 274, Luick 1914–40: §618.4, Noske 2012; as a drag chain by (it would appear) Grimm 1848: 393 (see also Hirt 1931–4: I, §§52–5, Prokosch 1939: §16), Kiparsky 1971. Given the reconstruction of PIE obstruents represented above (§6.1), the two analyses are not equally probable. If a push chain is assumed, the change of PIE b, d, g, gw (assuming prior neutralization of the g : g opposition) to voiceless stops would have prompted the change of the voiceless stops p, t, k, kw to fricatives. Reasons might then be devised for the change of the voiced aspirates bh, dh, gh, ghw to fricatives (and, in some environments, stops), but such a change could not be ascribed to any direct push-chain effect. If a drag chain is assumed, the fricativization of PIE p, t, k, kw would have invited the devoicing of PIE b, d, g, gw, which in turn would have permitted the development of bh, dh, gh, ghw to either stops or fricatives (depending on environment), the distinction having no phonemic significance within the new PGmc. system of obstruents. The latter analysis thus makes of Grimm’s law a genuine chain shift as regards all the affected sounds, whereas the former does not. Moreover, the push chain model would appear to demand spontaneous devoicing of the PIE voiced stops, even though this would represent, improbably enough, a variety of unconditioned fortition. Yet this reveals little, since the Gmc. shift in consonant values almost certainly was not as simple as either model suggests (see n. 2), and the precise values of the PIE obstruents involved cannot be determined.3

It should be observed that whereas a push chain demands simultaneous shifting of all affected phonemes, a drag chain allows the relevant shifts to have occurred over perhaps a considerable period of time. This suggests a possible source of dating evidence. Yet as Prokosch (1939: §17) remarks,

The only concrete arguments consist in loan words and proper names, but the dating of the former is generally uncertain, and the possibility of sound substitution exists in both types of words. E.g., names like Cimbri, Teutones, with L[at]. c t for Germanic spirants, do not indicate that the consonant shift had not yet taken place at the time of the Cimbrian migration; rather, these consonants are either Roman or Celtic substitutions.4

Yet Prokosch’s own idea (so, earlier, e.g., Hirt 1931–4: I, §65) that borrowings like Go. Krēks (Lat. Graecus) and Go. päída ‘coat’ (Gk. βαίνη) show devoicing to have occurred late in the shift faces similar objections.5 Even so, estimates of the date of the shift, which rely on evidence such as this, vary widely, from the second millennium BCE (so Kluge 1913: §33 Anm. 1) to the end of the first century BCE (so Euler & Badenheuer 2009: 64–73). The commonest view is that the shift is to be dated to the first millennium BCE, perhaps toward its middle.6

Given the reconstruction of the PIE consonants represented above (§6.1), Grimm’s law should be assumed to antecede Verner’s law, hence, e.g., PIE t > PGmc. þ > ð, as otherwise the unlikely sequence of development would be PIE t > dh > ð. Alternative arguments mostly depend upon one or another version of the glottalic theory (§6.2),7 and although it must be conceded that the phonological motivation for Grimm’s law is hard to discern under the standard reconstruction of the PIE obstruent inventory,
no version of the glottalic theory yet proposed is cogent enough, nor is the the problem exigent enough, to compel credence. Verner’s law is further to be dated prior to the PGmc. accent shift (§2.2).\textsuperscript{8,9}

1. Or, regrettably, ‘pull chains’. The two types are not equally credited in the literature: “Drag chains are supported by a good deal of empirical evidence, in terms of observable sequences of events. No such empirical support seems to exist for push chains” (Hock 1986: §8.4). There is, however, good evidence that the Great Vowel Shift of English unfolded in push-chain fashion: see Lass 1999: 74–7.

2. It may seem absurd to suppose that /t/ would spontaneously change to /d/ in all environments, given that phonemic systems are sets of structured oppositions. Rather, since voicing of stops is a common sort of lenition, it may be supposed that in such a development /t/ is voiced in leniting environments, and conditions in the system of consonants are such as to prompt the opposed phoneme /d/ to undergo development to a fricative in order to prevent loss of phonemic contrast in just those same environments, resulting eventually in its change to a fricative in other environments. Likewise, the idea of a sound leaving a gap to be filled in a drag chain is difficult to reconcile with the insight that phonemes are sets of sounds defined by their opposition to other sets rather than sounds delimited on an absolute basis. Chain shifts cannot be the seemingly simple, straightforward developments described here, since they involve changes not in simple sounds but in systems of sounds, i.e. phonemes comprising perhaps numerous allophones. They thus are not likely to represent wholesale, uniform shifting of all allophonic values but piecemeal redistribution of allophones. But specifics of this kind in a change as historically remote as the First Sound Shift are irrecoverable. On the mechanisms of the First (and, in some cases, Second, §6.21) Sound Shift, in which aspiration is generally thought to have played a crucial role, see further Fourquet 1948, Schrödt 1989, Draye 1990a, Lauttamus 1992, Paddock 1996–7, Goblirsch 2005: 18–101, idem 2015, with further references.

3. See the remarks in §6.4. As an illustration of the difference that precise specification makes, note that Prokosch’s analysis (1939: §16), derived from Grimm’s, relies upon the supposition that the PIE voiced aspirates were actually fricatives—though it is implausible that such should have developed to murmured stops in Indic.

4. Prokosch’s remarks here effectively undermine the arguments of Euler & Badenheuer (2009: 13, 66–7) and Euler (2013: 50) for a late dating of the change of voiceless stops to fricatives. Cf. Mottausch 2015: 285, objecting that if these names contained unshifted consonants, the First Sound Shift would have to be dated improbably late.

5. It is possible that PGmc. had no voiced stops in initial or intervocalic position, only voiced fricatives, and thus, voiceless stops were adopted as nearest equivalents. See further Kluge 1913: §33, Hirt 1931–4: 1, §65.


8. See Polomé 1987b: 219–20, with refs. On alternatives to this analysis, see §2.2 n. 2; also Vykypleľ 2001.

9. Ringe (2017: 125, 234) would date Verner’s law after the PGmc. loss of final non-high vowels on the basis of its failure to apply in Go. OHG ans < *unswe. But it is difficult to believe that the loss of final vowels did not postdate the change of the PIE pitch accent to the Gmc. stress accent, and regardless of the nature of the PGmc. accent at the time Verner’s law applied (see §6.6), it is hard to countenance the supposition that a final syllable bearing the accent would have been lost.

6.8 Geminates in Proto-Germanic

In general, geminate consonants were rare in PIE, arising only on a morphological basis when a suffix began with the same consonant that ended the preceding morpheme.
Geminates that arose this way appear usually to have been simplified, for example 2 sg. pres. ind. *ʰes-sti ‘are’ > *esi > Skt. ásti, Gk. εἶ.

An exception is -tt-, which arose by the addition of a t-suffix to a form ending in t or d. The resulting tt is usually said to have developed to ttt (or ttt-) in PIE. It is reflected as tt in Skt., ts > ss in Celtic, st in most other IE languages (including Avestan), but ss in Latin and Gmc., and in Gmc. it is degeminated to s after a long vowel, a diphthong, or a consonant. Examples: PIE *mit-to- > *mit-tō- ‘mis’ in Go.

### §6.8 Geminates in Proto-Germanic

- **OLcel.** OE OS mis-, OHG missu-, missi- (OIr. mi-, mis(s)-; cf. OHG mīdan ‘avoid’ < *mīdan-< *meið-on-); PIE *yid-tō-s (> *yīt-tōs) ‘seen’ in Skt. vittāḥ, Gk. αἰτος, Lat. visus (with analogical lengthening), OE OS wiss, OHG gi-wissi ‘certain’ (cf. the degemination in OE wīse, OHG wīsa ‘manner’ < *yēid-tō-); PIE *sed-t- in Skt. sattāḥ ‘seated’, Lat. sessiō ‘session’, Olcel. OE sess ‘seat’. Forms that arose early in PGmc. are treated similarly, e.g., to the pret.-pres. verb Go. wāt ‘knows’ (etc.), pret. Go. OS OHG wissa, Olcel. vissa, OE wisse (beside wiste, with analogical re-addition of the dental suffix). Naturally, as the last example shows, irregularities created by this change are frequently removed on the basis of analogy, e.g., beside Olcel. hlass ‘cart-load’ (cf. hlōda ‘lade’ < PIE *klh₂-tō-), OE hlæst, OHG (h)last, with re-addition of the abstract-forming suffix seen in OE forst, frost ‘frost’ (cf. frēosan ‘freeze’) and cost ‘choice’ (cf. cēosan ‘choose’). Similarly, PIE *tś yields Gmc. s(s), as in Greek and Latin. Examples: PIE *-bhudh- + -s- > PGmc. *-but-s- > -bus- in Go. ana-busns ‘command’ (cf. ana-biudan ‘command’ and -sn- in ga-rēhsns ‘appointed time’ beside rahnjan ‘count’); PIE *hrudh- + -s- > PGmc. *rutsman- > OHG rossomo ‘rust’ (cf. Gk. ἐρευνῶ, Lat. rubor ‘redness’).

There is a tendency in Gmc. for assimilation to occur in consonant groups containing a sonorant consonant, giving rise to new geminate sonorants ll, nn, mm, and perhaps rr.


#### Gmc. nn. PIE *-mg- develops to Gmc. -nn-, as in PGmc. *punw- > Olcel. punnr, but ja-stems OE þynne, OHG dunni ‘thin’ (cf. Lat. tenuis, with full grade); PGmc. *manw- > Go. manna, OE OS OHG man(n) ‘person’ (cf. Skt. mānu- ‘person’). Verbs with an n-suffix are a notable source: PGmc. *brinnwana- > Go. OS OHG brinnan, Olcel. brinna, OE beornan, birman ‘burn’ (cf. Lat. sēreō ‘boil, seethe’, without infix); PGmc. *rinwanana- > Go. OS OHG rinnan ‘run’ (cf. Skt. pṛṇāti, pṛṇāti ‘moves’). Go. kunnan, Olcel. kunna, etc. ‘know’ perhaps shows a geminate as the result of infixation of n in a stem already containing n, assuming PIE *gṇh₂-n- (so Pokorny 1959–69: I, 376; cf. §6.3 supra). PGmc. *-zn- also develops to -nn-, though never in Gothic: PGmc. *razna*
‘house’ > Go. razn, Olcel. rann, OE arn; PGmc. *twiznaz > Olcel. twinnr, tvennr, OE twinn ‘twofold, twin’ (cf. Lat. bīnī < *dīsnōj); perhaps the PGmc. suffix *-aznō, *-anō, as in Go. hla白斑nōs ‘graves’, arhazna ‘arrow’; if this is reflected in OE byrgēn(n) ‘grave’; probably *lizn- is a WGmc. innovation in OE leornian, OFris. lerna, lira, OS līnōn, OHG līnēn, lernēn ‘learn’. NWGmc. -nn- can also result from the loss of an intervening consonant, as in OHG zannēn ‘bare one’s teeth’ (< *tanb-n-; cf. zand ‘tooth’) and OE sinnan ‘mind, heed’, OHG fir-sinnan ‘recover one’s senses’ < *sinb-n- (cf. Lat. sentīō ‘perceive’).

**Gmc. mm.** The securest source of -mm- is PGmc. *zm-, as in Go. dat. sg. þamma (cf. Skt. tāsmāi) and Go. im ‘am’ < *imm(i) < PIE *hēs-mi.² Probably *mz- had the same result, as in OS thimm < *pimz- (cf. Lith. tamsūs ‘dark’). There is assimilation of *-mn- to -mm- in OE hamm, OHG hamma ‘ham’ (cf. PIE *knehṃ-m- in Gk. κυψή ‘shank’, Ofr. cnāim ‘bone’). Possibly PIE *-bn- develops to Gmc. -mm-, as in Olcel. dammr ‘dam’, Go. fār-dammjan ‘dam up’ (cf. Olcel. dapi ‘puddle’ (nickname), OHG tapfar ‘heavy’, OCS debelb ‘thick’; Schröder 1898: 66).

**Gmc. rr.** Germanic -rr- is found in all the early Gmc. languages, including Go. (gairrrus ‘gentle’, andstairrran ‘murmur against’, fārrra ‘far off’), but there is no consensus about its source. To judge by some doublets, *-rn- is a source: compare OE steorra, OS OHG sterro : Go. stārnō, Olcel. stjarra, OHG sterno ‘star’; also Go. fārrra, OHG ferro ‘far off’; Go. færneis, OHG firi ‘old’. It may be that -rr- arose under Kluge’s law (see below), yet the exceptions are so much more numerous than examples of -rr- (Go. fairrrus ‘thorn’, barn ‘child’ gairrrjan ‘desire’, kairrn ‘grain’, hairrn ‘horn’, etc.) that suspicions about this explanation are natural.

On the gemination of glides due to the Verschärfung, see §6.10.

1. Kögel (1880: 196) argues that such instances of st for expected ss result from placement of the PIE accent on the preceding vowel, though this can hardly be proved, and the phonological motivation is difficult to discern. See Kluge 1886: 150, and for an exhaustive treatment of the subject, Görzten 1998. Krahe & Meid (1969: III, §128.2) prefer to see an opposition like Olcel. klāss : OE blass as due to an original difference in suffixation, though they admit the possibility of analogical readoption of the s-suffix. Ringe (2017: 247–8) suggests a separate sound change of PGmc. dental +t to st. Other instances of -tt- that arose in Gmc. (§6.9) remain as such. See the lengthy discussion in Hill 2003: 78–217.

2. The idea of Hirt (1931–4: I, §75.4) that *-sm- might also have produced -mm- is contradicted by OE bōs(um), OFris. bōs(e)m, OS bōsom, OHG bōsum ‘bosom’ < *bōsmaz; OE frōsm ‘vapor’, besma ‘broom’, etc., though, to be sure, these could be WGmc. innovations. Certainly, *-ms- did not yield -mm-: cf. Dutch dizig ‘cloudy, dark’ < *pimzig- : OS thimm < *pimz-.

### 6.9 Geminate obstruents and Kluge’s law

In addition to the geminate resonants (and ss) discussed above, geminate obstruents are well attested in all the early Gmc. languages except for Gothic, where examples are few and almost certainly not derived directly from PIE: aside from personal names in historical records, the instances are just sakkus ‘sack’ (of Semitic origin, probably borrowed from Greek, though elsewhere in Gmc. borrowed from Lat. saccus; see the OED), smakka ‘fig’ (surely a loan; cf. OCS smokva), atta ‘father’ (a hypocorism, probably borrowed (Gk. ἄττα, Lat. atta); cf. the derivative Attila), and skatts ‘money’ (OE sceatt, NHG Schatz; a concept not native to the early Gmc. economy,¹ and so most likely borrowed, though the source is unknown: see Orel 2003: 336, and cf. OCS skotts ‘herded animal’).² It is thus difficult to disagree with the assessment of Prokosch (1939:...
§6.9 Geminate obstruents and Kluge’s law

§31a): “there is no Gothic evidence for the Gmc. lengthening of stops.” Voiceless geminate stops are not uncommon in the other Gmc. languages, and Kluge (1884) explains the majority of them as due to assimilation of a following n contained in an accented nasal suffix, as in these examples of n-stem nouns and verbs assumed originally to have borne a nasal suffix *-néhr₃ (as in Skt. grhbh₃nati ‘seizes’ *₃ghṛbh-nēhr₃ti: see §12.3):  

Olcel. ruppa, MLG roppen, OHG ropfōn ‘pluck’ < PIE *rup-nēh₂, as in Lat. rumpō ‘break’

OE læppa ‘lappend, piece, lobe’, OFris. lappa, OS lappo ‘cloth, rag’ < PIE *lob-nēhr₃ (cf. Gk. λοφός ‘lobe’)

ME lappen ‘lap’ (verb) < PIE *labh-nēhr₃, as in Lat. lambō ‘lick’ (cf. Gk. λαφύσσω ‘devour’ < *labh-)

OE cnotta ‘knot’ < PIE *gnu-t-nēhr₃; cf. OHG knodo ‘knob’ < Pgmc. *knufan-; also Lith. gnitūtō ‘squeeze, clutch’

OHG krazzōn ‘scratch’ < PIE *grod-nēhr₃; cf. Olcel. krota ‘engrave’ < *grod-

Possibly OE hettan ‘scalp’ < PIE *khydh-nēhr₃; cf. OE hōd ‘hood’

Possibly OE friecc(e)a ‘herald’, jan-stem reformed from PIE *prek-nēhr₃; cf. Go. fraihnan ‘ask’

OE faccian ‘pat’ < PIE *tag-nēhr₃; cf. Lat. tangō ‘touch’

OS likkon ‘lück’ < PIE *ligh-nēhr₃, as in Gk. ἱερέω, Lat. lingō ‘lick’

By contrast, when the accent precedes the PIE obstruent there is no assimilation. Probable examples, given their e-grade vocalism, are Olcel. regn ‘rain’, svefn ‘sleep’, OE þegn ‘thegn’. Although much analogical disruption must be assumed, Kluge’s findings also provide a means of accounting for the cooccurrence of the stems *obh- and *upp- (the latter, strikingly, unreflected in Gothic) in certain forms derived from prepositions, e.g. OS adv. oban(a), uppan, OHG obana, ûffana ‘above’ (cf. Gk. ὑπό ‘under’), due ultimately to variation in the ablative suffix *-an- (Kroonen 2011: 82–92). As the examples above illustrate, *tt arising in this fashion did not develop to Gmc. ss, as PIE *tt did (§6.8).

It will be noted that the etymologies of these words with geminate oral stops are not nearly as secure as those of some of the geminate sonorant consonants examined above. Accordingly, scholarly opinions about the validity of Kluge’s explanation diverge widely: e.g., Prokosch calls it “the standard view” (1939: §22), whereas Ringe says that the idea is “doubtful at best” (2006a: 115; cf. Ringe 2017: 136–40, rejecting it altogether). The commonest explanation for such geminates is that they are expressive in origin (so, e.g., Trautmann 1906, Fagan 1989), and indeed, geminates are very common in hypocorisms (e.g. OE Ćēol(l)a for Ćēol(-mund, -noph, etc.) and Ėad(d)a for Æad(-red, -weard, etc.)) and in intensive and iterative verbs, e.g. OHG tocchōn ‘exert oneself’, broeccōn ‘crumble’, zwecchōn ‘seize, pluck’ (cf. zwigōn ‘pluck’), etc. Of expressive origin appear to be diminutives in reference to animals, e.g. OE ticcen, OHG zicchī, zikkīn ‘kid’ (cf. OHG ziga ‘goat’) and Olcel. krabbī, OE crabba, MLG krabbe ‘crab’ (cf. OHG crebīz). But the categories in which an ablauting n-suffix most commonly appears, n-stem nouns and certain weak verbs, are also the categories in which expressivity might most be expected to have played a role, since hypocorisms are generally n-stems, and weak verbs in general are commonly intensive or iterative. Much then depends upon examples in which expressivity must be excluded as an explanation, such as the doublet OS oban(a), uppan ‘above’, which are infrequent and resistant to explanation on a purely phonological basis, since much analogical change must be assumed. Still, the expressive basis for gemination in many n-stem nouns and
weak verbs is difficult to perceive (e.g. OE cnotta ‘knot’ and læppa ‘lobe’; Lühr 1988 collects examples), and in view of such instances, the degree to which NWGmc. forms with geminate obstruents are to be found in n-stem nouns and in verbs (presumably) with n-suffix, as predicted by Kluge, is impressive. Thus, although Kluge’s account demands much conjecture, it cannot justly be called improbable, and in fact in some instances it does seem the most plausible explanation.

Yet even if Kluge’s account is admitted, significant problems remain. Given the reconstruction of the PIE obstruents represented above (§6.1), it is difficult to see why the voiced aspirates should have been devoiced only when geminated. To explain this it has been proposed that Kluge’s law applied before the devoicing of voiced stops under Grimm’s law (so already Kluge 1884: 172 and, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §22, Lühr 1980: 259, Scheungraber 2014: 133, assuming that devoicing of the PIE voiced stops was the final development in the consonant shift, and the other changes under Grimm’s law preceded the application of Kluge’s law), and thus, for example, there was the development PIE *ghn after unaccented vowel > *gg (Kluge’s law) > *kk (Grimm’s law). It was pointed out above (§6.7) that the devoicing of PIE voiced stops under a push chain analysis of Grimm’s law is difficult to account for; the same must be said of voiced geminates in either a push chain or a drag chain. The identical treatment under Kluge’s law of PGmc. voiced fricatives whether derived from PIE voiced aspirates or from voiceless stops (i.e., under Verner’s law) has been taken as evidence that Verner’s law antecedes both Kluge’s and Grimm’s laws (so Kortlandt 1991), though this requires an alternative reconstruction of the PGmc. consonant inventory in line with the glottalic theory (§6.2). Dating Kluge’s law to PGmc. also means that the effects of the law should be evident in Gothic. But it was pointed out above that geminate obstruents are exceedingly few in Gothic and are found probably only in borrowed words and in names; moreover, although some counterexamples to the law in Gothic are likely to show root accent, in others this is not so plain, e.g. aúhns ‘oven’ (cf. Gk. ἵπνος ‘oven’, and see Orel 2003: 433, Casaretto 2004: 325–6).

If Kluge’s law is to be credited, it should be assumed that when a geminate arose after a long vowel or a diphthong, it was degeminated. This, after all, is what happened to geminates that arose by other means, e.g. Go. un-weis ‘unlearned’, OE OS OHG wīs ‘wise’ < *yeid-to- and OHG pret. muosa ‘must’ < *mōssa < PGmc. *mōs-t-. This assumption allows it to be explained why certain Gmc. voiceless stops correspond to the reflexes of PIE voiced aspirates (rather than non-aspirates) or voiceless stops in other IE languages. Kluge’s examples (1884: 182–4) include Go. hreits, Olcel. hvitr (etc.) ‘white’, as if from PIE *kyeit-nó- (cf. Skt. svētā-, svitna-, svītyna- ‘white’); others proposed include OE tēcån ‘teach’ beside Go. tākn, Olcel. teikna, OE tǣcån, OHG ziehinen ‘show’ (cf. Gk. δείκνῡμι ‘show’) and OE sceap, OS skāp, OHG scāf ‘sheep’ (cf. PGmc. *skab- in Go. OHG skaban, Olcel. skafa (etc.) ‘shave, shear’). Some of these examples, however, demand the assumption that Kluge’s law applied in PGmc., with later elimination of its effects in Gothic.

Voiced geminates in Gmc. are less frequent, e.g. OE frogga ‘frog’, docga ‘dog’, sceacga ‘rough hair’; Kluge (1884: 176–7) explains them as having arisen on an analogical basis, by contamination of stems in alternation like *knaba- ~ *knappa-.

1. See Tacitus, Germania v, xv.
3. Marchand (1957c) offers cogent arguments against assigning this change to the PGmc. period. For attempts to establish that Kluge’s law is a PGmc. phenomenon and that the geminates it produced were later mostly eliminated in Gothic, or simply not represented in the Gothic Bible, see Kroonen 2011: 110–12, Scheungraber 2014: 139–42.

4. Kluge’s assumption is that in the n-stems gemination would have occurred in the weakest cases, i.e. those with zero grade of the *-en- suffix (gen. sg., acc. pl. (?)), and gen. pl. in PIE, though traces of zero grade in the suffix in Gmc. are found only in the gen. pl.: §§7.30–1. For bibliography, see Lühr 1988, Kroonen 2011.

5. Lühr (1988) classifies the verbs not as nasal presents but as factitives based on verbal adjectives in PIE *-no-; see also West 1990. The nouns are surveyed by Kroonen (2011), the verbs by Scheungraber (2014: 129–58, 277–82), the latter of whom (170–2, with refs. to earlier literature) concludes that derivation from verbal adjectives is untenable, and only derivation from verbs with nasal suffix may be credited.

6. For a glottalic approach to expressive gemination, see Hopper 1990.

7. Note that on this reasoning it must be assumed that PIE gh developed to PGmc. g (rather than ʒ) not just after n but also before it, though Kluge (1884: 175) would have the stop articulation develop after the rise of the geminates. For counterarguments to Kluge’s ordering of Grimm’s and Verner’s laws, see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 512–14.

6.10 The Verschärfung

The Germanic languages show reflexes of what would appear to have been geminate glides *jj, ww/ after a short vowel in some words in which extra-Germanic cognates show non-geminates, e.g. OHG zweitō ‘of two’ beside Skt. dváyōḥ. In North Germanic the geminates developed to ⟨ggj, ggv⟩, respectively, and in Gothic to ⟨ddj, ggw⟩, as in ON tveggja, Go. twaddjē ‘of two’ < *twajj-. Further examples:¹

With *jj:

Go. daddjan, Old Swedish dæggja ‘suckle’; cf. Skt. dhāyati ‘sucks’.
Olcel. Frigg (name of deity), OHG Frīja; cf. Skt. priyā- ‘loved one’.
Go. -waddjus, Olcel. veggr, OE wāg, wǣg ‘wall’; cf. Skt. vāyati ‘weaves’.

With *ww:

Olcel. byggja, byggva ‘settle’; cf. Skt. bhāvati ‘becomes’.
Go. glaggwō ‘meticulously’, Olcel. glogggr, gōggr, OE glēaw, OS glau, OHG glauwēr ‘clear-sighted’; cf. Olr. gliuair (< *ghley-ri-) ‘clear, bright’.
Olcel. hōggva, OE hēawan, OS hauwan, OHG hōwan ‘hew’; cf. Lith. kāju, kőviau, káuti ‘hit’

The two processes, of gemination in Germanic and of the development of obstruents in North and East Germanic, are both referred to indifferently as ‘the Verschärfung’; the older term ‘Holtzmann’s law’ (after Holtzmann 1835: 862, 1836, 1870: 29, 42–3, 109) is now rarely encountered. In what follows, the gemination will be examined first, then the development of obstruents.

1. The gemination appears not to have affected every intervocalic glide after a stressed vowel: to Olcel. Frigg (name) cf. Go. frijōn ‘love’, and to hōggva cf. Go. hawi ‘hay’; cf. also the class of words like OS treo ‘tree’, dat. trewe in West Germanic (Olcel. tre). Three chief kinds of explanations for the gemination have been offered: (a) accentual; (b) laryngeal; (c) morphological.² No explanation has yet been generally agreed upon, but the laryngeal account currently enjoys the most favor. All explanations face the difficulty that secure etymologies for the relevant words are not numerous.
(a) Early attempts at explanation, influenced by the explanatory success of Verner’s law, appealed to the position of the PIE accent, as Holtzmann himself had supposed. Most such attempts argued that the change was conditioned by a following accented syllable (Bechtel 1885; Trautmann 1906, 1925; Mikkola 1924; Hirt 1931–4: 1.113), though Kluge (1879: 127–30, 1913) argued for a preceding accent. Uncertainty about the place of the accent, combined with the failure of any alternation in regard to the gemination in Go. strong verbs like bliggwan, blaggw, bluggwum, bluggwans, in which the place of the accent ought to have varied, eventually brought scholars to reject such explanations.\(^3\) Subsequent attempts to relate the phenomenon to the Germanic and/or the PIE accent have been sporadic and have not won acceptance.\(^4\)

(b) H.L. Smith (1941) was the first to relate the gemination to PIE laryngeal consonants, and the idea has subsequently evolved in several different directions. The precise role of any laryngeal involved is a matter of disagreement: some, with Smith (and see esp. Lehmann 1952: 63 and Davis & Iverson 1996b), see it as lengthening an adjacent glide due to assimilation of the laryngeal (a change which Lindeman 1964 would date to the PIE period; cf. Beekes 1972), whereas others see the laryngeal as leaving a hiatus upon its disappearance, to be filled in Germanic by a homorganic glide.\(^5\) A particular disagreement concerns whether the laryngeal must follow the glide (so Jasanoff 1978a) or precede it (so Polomé 1949, 1959, 1970),\(^6\) or whether either arrangement is allowable (so in part Lehmann 1952: 36–46). This particular uncertainty has occasioned some heavy criticism of laryngeal approaches (see esp. Beekes 1972), a situation that Jasanoff’s (1978a, supported by Rasmussen 1990) aims to set right by assuming that laryngeal plus glide could undergo metathesis. While Jasanoff’s seems the best laryngeal analysis, its chief demerit is that it requires a great deal of analogical interference in order for the phonological rule to apply regularly, especially in regard to the metathetic process and the formation of stems in *-uw-, as in OIcel. pp. brugginn ‘brewed’. Moreover, the word with the plainest etymology, OIcel. tveggja, proves an ill match with any laryngeal hypothesis: Jasano’s (1978a, in reliance upon Lühr 1976: 73) would derive it from a PIE gen. dual *duoj-Hoy (not his notation), but Rasmussen (1990: 436–7) points out that the ending *-Hoy is locative rather than genitive. For counterarguments to laryngeal explanations, see van Coetsem 1949, Zgusta 1955: 198–201, Beekes 1972, Voyles 1989b: 23–32, Polomé 1994: 21–4.

(c) A morphological solution is proposed by Kuryłowicz (1967, Kuryłowicz et al. 1968–2015: 2.329–33), whereby a form like CuwV-, conceived as a reduced grade of CeuV- under Edgerton’s formulation of Sievers’ law (§5.8) or as due to loss of a laryngeal consonant in CuHV-, was given an analogically induced new full grade CeuV-. Another morphological explanation\(^7\) ascribes the gemination to paradigm regularization, whereby an alternation between diphthongal forms like masc. nom. *twai, dat. *twaimiz and non-diphthongal gen. *twajôn resulted in the extension of the diphthong in the former to the latter, giving *twaijôn. This process is paralleled at a later date in OE nouns with diphthongal stems, where alternation between nom. *peu > þōo ‘servant’ with gen. *þewas > *þewes resulted in extension of the diphthong of the former to the latter and of the w of the latter to the former, giving nom. þōow, gen. þōowes. This accounts well for verbs with Verschärfung, given original alternations like inf. *brequana ‘brew’ beside 1 & 3 sg. pret. *brau, but it is more speculative as an explanation for some nouns, such as OIcel. hǫgg ‘blow’ and OE treow, which must be regarded as analogical to related verbs or as due to change of inflectional class. An advantage of morphological solutions is that the Verschärfung appears to be too irregular to be the
result of phonological change. A more concrete advantage is that since “the dismantling of geminates is a very unusual change (apparently violating the Obligatory Contour Principle)” (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 65–6), it seems more plausible to suppose that WGmc. reflects the original situation, with a diphthong before a glide (i.e., the Verschärfung is not the result of gemination), and East and North Gmc. have innovated, turning a sequence like *-aij- into *-ajj-. That WGmc. did not undergo the same change is perhaps not unrelated to the facts of WGmc. consonant gemination (§6.15).

It should be noted that a number of forms with */jj/ can be explained as due to suffixation, e.g. weak Go. daddjan ‘suckle’ < * dai-j-ana and OlCelt. Frigg < * frij-jō < * frij-jō: see Voyles 1989b, Rasmussen 1990. This lends support to the just-remarked evidence that the WGmc. situation is more original.

2. The second stage of the Verschärfung, represented by the rise of obstruents in North and East Germanic, has occasioned controversy about both (a) the phonetic values of the new obstruents and (b) the motivation for the change:

(a) It is debated whether Go. -ddj- and OlCelt. -ggj- might represent the same sequence of sounds (presumably involving a palatal stop), a matter that is related to the question whether the second phase of the Verschärfung comprises independent developments in East and North Germanic (the usual assumption: see, e.g., Cathey 1970, Markey 1988b: 322, H.P. Petersen 2002) or a change that took place either before the separation of the two branches (so Davis & Iverson 1996b) or at a stage of greater proximity between the two (see Suzuki 1991b). These two sequences of sounds are usually assumed to represent a (geminate) stop followed by a glide (see, e.g., Y. Tanaka 1970), though Hammerich (1955: 178) argues that at least originally the fortition of [jː] resulted in [dʒ], somewhat as Latin [j] developed to Italian [dʒ], regardless of what Go. -ddj- and OlCelt. -ggj- might actually represent. As for Gothic -ggw-, it has been debated whether -gg- here might not represent [ŋg], as elsewhere (so Marchand 1959: 442, 1973: 56–7, Bennett 1964, Snædal 2011; but see Brosman 1971 for counterevidence), though it is usually assumed to represent [gː] in products of the Verschärfung.

(b) As for the motivation for the East and North Germanic developments, Polomé (1949) argues that the sound(s) represented by 〈gg〉 developed when the accent inherited from PIE was on the following vowel, as with Verner’s law. Rasmussen (1989; see also Rowe 2003) posits a PGmc. development of [jj] and [ww] to [jxi] and [wiy], with subsequent loss of the fricative in West Germanic; and indeed, several analyses posit a fricative at least at an intermediate stage. Davis & Iverson (1996b) instead suppose that at the time it was lost, the laryngeal left its place to be filled by a glide, and at the same time its feature [consonantal] spread to the preceding glide, producing a stop. The West Germanic languages suggest instead that stop articulation is not to be traced to Proto-Germanic, as do some early Germanic loan-words in Finnish and the word niuwila in runes on the fifth-century Naessbjærg bracteate (see, e.g., Marchand 1973: 87, Koivulehto 1977).
4. See van Coetsen 1949, Y. Tanaka 1970. Some of the laryngeal explanations referred to under (b) also invoke accentual support.

5. So Jasanoft 1978a, Polomé 1988: 404–5, Suzuki 1991b; see also Cathey 1970: 57, and see Müller 2007: 91–2 for discussion. Whether loss of the laryngeal without automatic lengthening of the glide would produce an impossible syllable structure (see Davis & Iverson 1996b) is debatable, as it may be assumed that the vowel plus glide sequence of PIE produced a Gmc. diphthong before the loss of the laryngeal.

6. This raises the problem that the sequence *-VHR- is commonly thought to be reflected as -VRI- in Germanic. Analyses of this kind thus usually appeal to the placement of the accent to distinguish forms with and without Verschärfung.

7. See Fulk 1993b. A somewhat different analysis of a few forms as due to paradigm regularization is offered by Voyles (1989b: 27–8).

6.11 Further consonant changes common to all the Germanic languages

PGmc. *-m-ð- > -nd-, as in PIE *kúmtó- ‘hundred’ > PGmc. *xumða- > Go. OE OS hund, OHG hunt; Go. Olcel. OE sund ‘swimming’ (cf. OE swimman); PGmc. *skam-dô ‘disgrace’ > Go. skanda, OE sc(e)and, OHG scanta (cf. Go. skaman ‘be ashamed’).

With the devoicing of PIE voiced stops under Grimm’s law, an immediately preceding z was devoiced to s, as in OE OHG nest < PIE *ni-zd-os (> Lat. nūdus ‘nest’, with zero grade of the PIE root *sed- ‘sit’) and Go. asts, OHG ast ‘bough’ = Gk. ὀζός, Armenian ast ‘bough’ < PIE *h₂σ-zd-os (again from *sed-). Before the reflex of a PIE voiced aspirated stop, however, PGmc. z remained, developing for the most part to r outside of Gothic (§6.6), as in *kuzdh- > Go. huzd, OE OS hord, OHG hort ‘hoard’; *mizdhó- > Go. mizdô, OE merord (but also mēd, with ṝ₂ (§3.5))1 ‘reward’ (cf. Avestan mīz-d-, OCS mźda ‘reward’, Gk. μυσθός ‘recompense’); *mozghʷ- ‘marrow’ > Olcel. mergr, OE merhr, OS OHG marg (cf. Avestan mazga-, OCS mozgъ).

PGmc. w was lost (and ḫʷ delabialized, if it had not already developed to kw in PGmc., §§6.5 ad fin., 6.11) before u, as in Go. niu̯ ‘n’ < *niwun < PIE *néy-, (cf. Skt. náva, Lat. novem). PGmc. *swum-ð-aître > Olcel. OE sund ‘swimming’ and *kʷumana- > Olcel. koma, OE cuman, OS kuman ‘come’. An exception is when w is initial, as in Go. wulla ‘wool’. But w could be restored to reduce paradigm allomorphy, e.g. Go. pret. swultun (inf. swilton ‘die’), pret. qumun (inf. qiman ‘come’), OE pp. swungen beside sungen (inf. swingen ‘beat’).

PGmc. antevocalic x may have become h in initial position already in PGmc. (so, e.g., Ringe 2006a: 215; otherwise Ringe 2017: 244), since it is nowhere reflected as [x].2 However, initial xʷ- is unlikely to have become hʷ- in PGmc., given its fortition to [kv] in Modern Icelandic and Faroese, and given medieval Scottish and northern English spellings like quh-, quh-, chu-, and similar, usually interpreted as representing [xw]. On the PGmc. loss of η before x, with compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel, see §4.1.

All PIE final consonants after an unstressed vowel in a word of more than one syllable were lost in PGmc. except for s/z and r. Examples of obstructive loss are thus limited to dental consonants, since no other obstruents but s occurred finally in PIE polysyllables. The loss may be illustrated in Gothic: PIE *bhidh-út > bidun ‘awaited’ (3 pl. pret. ind.); opt. *bheðl̝-o-i-h-t > beıdai (3 sg. pres. sj.; cf. 2 sg. *-o-i-h-s > -dęs); PIE abl. *kʷotë-r̝d > huadër̝ ‘whither’; PIE *nepō-t > OE nefā, OS nebo, OHG nefo ‘nephew, grandson’ (cf. Skt. nápāt ‘descendant’). For examples of the treatment of final s/z and r, see §5.2 and see below, §6.16, on s/z in West Germanic.3 A final nasal consonant
Further changes common to Germanic

was also lost in PGmc., with nasalization of the preceding vowel, which in some cases resulted in different treatment of the resulting nasalized and non-nasalized vowels: see, e.g., §4.8. Before their loss, however, all final nasal consonants became n, as shown by instances in which a final particle was added, leading to preservation of n, as in acc. sg. masc. Go. þana, OE þone ‘the, that’ > PIE *tom (as in Skt. tām, to sā, Lat. is-tum) plus particle -a < PGmc. *-ōn. The loss of a final nasal consonant is attested in a variety of morphological categories, including the acc. sg. of all genders, nom. sg. neuter, gen. pl. of all genders, nom. sg. of n-stems, and the 1 sg. pres. and pret. sj. of verbs.

As for monosyllables, a final nasal in a monosyllable was lost only after a long vowel: to Go. ħvan, OS ħwan ‘when’ (= Lat. cum, Old Lat. quom) cf. acc. sg. fem. Go. þō, Olcel. þā, OE þā ‘the, this’ (= Skt. tām, Gk. ἥν). An oral dental consonant was also preserved at the end of a monosyllable, at least after a short vowel, as in Go. Olcel. OS at, OE æt, OHG az ‘at’ (cf. Lat. ad) and Olcel. hvat, OE hwæt, OS hwat, OHG (h)waz ‘what’ (cf. Lat. quod; but cf. Go. hva, on which see §8.13). It cannot in fact be said with assurance that any final consonant was lost in monosyllables, except n after a long vowel. Yet Go. swa ‘so, thus’ and its Gmc. cognates are perhaps to be derived from *syōd (Orel 2003: 398): cf. Old Lat. suad ‘thus’.

Insertion of a transitional consonant between certain sounds may ease articulation, and the process may be instigated by changes in the articulation of PIE sounds due to substrate influence (§1.5). PIE *sr, when not affected by Verner’s law, develops to Gmc. str, as in some other IE languages, including the Slavic branch. Examples: PIE *sroum– > Olcel. straumn, OE strēam, OS strōm, OHG strüm ‘stream’ (cf. Gk. ἱεῦμα ‘stream’, OIr. sruiaim ‘river’); OE Æastron ‘Easter’ (cf. Lith. aušrą ‘dawn’, Skt. usrā- ‘matutinal’); possibly Go. swistar, Olcel. systir, etc. ‘sister’ (cf. Skt. svāsār-, weak stem svasar-, Lat. sōror; see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 515). Similarly, *mr may develop to mbr, as in Go. timbrjan (beside more usual timrjan), Olcel. timbra, OE timbran, OS timbrian, OHG zimberen ‘build’ (cf. Gk. ὀξω ‘build’). The reason for the appearance of s and f in forms with the PGmc. suffix *-p-, as in Go. ansts, OE ēst ‘favor’, (cf. OE unnan ‘grant’), OHG kunst ‘art’ (cf. kunnan ‘know’), kunft ‘arrival’, numft ‘robbery’, is not plain (see Hirt 1931–4: 1, §77), but it is probably not due to insertion of a transitional consonant.5

In the cluster mn, the first consonant tends to lose its nasality by dissimilation, though the results are hardly regular, and the reverse change (of bn to mn) is well attested in NWGmc.6 Fairly secure examples include the Go. suffix -ubni ~ -ufni (e.g. witubni ‘knowledge’, wundubni ‘wound’; on the alternation, see §6.12; but to fustubni ‘(observance of) fast’ cf. OE fæstenn, OS fastunnia), comparable to Lat. -umnia (and see further Kluge 1926: §150); OE hefoon, OS heban ‘heaven’ (cf. Go. himins, Olcel. himinn and the alternative stem in l by heteroclisis, OFris. himel, himul, OS OHG himil).

There was probably loss of j between unstressed vowels (except between i and a back vowel: cf. Runic holtjaz), as this assumption best explains the development of weak verbs of classes 2 and 3: see §12.43 and n. 2, §12.47. A fairly convincing example (in an unstressed word) is PIE loc. *ajeri (cf. Avestan ayara ‘day’) > PGmc. *a(j)irij > Go. āir ‘early’. Guðrún Børhallsdóttir (1993) finds that this change affects j even after stressed vowels, as in PIE *ajas- ‘bronze’ > PGmc. *a(j)iz > Go. āiz (1×, for expected *āis, §6.12), Olcel. eir, OE ār, OS OHG ēr; cf. §6.10 on the Verschärfung.
1. Similar loss of ζ, with compensatory lengthening, can be seen in OE τῶν ‘linen’ (cf. NHG Zwirn), OS līnon ‘learn’ (cf. OE lornian, learnian), Middle Dutch hède ‘hards of flax’ (cf. OE heorde), and possibly OE hād-, if it has the meaning ‘hair’ in hād-swēpe ‘bridesmaid’ (cf. Olcel. haddr ‘woman’s hair’ < *hāzôdz, §6.12 infra, and see Holthausen 1974: 143). The alternative results have not been adequately explained; presumably it is the result of paradigm alternation. For further examples, see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 84–5.

2. It is notable that whereas in names in Latin and Greek sources Gmc. initial /x/ is usually represented by Lat. C, Ch, or H, Gk. K or X, as early as the third century there appear forms with vocalic initials, e.g. Asdingi, Αστίγγοι, the name of the Vandalic royal dynasty, Lat. Hasdingi, ON Haddingjar, OE Heardinges (Polomé 1994: 10–11). Ringe (2017: 244) mentions, as evidence for the preservation of initial [x], Frankish names transcribed with Ch- and borrowings into French like flank ‘flank’ < Franconian *xlanK-.

3. An exception to the retention of final ζ is in reflexes of PGmc. *-omiz, appearing in the dat. pl. of a-stems (and the 1 sg. pres. ind. of verbs) as Go. -am (but Runic -umR: see §7.8 ad fin.).

4. Compare the similar, later developments in PDE thimble, bramble, thunder, etc. (OE þymel, brêmel (rarely brenhbl), þunor). See further Ostho₦ in Ostho₦ & Brugmann 1878–1910: V, 125.

5. It may be that interdental þ was assimilated to the point of articulation of the preceding consonant, and the suffix (in the form t after a fricative) re-added.

6. E.g. Olcel. nafn ‘name’: Go. namō and Olcel. safna, samna ‘collect’: saman ‘together’; the etymologies of OE stefn, stemn ‘voice’ (Go. stibna, hræfn, hræmn ‘raven’, and efn, emn ‘even’ (Go. ibns) are rather insecure, though the last is a fairly probable example.

6.12 Consonant changes in Gothic

There is devoicing of Go. final fricatives (final fortiﬁcation, Auslaut(s)verhärtung), as well as of fricatives before final s. Examples: pret. gaf (inf. giban ‘give’), hlāifs ‘loaf’ (gen. hlāibis), pret. bāf (inf. bidjan ‘pray’), gōfs ‘good’ (gen. gōdis), riqis ‘darkness’ (gen. riqizis). Presumably the same change affected g, but it is not expressed in the orthography, no doubt because g and h contrasted in all other environments, whereas other pairs of voiced and voiceless fricatives did not contrast consistently: cf. mag ‘can’, bairgs ‘city’ (not ṭmah, ṭbairhrs). On the basis of non-alternation in forms like pret. -swarb (inf. *-swariban ‘wipe’), halbs ‘half’, waírds ‘word’, alds ‘age’ it may be inferred that voiced fricatives (other than ζ) had become stops after liquid consonants (r, l) in Gothic, as they had in PGmc. after nasals (but cf. 2 sg. þarf, inf. *þairban ‘need’).

Voicing dissimilation affects Go. fricatives in such wise that a suffixal fricative is voiced if the last preceding consonant is voiceless, but devoiced if that preceding consonant is voiced, in a development known as Thurneysen’s law. Thus, there is voicing of the bilabial fricative in fastubni ‘(observance of) fast’, witubni ‘knowledge’, but not in wundufni ‘wound’, waldufni ‘dominion’. The alternation is most plainly observable in the sufﬁxes -ubni/ufni, -ŏðus/ŏbus, -üzü/ussa, -zna/sna, -ida/ida, and the s-stem sufﬁx -iz/iz-, but many exceptions are to be found: see Collinge 1985: 183–91 for literature and discussion, and more recently Suzuki 1992, Woodhouse 1998b.

Final s might come to follow s as a result of syncope, in which event the geminate was simpliﬁed, as in waírs ‘worse’ < *wirss < *wirusiz. Likewise, after r, ﬁnal s was lost after a light syllable, as in wair ‘man’ and anpar ‘other’ (cf. swèrs ‘honored’), though in adjectives it was restored analogically after a stressed vowel to differentiate genders, as in ga-fairs ‘well-behaved’.

Alternations due to Verner’s law were eliminated in Gothic: see §6.6. On the apparent gemination of j, w, and on the change jj, ww > ddj, ggw, see §6.10.
6.13 Gothic þl-

There are a number of words in Gothic with root-initial þl-: for a list, see Salmons & Iverson 1993: 88 or Davis & Iverson 1994: 155–6. The plainest case is þlìuhan ‘flee’, the Gmc. cognates of which all have root-initial fl-, as with Olcel. flýja, OE fléon, OFris. flia, OS OHG flìohân. Not all instances of fl- in other Gmc. languages, however, correspond to Go. þl-: e.g., to OE flēd ‘flood’ cf. Go. flōðus. It has sometimes been maintained that in forms with þl-, this must be the original cluster,1 and indeed, the change of /₀l/ to /fl/ is considerably more natural than the reverse (Kjellmer 1995; cf. M.J. Jones 2002). But some of the relevant words have fairly secure extra-Germanic cognates in PIE *pl-, the plainest case again being Go. þliuhan: cf. Gk. πλέω < *pleyō ‘swim’, Lat. pluit ‘rains’, etc.2 Since the Gothic forms in þl- are restricted to a limited number of texts, Davis & Iverson (1994, 1996a; cf. Woodhouse 1995, 1998a, Nilsson 1996: 53–5) argue that the change of /₀l/ to /fl/ is a dialectal development.3 To the contrary, Salmons & Iverson (1993) make the case that the alternation between the two clusters is due to lexical diffusion. Woodhouse (2000) interestingly observes that in the forms with Go. þl- the following vowel reflects PIE e-grade or reduced grade, whereas o-grade is found with fl-: examples are þlāūhs ‘flight’ (cf. Olcel. flugur) < *plukōs : flähta ‘lock of hair’ (cf. Lat. plectō) < *plok-t-. The claim, however, that the consonant alternation is conditioned by ablaut faces some unresolved difficulties, in part of a chronological nature.4

4. Cf. the argument of Matzel (1962) that the change is due to the combined influence of -l- and stem-final ħ, hs, or q.

6.14 Consonant changes in Proto-Norse

Before the end of the PNorse period, PGMc. z must no longer have been simply the voiced equivalent of s, as otherwise it should be expected to have been devoiced to s word finally (as explained below). It is most commonly transcribed as Runic ዴ. Eventually it developed to r, but in Runic it is generally distinguished from r (rune ካ) by the use of a separate rune (†); the two, however, apparently had fallen together at least in some environments in East Norse, given the hypercorrection in Aþfr (Istaby stone, Sweden, 1st half of the 7th cent.; cf. Go. afr ‘back, again’).1 The sound must have been palatal, given that it could produce umlaut in a preceding vowel (§4.7).2 Before z could develop to r, it was assimilated to a following δ or n, as in Olcel. gaddr ‘goad’ (Go. gazds, but OE gād: see §6.11 n. 1) and rann (Go. razn). When r came into contact with another consonant due to syncope, it could be assimilated to it: thus, always with s, as in lauss ‘loose’ < *laus-R < *lausaz; after l or n, except when it ended a light, stressed syllable, as in heill ‘whole’ < *hail-R, lítill ‘little’ < *līl-R, fallinn ‘fallen’ < *fallin-R, but dalr ‘valley’, varnr ‘usual’. But -r is frequently restored after mn, as in þunnr ‘thin’.

In initial position, PGMc. þ became a stop, probably at an early date, as in Olcel. gull ‘gold’, gefa ‘give’, gjalda ‘repay’. So also b and δ if this change had not occurred already in PGMc. (§6.5).
Initial $j$ was lost categorically, as in *ēra* > ār ‘year’, *jungaz > ungr ‘young’, a change that can be dated on the basis of the use of the rune $\ddot{a}$, which originally represented $j$, to represent a vowel ($A$), the earliest instance being on the Vallentuna dice (ca. 600: see H.F. Nielsen 2000: 256–7). Otherwise, $j$ is preserved only when syllable-initial (i.e., after a light syllable) or after a velar obstruent: to selja ‘deliver’, nom. pl. niójar ‘kinsmen’, sekja ‘seek’, lýkkja ‘seem’ cf. deila ‘distribute’ (Go. dåiljan), senda ‘send’ (Go. sandjan). There was also loss of $j$ before all front vowels, including those resulting from front umlaut, except for æ. Initial $w$ was lost before rounded vowels (but not $o$ or $\ddot{o}$, developed from $a$ and $i$), even when $r$ intervened, as in ormr ‘serpent’ (Go. waurms), ódr ‘mad’ (Go. wðs, 1×, for expected *wðps: §6.12), yrkjia ‘make’ (Go. wa urkjjan), epa ‘shout’ (Go. wðpjjan), róta ‘disarrange’ (OE wroðan); the loss of $w$ before other instances of initial $r$ is later, as shown by the alliteration in some early verse. Internal $w$ was lost under similar conditions, as in sætr ‘sweet’ (cf. OE swôt), hósti ‘cough’ (OE hwósta). Medial $w$ was also lost after a heavy syllable unless preceded by a velar consonant, as in benda ‘betoken’ (Go. bandwjjan), òttta ‘early morning’ (Go. ùttwð), but syngva ‘sing’, sökkva ‘sink’. There was also loss of $w$ before $u$, as in bðð ‘battle’ < *baðu < *baðwð (gen. baðvar, wð-stem), a change that may belong to Proto-NW Gmc. (see §6.16). On the date of the loss of $j$ and $w$, see Isakson 2000.

Medially, voiceless fricatives other than $s$ were lenited wherever this was not prevented by an adjacent voiceless consonant. For $f$ and $h$ this meant voicing, as in PGmc. *wulfaz > ðlfr ‘wolf’ (where $<f = b$, but still wul(a)f- in Runic), *brðer- > brðir ‘brother’, and *werþana > verða ‘become’. For $x$, lenition meant a change to $h$, which was subsequently lost, though the sound is usually preserved in Runic, with loss securely attested only in wurte, wonta, worte (East and West Norse, ca. 500–550) < *wxrte ‘made’. Loss of final $h$ is not in evidence until late in the tenth century; cf. *þōð (OICel. þð) ‘though’ (Go. þðh, borrowed into OE (> ME þð). Vowels were lengthened before $xt$ (§4.9), which developed to $tt$ at about the end of the PNorse period. Examples: ättta ‘8’ (Go. ahtau), máttr ‘might’ (Go. mahts), rétr ‘straight’ (Go. raihts), sött ‘sickness’ (Go. sauðts).

Medially and finally there was voicing assimilation in consonant clusters, as in nom./acc. sg. neut. ljúft ‘dear’ (with [f]; cf. nom. sg. masc. ljúfr, with a voiced labial), viðka ‘widen’ (with [i]; cf. viðr ‘wide’, with [ð]), pret. æpōj ‘shouted’ (with [θ], from *wipidě, later æpti), and gen. sg. dags ‘day’ (with [x]; cf. dagr, with [ɣ]). The voiceless fricatives so produced frequently become stops, especially next to another fricative, by dissimilation, as in pret. j þst ‘urged’ < *fis-þi < *fusiděð(b), and in gen. sg. e(i)nskis ‘no, none’ < *eins-zi-s. But fricatives in clusters with uniform place of articulation become stops (excluding $s$, which has no corresponding stop in Gmc.), at least after a stressed vowel, as in motti ‘moth’ (OE moðhe), pret. gladdi ‘gladdened’ < *zlað-ið-ē(b) and nom./acc. sg. neut. glatt ‘glad’ < *glað-t. In addition, after a heavy syllable, lō that arose by syncope developed to ld, as in pret. deildi ‘distributed’ < *dail-ið-ē(b) and fyldi ‘filled’ < *full-ið-ē(b); but ð remained until about 1300 after a light syllable, as in malbi ‘ground’ and valbi ‘chase’; compare halda ‘hold’, fald ‘fold’, with PGmc. *lð- (§6.5). In addition, there was loss of $ð$ before $n$ and sometimes $r$, as in beina ‘assist’ (related to beða ‘request’), Skáney ‘Skåne’ (OE Scedenig), nom. masc. fjórir ‘4’, < *fjóðr (and cf. the change to $z$ between back vowels in neut. fjogur < *feður < PNorse *feður, likewise in Old Norwegian laugur-dagr ‘Saturday’ (‘bath-day’), with laugur- < lauður- (cf. OE láðor ‘soap’, PDE lather).
There is total assimilation to the sonorant consonant in the clusters np, lp, ðl: finna ‘find’ (Go. finpan), samn ‘true’ (with analogical re-addition of -r; cf. OE sōp < *sanpæaz), hollr ‘gracious’ (again with -r by analogy; cf. Go. hulþs), ellri ‘older’ (Go. algiza), à milli, earlier à midlī ‘in the middle’. By most accounts, internally, nn produced by this means, or of any other source, changed to ð before r, as in acc. pl. masc. aðra ‘other’ < *annran(n) (Go. anþarans) and maðr ‘person’ (dat. sg. manní; cf. OE man(n)), though Hale & Reiss (2008: 238–43) argue for an analogical explanation. Geminates also result when a velar obstruent stands between a stressed short vowel and j, as in leggja ‘lay’ (Go. lagjan), gen. sg. bekkjar ‘brook’ (cf. OHG bah); but analogy has much disrupted the original distribution, so that geminate -gg- and nongeminate -k- are commonly generalized (cf. liggr beside ligr ‘lies’, lykja ‘shut in’, rekja ‘spread out’, vekja ‘wake up’, etc.). There is also gemination of k between a short vowel and w, as in slókkva ‘extinguish’ (< PGmc. *slakwjanæ), rók(k)r, rókkr ‘darkness’ (Go. riqis), and nokkviðr ‘naked’ (OE naced). Postconsonantal geminates are simplified, as in fagr ‘beautiful’ < *fagr-r, and jarl ‘earl’ < *jarl-l.

The sequence n + voiceless stop became a voiceless geminate stop, and if the preceding vowel was i, it was lowered to e. Examples: kleppr ‘lump’ (cf. Old Swedish klimper), spretta ‘cause to spring’ (cf. MHG sprinzen), drekkja ‘drink’ (cf. OE drincan).

A final obstruent after a stressed vowel was devoiced. Thus, pret. *gab ‘gave’ produces Runic gāf (cf. 1 sg. pres. gibu). Voiced stops appeared only after nasals and in gemination (except that d occurred after l: see above), and after devoicing, a preceding nasal was assimilated to the final stop (as above), hence imp. *bind ‘bind’, *gang ‘go’, *geald ‘repay’ > *hint, *gank, *gealt > bitt, gakk, gjalt, and pret. *band, *ging, *gald > batt, gekk, galt. Such preterites are generally well preserved, but relative uniformity of the stem in the present paradigm induced analogical imperatives like bind, gang, gjald.

The assimilation of a nasal to a following voiceless stop also occurred internally, as in kappi ‘champion’ (cf. OE cempa), spretta ‘spring’ (MHG sprinzen ‘break forth’; on the lowering of l to e, see above), þekkja ‘know’ (Go. þágkjan).

There is widespread loss of final n, as in haldþ ‘hold’ (Go. haldan), acc. pl. gesti ‘guests’ < *gastinn < *gastinz; also when a vowel following in PNorse was lost, provided the preceding vowel was not short, as in pl. augu ‘eyes’ (Go. augōna), 3 pl. sg. bindi (Go. bindáina), but acc. sg. masc. gōdan (Go. gōdana), innan ‘from within’ (Go. innana), with similar developments in unstressed words, e.g. í ‘in’ (Go. in), frá ‘from’ (Go. fram), á ‘on’ (Go. ana).

On the loss of internal nasal consonants, with compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel, see §4.9. On the development of jj and ww, see §6.10. The handbooks (see §1.14) provide more detailed information about these and other changes.

1. But see the cautionary remarks of H.F. Nielsen (2000: 257–8). Antonsen (1975: 17) regards East Norse híðen- and háðr- (cf. Olc. heíor ‘clear’) as further examples of this confusion, but given the coöccurrence of OE hádr- and hádr-, this is likelier to be in origin an s-stem (the usual analysis of the Runic forms, e.g. that of Krause 1971: §98); see Brunner 1965: §288 Anm.

2. Heusler (1967: §144) proposes that its articulation involved approach of the back of the tongue to the hard palate, accompanied by vibration of the tongue tip, whereas r was supradental. Painter & Dery (2014, with refs.), on the basis of an acoustic experiment, would identify the sound as [z] at the time of umlaut.

3. The earliest examples of the confusion of ð and ð are in Runic inscriptions of the 8th cent., uþra ‘against’ and upin (Olc. òðinn): see H.F. Nielsen 2000: 258–9.

5. Heusler (1967: §158) regards mm for earlier *mf in Olcel. *fimm ‘5’ as a phonological development (in final position only?), even though it is unparalleled; mf otherwise develops to f, with compensatory lengthening of the preceding vowel (see §4.9 supra). More commonly the retention of m in *fimm is regarded as due to analogy, either to *finmian ‘15’ or to the ordinal (see Prokosch 1939: §§99a, Noreen 1970: §298.2).

6. Heusler (1967: §187 Anm. 1) dates this gemination after the syncope of the 7th/8th cent. in forms like *sekjar > *sekiar > sekir ‘outlaws’, since such forms without gemination are required in the paradigm to explain the analogical degemination in a form like inf. sekja.

6.15 West Germanic consonant gemination

In the WGmc. protolanguage there was consonant doubling before sonorant consonants, though the regularity with which the change is attested varies according to the nature of the sonorant and of the geminated consonant, as well as of the length of the preceding vowel.1 Before j the change regularly applies to any consonant other then r (including r < z) after a short vowel (and thus also not after a diphthong), though exceptions to this rule are characteristic of OHG, as discussed below.2 This j is preserved in OS and generally written (i); in the earliest OHG records it is usually written (i) before e or u, but (e) before a or o, and it disappears in the course of the 9th century. Elsewhere in WGmc. it is lost after heavy syllables and thus can appear only after r, which failed to geminate before it. Gemination is regular before j, infrequent before r, l, rare before w, m. For a detailed survey, see Simmler 1974. Examples of gemination before j are the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{OE scieppan, OS skeppian, OHG sceppe} & : \text{Go. skapjan, Olcel. skejp ‘create’} \\
\text{OE sibh, OS sibbia, OHG sipp(e)ja} & : \text{Go. sibja ‘relationship’} \\
\text{OE settan, OS settian, OHG sezen} & : \text{Go. satjan, Olcel. setja ‘set’} \\
\text{OE biddan, OS biddian, OHG bitten} & : \text{Go. bidjan, Olcel. bidja ‘bid, request’} \\
\text{OE sæcc, OHG secka} & : \text{Go. sakjō ‘strife’} \\
\text{OE leegan, OS leggian, OHG leggen} & : \text{Go. lagjan, Olcel. leggia (§6.14) ‘lay’} \\
\text{OE fremman, OS fremmian, OHG fremmen} & : \text{Olcel. fremja ‘further, promote’} \\
\text{OE wenman, OS gi-wennian, OHG gi-wennen} & : \text{Olcel. venja ‘accustom’} \\
\text{OE sellan, OS gi-sellian, OHG sellen} & : \text{Go. saljan, Olcel. selja ‘hand over’}
\end{align*}
\]

But r (< PGmc. r, z) remains ungeminated, with preservation of j (or its reflex)3 after the light syllable, as in OE OS ferian, OHG ferien (but also ferren: see below), Go. farjan, Olcel. ferja ‘travel, transport’ and OE OS nerian, OHG nerien (also nerren), Go. nasjan ‘save’. Examples of gemination before r, l include the following:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{OE snott(t)or, OHG snottar< : Go. snutrs, Olcel. snotr ‘wise’} \\
\text{OFris. ekker, OS akkar, OHG ackar (but OE acer) : Go. akrs, Olcel. akr ‘field’} \\
\text{OE (Northumbrian) æhher (but WS ēar, OS ahar, OHG ehir) : Go. ahς, Olcel. ax ‘ear (of grain)’} \\
\text{OE (Northumbrian) tæhher (= tæhher, but WS tēar, OHG tahar) : Go. tagr, Olcel. tār ‘tear’} \\
\text{OE æppel, OS appul, OHG apful : Crimean Go. apel ‘apple’}
\end{align*}
\]

Before r, l the change is restricted to voiceless stops, except that x may be geminated in Northumbrian. The OE forms without gemination are best explained as originating in the nom. sg., on the assumption that gemination took place only when a vowel followed the sonorant consonant; hence, e.g., PGmc. nom. sg. *akraz > WGmc. *akr, with later nuclearization of -r (§5.6), but WGmc. dat. sg. *akr-ǣ > *akkrǣ, with generalization of the former stem in OE, of the latter elsewhere.5
Gemination is caused by \( w \) only in the clusters \( kw, hw \), i.e. clusters derived from PGmc. labiovelars, and the evidence derives almost exclusively from OHG, as in OHG \( naekot \) ‘naked’ (cf. Go. \( naqâbhs, OE \) \( nacod \), MLG \( naket \)), OHG \( acchus \), OS \( accus \) ‘axe’ (beside OHG \( acchus \), OS \( acus = Mercian OE \) \( æces \)), and rare OHG \( sehhan \) beside \( sehnan \) ‘see’ (Go. \( salhuan \)). Gemination before \( m \) occurs in LWS \( mâþm \) beside \( mâþm \) ‘treasure’ (Go. \( mâþms \)). Thus, gemination before \( w \) and \( m \) is probably not to be ascribed to WGmc. as a whole, though Simmler 1974: 329–41 accepts the former as WGmc., not the latter.

Exceptions to the general pattern of WGmc. gemination are to be found in OHG. First, forms with geminate \( rr \) appear, chiefly in Alemannic, but also in Franconian, e.g. \( ferro \) ‘ferryman’, dat. pl. \( herrun \) ‘hosts’, \( gi-burren \) ‘supervene’ beside \( ferio, heriun, giburien \). There are good reasons to believe that this change is peculiar to OHG, i.e. that it is not a WGmc. change later eliminated elsewhere.\(^7\)

Second, OHG geminates are to be found after long vowels and diphthongs, almost exclusively in Upper German.\(^8\) Examples: \( teißen \) beside \( teilen \), OE \( dêlan \), OS \( dêlian \), OICel. \( deîla \) ‘distribute’; OHG \( aucban \) beside \( ougen \), OE \( ëawan \), ë\( ëawan \), OS \( ëgian \), Go. \( ëugian \), OICel. \( eygja \) ‘show’; OHG gen. \( ke-râttes \) beside nom. \( gi-râti \), OE \( rêde \), OS \( gi-rêdi \), OICel. \( rêði \) ‘advice, management, reading’ (\( \langle *-(g-)rêðijö\rangle \)).\(^9\)

Such forms disappear from the later language, leaving only nongeminates after long vowels. At one time there was a fairly broad consensus that gemination applied after long vowels and diphthongs throughout WGmc., but that everywhere but in Upper German, degemination subsequently applied to geminates so produced: so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: \$30, Krahe & Meid 1969: I, \$84, culminating in the exhaustive study of Simmler (1974), who found sufficient evidence outside of Upper German to convince him that the change was general in WGmc. Now there is much greater diversity of opinion: see Braune 2004a: \$96 Anm. 1 for references. A notable difficulty is that in accordance with Sievers’ law, \( j \) should have been nuclearized to \( ij \) after a heavy syllable and thus incapable of inducing gemination, and \( ij \) cannot have been denuclearized in the WGmc. protolanguage, given the evidence of OE forms like \( gydene \) ‘godness’, without gemination (\$2.5). A further difficulty stems from the observation that gemination does occur after a long vowel outside of OHG, but it is securely and widely attested only before \( r \) or \( l \) (probably with shortening of the vowel): cf. OE \( hlutter \) beside \( hlûtor \), OS OHG \( hluttar \) ‘pure, clear’ (beside (later) OHG \( hlûtar \); cf. Go. \( hlûtrs \)); OE \( lyttel \) beside \( lûtel \), OS \( lûtîl \), OHG \( lûzîl \) ‘little’ (cf. Go. \( leîtîls, OICel. \) \( lûtîl \)). The question arises why geminates should have been so thoroughly eliminated outside of Upper German in stems with original \( j \), but not in these stems. It seems likelier that geminates after long vowels are found before \( r, l \) because, unlike \( j \), these sonorants were not nuclearized under Sievers’ law. It may be assumed, then, that in a form like WGmc. \( *xûltër \) the vowel was shortened in the closed syllable, whereas in gen. \( *xûltâras \) the syllable boundary fell between the vowel and consonant, and the tautosyllabic stem \( *xûltîr- \) was then extended from the nom. to elsewhere in the paradigm.\(^10\) Such a development was not possible before \( j \), since, e.g., PGmc. \( *rôðijaz > WGmc. *rôðît \). It should be mentioned, as well, that there appears to have been gemination after a long vowel in two OE weak verbs lacking original \( *-i- \) in the preterite (\$12.37), \( recce\langle e\rangle an \) ‘care’ (pret. \( rôhte \)) and \( lexce\langle e\rangle an \) ‘seize’ (pret. \( lǣhte, lǣhte \)), and the result was not later degemination but vowel shortening. One significant factor that set the pattern for OHG geminates after long vowels was probably the High German consonant shift (\$6.21), which converted some etymological non-
geminates to geminates after long vowels, e.g. slāffjan ‘sleep’, heiz(z)an ‘call’, dat. pl. boohhum, buochum ‘books’.

It has long been recognized that gemination must have been motivated by syllable division (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §30), and most modern accounts, beginning with Murray & Vennemann 1983, explain the patterns of change as governed by syllable contact laws, i.e. by a hierarchy of consonant sonority or, conversely, strength (see §2.4), regulating syllabification. Such accounts serve well to explain some aspects of gemination, such as why only voiceless stops were geminated before r, l in WGmc., given that voiceless stops are the least sonorous consonants. They are less persuasive at explaining other aspects of the change, such as why r is not usually geminated, especially in view of the gemination of w, which is more sonorous than r on most sonority scales reconstructed for WGmc. For discussion of this last problem, with extensive references to the literature, see Suzuki 1989, Hall 2004.

Gemination before j antedated the Second Sound Shift (§6.21), as shown by forms like OHG setzen ‘set’ (OS settian) and skepfen ‘create’ (OS skeppian): cf. ezzan ‘eat’, slāffjan ‘sleep’ (OS etan, slāpan). Such gemination is attested in Runic kunni (= OE cynn) on one of the Weser rune-bones, certainly West Germanic and to be dated probably to the fourth or fifth century (see Antonsen 2002: 315–28; also Findell 2012: 343, 481–3, with references). Some would date the change to as early as 200 CE, though H.F. Nielsen (2000: 243, 373, with refs.) favors a date in the fourth century.


2. A further exception, or seeming exception, is that the PGmc. sequence *-awj- is reflected without a geminate in NSGmc., e.g. OE hīeg, OS höi ‘hay’ < *hauij-; cf. the gemination in OHG hōwī. On this problem see §4.10 & n. 1.

3. Unmistakable signs of nuclearization of j appear in WS, in spellings like generige (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.80), with similar developments in OS (Holthausen 1921: §171). On the fricativization of j after r in OHG, see n. 7 infra.

4. Note that OHG -tr- does not undergo the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21).

5. Krahe & Meid (1969: 1, §85) suppose rather that OE acce resulted when *-r developed to *-er before gemination could take place; but this is unlikely, given that many postconsonantal final sonorants must be treated as still nonsyllabic in OE poetic meter (see §5.6), and thus acce cannot be a very old form.

6. The form OE hweohhol ‘wheel’ is not infrequently cited in the handbooks, though a search for such a form produced no results. A. Campbell (1977: §408) cites hweohhol in evidence of OE gemination (before w? l? the stem is PIE *khekl-; cf. weak grade in Gk. κύκλος ‘circle’), but Brunner (1965: §228) cites it as an example of the LWS gemination seen in, e.g., gen. sg. miccles beside micles ‘large’; cf. not infrequent OE (-)hweohle(s).

7. It seems likely that j had become a voiced fricative after OHG r, seeing as words like nerian ‘save’ are never spelt ðnerian, though in 9th-cent. texts -ean is a common spelling for -jan after other consonants; and spellings like nergen are especially frequent. Likewise, though postconsonantal j is still preserved in early texts, as attested by spellings like wiliao ‘volition’ and gisellio ‘companion’, there are no spellings like ðnerian, with i after geminate rr. See Braune 2004a: §118 Anm. 3. This development perhaps sheds light on problematic OE hertjan ‘harry’ < *xarjōjaner: see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.118 n. 2.

8. Colin J. Grant kindly provided the projections from his paper ‘The interaction of Sievers’ Law and West Germanic Gemination in Upper German’, 22nd Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, 20 May 2016, from which the following discussion has benefited. Among other matters, Grant specifically discusses the obstacle that Sievers’ law presents to the assumption of general WGmc. gemination after long vowels.
9. Apparently, gemination could also apply to UG consonants after a nasal consonant, leading to doublets like MHG swincken ~ swinging ‘swing’ and North Alemannic lânten ~ lânden ‘land’: see Scheungraber 2013.

10. A detailed argument along these lines, to the effect that OE orthographic geminates are primarily an indication of syllabification rather than consonant length, is offered in Fulk 1999b, including a discussion of vowel shortening before geminates.

### 6.16 Other consonant changes in the West Germanic protolanguage

PGmc. \(\delta\) developed to WGmc. \(d\). Examples: OE fīder, OS fadar, OHG fater : Olcel. fādr ‘father’; OE bēodan, OS biodan, OHG biotan : Olcel. bjōda ‘bid, ask’; OE OS bīdan, OHG bītan : Olcel. bīda ‘wait’.

It was once a common view that both \(s\) and \(z\) when final were lost in WGmc. (or that final \(s\) developed to \(z\) in WGmc. and was then lost), and even now this analysis has not been entirely abandoned.\(^1\) Under this hypothesis, apparent exceptions to the loss of \(*s\) can be explained in various fashion: e.g., OE nom. pl. dagas ‘days’ (= Go. dagōs, Olcel. dagar) is often thought to reflect PGmc. \(*dzōsiz\), or similar,\(^2\) and so it may be supposed that the WGmc. loss of final \(*s\) antedated the loss of \(*-iz\) in this form. Other exceptions are not so easily explained.\(^3\) The prevailing view, however, has always been that in WGmc. \(*s\) was preserved and \(*-z\) was lost.\(^4\) An exception to the rule is that \(*-z\) is retained and develops to \(-r\) in light monosyllables in OHG and OLF (in the latter of which, e.g., \(wē\) coöccurs with \(wir\) ‘we’).\(^5\) Given the coöccurrence of forms in the same inflectional classes with root and suffix accent in PIE (cf., e.g., Gk. ἵππος ‘horse’ beside ποτάμος ‘river’), there must have been extensive variance between final \(*s\) and \(*-z\) in PGmc. in words otherwise inflected identically. It appears that \(*-z\) was more commonly the variant that was generalized, with notable exceptions, though the evidence of Gothic is ambiguous. Leveling of one or the other variant in an inflectional class, however, must not have been completed in PGmc., or even in the WGmc. protolanguage, to judge by the divergent developments seen in, e.g., OHG nom. pl. tagā (= Olcel. dagar \(< *dzōz\) and OE dagas, OS dagos, -as \(< *dzōs\); likewise in OE 2 sg. sj. fāre (= Olcel. farir \(< *farai\) and OS fāres, OHG fārēs \(< *farais\).

In all the WGmc. languages, as in North Gmc., there was lenition of medial fricatives wherever it was not prevented by an adjacent voiceless consonant.\(^6\) Lenition amounts to voicing of \(f, ð, s\), but \(x\) is lenited to \(h\) (if, in fact, the change of \(x\) to \(h\) is part of the same sound change, which seems most probable). The change does not apply to geminates, e.g. OE sīþpan ‘after(ward)’ \(< *sīþ-þon and lássa ‘less’ \(< \) PGmc. *lais-iz-\(ð\), with voiceless geminates. This change must not be dated to the NWGmc. period, and it must postdate the WGmc. change of PGmc. \(\delta\) to \(d\), since \(ð\) lenited to \(d\) does not become \(d\). It is best regarded as a change that took place in each of the WGmc. languages, since, for example, \(x\) appears not to have been lenited in forms like OE sliht ‘stroke’ \(< *sleaxifu < *slaexifu < *slax-ipō, in which syncope apparently follows front unlaut, which in turn must follow the specifically OE change of breaking of \(æ\) to \(ea\) (but see the discussion of problems related to verbs in §§12.38, 12.43). Moreover, the usual assumption is that \(x\) had not yet been lenited when breaking occurred (§4.13), yet the results of breaking in OE and OFris. are not identical.

Although \(w\) was lost before \(u\) in PGmc. (§6.11), the sequence \(*-wu\) could arise again, and in such instances \(w\) was again lost, though it could be restored analogically to reduce paradigm allomorphy. Examples are OE fēa ‘few’ \(< *fau < *fawu < *fawō,
beadu ‘battle’ < *badwu < *badwō, and dat. pl. smerum ‘grease’ (Lorica Glosses) beside analogical smeorwum. This change may have occurred in Proto-NWGmc. (see §6.14). Note that although postconsonantal j is for the most part lost in the WGmc. languages (§6.15), w was preserved in the WGmc. protolanguage even after heavy syllables when followed by a vowel, as in OE gen. sg. læswe ‘pasture’. An exception is that w is lost after a heavy syllable when it follows a velar consonant, as in OE OS OHG singan ‘sing’ (cf. Go. siggwan, OIcel. syngva, and see §1.8 n. 2). Moreover, after the Proto-WGmc. period, postconsonantal w appears to have been lost in OS and OHG after a heavy syllable, as there are no heavy-stemmed consonant-final wa- or wo-stems in these languages. On this and some other instances in which w was lost, the grammars cited in §§1.15–20 should be consulted.

1. Such is the view of Braune (1876: 156), Hirt (1894: 527–8), Streitberg (1896: §214), Walde (1900: 130), van Helten (1902: 534), Prokosch (1939: §49d), and Bammesberger (1986a: 47–8). Boutkan (1995b: 43–51), with references to earlier, similar views (e.g. Meillet 1922: 82), argues that PIE final s always yielded PGmc. z, regardless of the place of the accent. Some forms that lend strong support to his position, because they are hard to explain as analogical, are OE sū ‘sow’, cū ‘cow’, and mā ‘more’. See further Matczak 1996.

2. So Hirt 1894: 528, but see §7.8.

3. Boutkan (1995b: 46) identifies six such exceptional endings in WGmc.: (1) OS consonant stem gs. -as, -es; (2) pres. sj. 2 sg. OS -es, OHG -ēs; (3) pret. sj. 2 sg. OS -is, OHG -īs; (4) o-stem nom. pl. OE -as, OS -os; (5) OHG 1 pl. -mēs; weak pret. 2 sg. OE OS -des, OHG -tōs.

4. First to express this view was perhaps Paul (1879–80: VI, 550). Representative are the views of Luick (1914–40: §629), Krahe & Meid (1969: I, §§115–16), and Ringe (in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 43–4). On the date of this loss, see above, §5.6 n. 6.

5. H.F. Nielsen (2000: 249; so earlier Luick 1914–40: §629.1) assumes loss of -z in unstressed monosyllables but retention in stressed, and that OHG has generalized the latter variant, the other WGmc. languages the former. Ringe (in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 86) rejects this idea because of the loss of *-z in stressed monosyllables like OE mā ‘more’ < *maiz and cū ‘cow’ (cf. OIcel. kýr). He thus argues that final z was lost categorically in WGmc., except that it is preserved in monosyllables in the southern part of the WGmc. Sprachraum, and he offers explanations for the apparent OHG exceptions. OS (like OHG) shows retention in mēr ‘more’, perhaps under OHG influence.

6. For discussion and a review of the literature, see Goblirsch 2005: 83–96.

6.17 Consonant changes in North Sea Germanic and Anglo-Frisian


NSGmc. n is lost before a voiceless fricative, with compensatory lengthening (and nasalization) of the preceding vowel, as in OE mūð, OS mūd (beside mund) : Go. munþs, OIcel. munnr, muðr, OHG mund ‘mouth’. See §4.11 for further examples.

In NSGmc. and neighboring dialects there is metathesis of *-sl- to -ls- between unstressed vowels, as with OE dat. sg. Ėad-gilsē (name: ‘wealth-hostage’) < *-ʒīslǣ; cf. OIcel. Gísli (name). See de Vaan 2012.

It cannot be determined for certain whether palatalization of velars by front vowels occurred in the Anglo-Frisian protolanguage or independently in English and Frisian, but it is not unlikely that it did occur early (see Fulk 1998a: 145–8, with refs.).
It may in fact have taken place in the Ingvaeonic protolanguage, given certain OS spellings (§6.20). If so, it must be assumed that the subsequent change of affrication (or ‘assibilation’: §§6.18–19), which is found in OE and OFris. but not OS, did not affect all palatal stops, or that some palatal stops reverted to velars before affrication could occur. The fricative ʒ was palatalized initially before a front vowel, medially before (not after) a front vowel, and in the syllable coda after one. This palatalized ʒ eventually became j or the off-glide of a front diphthong. Examples: OE gieldan, OFris. ielda ‘pay’; OE gēotan, OFris. iāta ‘pour’; OE hyge, OFris. het ‘thought’ (cf. OS hugi); OE deāg, OFris. dei ‘day’; OE bregdan, OFris. breida ‘pull’; but OE sīgan, OFris. pres. sīga ‘sink’, with the velar sound. As a result, OE shows paradigm alternation, e.g. hālig, hālige holy’ with the palatal sound and hālgu(m) with the velar. Unless palatalization is dated later than the Anglo-Frisian period, it must be assumed that Frisian has almost entirely eliminated such alternations (cf. OFris. hēlich, hēlegra), an exception being ielda: pp. gulden. As for the velar stops, it is impossible to be certain that they were palatalized unless they were later affricated, and affricates are not distributed identically in the two languages: see §§6.18–19, and see further van der Rhee 1977.

In a fashion complementary to the voicing of fricatives between voiced sounds in the WGmc. languages, there was fortition (devoicing) of final fricatives in the Ingvaeonic languages. Examples are pret. OE geaf, OFris. ief, OS gaf ‘gave’ < *zab; OE burh, burg, OS burg, burch ‘fortress’,1 OFris. berch, dat. berge ‘mountain’. This change probably occurred independently in OE, OFris., and OS, given that b is still used finally in early OE texts to represent the reflex of PGmc. b, whereas PGmc. f is represented by f, e.g. ob ‘from’, salb ‘ointment’: wulf ‘wolf’, fif ‘five’ (see Brunner 1965: §191, and cf. A. Campbell 1977: §446). It is possible, however, that the distinction marks an opposition between bilabial and labiodental articulation rather than a voicing difference (so, e.g., Luick 1914–40: §651.2). But since the use of h for etymological ʒ is at first rare and then increases over the course of the OE period (A. Campbell 1977: §446), final devoicing is probably a convergent development in the Ingvaeonic languages.

1. Such OE and OS spellings with g (which are the norm in OS) rather than (c)h are due to the influence of inflected forms, e.g. OE OS burga. Note that PGmc. z and ð had already changed to r and d, so that devoicing did not apply.

### §6.18 Consonant changes in Old English

The palatal variety of ʒ merged with j by ca. 950 at the latest (see Minkova 2003: 113–20). Certain palatal varieties of k and g likewise became the affricates /ʧ/, usually spelt ⟨c⟩, and /ʤ/, usually spelt ⟨cg⟩, or simply ⟨g⟩ after n, assuredly by ca. 1000, but not all the palatal stops assumed above (§6.17) to have arisen in Anglo-Frisian were affricated in OE. Palatalized k is always affricated initially, as in ceald ‘cold’, ceorl ‘churl’, cirice ‘church’. There was no palatalized g in initial position, since PGmc. ʒ was still a fricative initially at the time of palatalization, the velar variety becoming a stop in WS probably ca. 950. Medially before vowels and finally, palatal stops were affricated only after ō (but not before a back vowel) or when the preceding vowel had undergone front unlaut, meaning that the stop had earlier been followed by ō or ū.1 Note that the palatal stop g occurred only after a nasal consonant or in gemination. Examples: dīc ‘ditch, dike’ (but not in dat. pl. dīcum), fīc ‘finch’, wyrc(e)an ‘work’ < *wurkijana, dat. pl. bencum ‘benches’ < *bankjium; leng ‘longer’ < *lang-iz, ecg ‘edge’ < *aggiu < *aȝō,
meng(e)an ‘mix’ < *mangijana*. There must then have been reversion to velarity in the
remaining sounds assumed in §6.17 to have been palatalized in Anglo-Frisian, e.g. becc
‘back’, gen. sg. freces ‘bold’. Certainly there was reversion when syncope rendered the
palatal sound anteconsonantal, as in sēch ‘seeks’ (but with an affricate in inf. sēcan; cf.
PDE seek : beseech), gen. sg. micles ‘large’ (but with an affricate in micel < *mikilaz).
As for PGmc. *sk*, this developed eventually to /ʃ/ (perhaps [ʃː] intervocally) even in
many non-palatal environments. It is preserved as /sk/ only medially before a back
vowel or finally after one, as in dat. pl. Deniscum ‘Danish’ and tūsc ‘tusk, tooth’;
otherwise it is palatal, as in Denisc, sculan ‘shall’ (but /sk/ in scōl ‘school’, borrowed
from Lat.), scop ‘poet’.

The sound h, the lenition of x, was lost between voiced sounds in OE, as in sēon
‘see’ < *seohan and gen. sg. mēares (beside nom. mearh ‘horse’), the latter, gen. form
with compensatory lengthening. For further examples and discussion of the resulting
changes in proximate vowels, see §4.13. This change has significant consequences in
some morphological categories, especially verbs: see §12.21. Although this loss like-
wise occurred in OFris., it cannot plausibly be dated to the Anglo-Frisian period.

Whereas WGmc. gemination before r, l, affected only voiceless stops, the change
was extended to other obstruents in OE. Above were mentioned æhher and māþþm
(§6.15); OE d (the only voiced stop that could occur between a vowel and r, l) was also
affected, as in ætgæd(d)re ‘together’, probably with vowel shortening in nædre ‘adder
beside nādræ (OS nādra), widdra ‘wider’ beside wīdara. The motivation for gemination
in some such forms with an etymologically long vowel is obscure, since words like
nādræ and wīdara were never uninfluenced, and thus the gemination cannot be explained
the way that WGmc. gemination in OE hlūtor, lyttel was explained above (§6.15).
Perhaps the paradigm alternation hlūtor ~ hlūtr-, with later mixture of stems, leading to
forms like hlūtor and reintroduced hlūr-, gave rise to analogical alternations in similar
stems. In OE there also arose new geminates due to the creation of new clusters of stop
plus liquid due to late syncope, hence bet(t)re ‘better’ (Go. batiza), gen. sg. mic(c)les
‘large’ (Go. nom. mikils).

A number of other OE consonant changes, such as metathesis (esp. of r; see
Nakao 1986), epenthesis (see B.R. Page 1997), deletion in clusters, and simplifica-
tion of geminates between unstressed vowels, are less regular, may be dialectically restric-
ted, and have fewer consequences for morphology. The handbooks cited in §1.16 may
be consulted for details.

1. As the phrase “had earlier been” implies, the assumption here is that affrication took place late, long after
the loss of such umlauting segments in many environments, and therefore palatals other than those eventually
affricated had reverted to velars by the time of affrication.

### 6.19 Consonant changes in Old Frisian

The affricates derived from the palatal varieties of Anglo-Frisian k, g are ts, dz,
respectively. The distribution of affricates in OFris. and OE is similar but not identical:
compare OFris. kāp ‘purchase’ (from Lat. caupō ‘shopkeeper’), tsurke ‘church’ (<
WGmc. *kirikō*, ultimately from Gk. κυριακόν) : OE cēap, cirice, the last two with
only affricates. Almost certainly, then, affrication took place independently in the two
languages, though palatalization may still be assumed for the Anglo-Frisian period, with
subsequent, minor changes in the distribution of palatals. Most affricates in OFris.
correspond to OE affricates, e.g. OFris. tsǐāk ‘cheek’ (OE cēace), sprētse ‘speech’ (OE sprēce), sedzā ‘say’ (OE secgan), mendzā ‘mix’ (OE meng(e)an). Unlike in OE, PGmc. *sk remains as such in all positions, e.g. skeit ‘shaft’ (OE sceafft), fisk ‘fish’ (OE fisc), flāsk ‘flesh’ (OE flāsc).

As in OE, there is lenition and later loss of x between voiced sounds in OFris., with resulting contraction of neighboring vowels (§4.14). Final -n was usually lost, as in lidzā ‘lie’, dwā ‘do’, nom. pl. tunga ‘tongue’, hwona ‘whence’, binna ‘inside’. It is retained in cardinal numbers, e.g. ēn, ān ‘one’, sit(a)gun ‘seven’ and at the end of a weak-inflected initial constituent of a compound, e.g. Sunnandei ‘Sunday’.

As in OE, there is metathesis of r with a short vowel, with movement in either direction, e.g. gers ‘grass’ (Go. gras), bren ‘child’ (beside bern; OE bearn).

6.20 Consonant changes in Old Saxon

Voiced stops are devoiced in syllable-final position (and thus also word-finally), as shown by occasional spellings like dump beside dumb ‘dumb’; so also giwalt ‘control’, punt ‘pound’, thinclīk ‘parliamentary’.

As in OE, there is loss of h between voiced sounds, but h may still be retained in early texts, e.g. acc. sg. masc. hōhan in the Helian, later hoan.

Spelling evidence also indicates that velar consonants were palatalized before front vowels. The sequence ke is not seldom written kie, as in kiennian ‘know’, gi-hwilīkies ‘any’, kiēsur ‘emperor’. Likewise, palatalization of initial ʒ is indicated in ieldan ‘pay’ and ie-givan ‘given’, by the occasional representation of the prefix gi- as i-, and by infrequent medial loss before i, as in gein beside gegin ‘against’ and eislīk beside egislīk ‘terrible’. Compare also inverted spellings like giungaro beside iungaro ‘disciple’. It is generally assumed that initial velar ʒ has become a stop in OS.

6.21 The High German Consonant Shift

The most salient aspect of the OHG consonant system is a shift in the value of stops as extensive as the shift under Grimm’s law; the High German shift is thus often referred to as the Second Sound Shift. The second shift, however, is less unconditioned than the first appears to have been, its results varying by position in the word, by geminate or nongeminate status of the consonant, and by dialect. The general pattern is that a PGmc. voiceless stop is reflected as an affricate before a vowel, i.e. initially, after a medial sonorant consonant, or when geminate (either medially or finally); otherwise it is reflected as a fricative, i.e. after a vocal medially or finally. Or to put this in reverse fashion, a PGmc. voiceless stop is usually reflected as an affricate after a vowel (medially or finally), though it is reflected as an affricate initially, after a medial sonorant consonant, or in gemination. The shift of the voiceless stops at its greatest extent may be tabulated as in Figure 6. Here pf, ph represents an affricate /pf/. In initial position, ʒ represents an affricate /ts/, which is also the shifted value medially or finally of the geminate tt and of t after a sonorant consonant; otherwise, in medial or final position the shifted value of t, spelt z(z), represents a voiceless fricative, the value of which is not precisely determinable.1 Initial, medial, and final ch, kh represents an affricate /kx/ or /kh/, which is also
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<table>
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<th>Position</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>pp</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>tt</th>
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<td>z</td>
<td>ch, kh</td>
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<td>f, ff</td>
<td>pf, ph</td>
<td>z, zz</td>
<td>zz, tz</td>
<td>h, hh, ch</td>
<td>cch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>pf, ph</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>z, tz</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>ch</td>
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Fig. 6. The High German shift of voiceless stops at its greatest extent.

the value of the shifted geminate and of \(k\) after a sonorant consonant; otherwise, in medial or final position the shifted value of \(k\) is /x(ː)/. The nongeminate voiceless stops are shifted to geminate voiceless fricatives in non-initial position; and the geminate is regularly degeminated finally and before consonants. After long vowels, degemination is much less regular, becoming more uniform over time. There is no shift after a fricative \(s, f, h\), e.g. *sprehhhan* ‘speak’, *haspil* ‘reel’, *scama* ‘shame’, *miscen* ‘mix’, *stein* ‘stone’, *ist* ‘is’, *naht* ‘night’, *luft* ‘air’. Likewise, PGmc. \(t\) remains unshifted in the consonant cluster \(tr\), as in *trüehn* ‘believe’, and medially \(t\) is geminated before \(r\) (§6.15), as in *snottar* ‘wise’ (Go. *snrets*).

The results of the shift of voiceless stops, as well as of the other changes discussed below, are most extensive in the southernmost part of Upper Germany, with decreasing incidence to the north. The change of medial and final \(p, t, k\) to the fricatives \(f(f), z(z), h(h)\) is common to all dialects, as is the affrication of \(t\) to \(z\) (/ts/).\(^2\) The affrication of \(p(p)\) to \(pf\) is found only in UG and East Franconian, except that it occurs in Rhine Franconian after a liquid, e.g. *helpfan* ‘help’, *werpfan* ‘cast’, later *helfan*, *werfan*. The shift of \(k(k)\) to an affricate occurred only in UG; the affricate (c)ch, \(kh\) occurs today only in the south of Switzerland and Austria (with simplification to a fricative as far north as Freiburg), though it appears to have been used throughout the UG area in OHG times. Examples:

- **p(p):** As affricate: OHG *penning* ‘penny’ (but Middle Franconian *penning*), *skepfen* ‘create’ (*skeppen*), *helpfan* ‘help’ (> *helfan*, but Middle Franconian *heland*), *chapf* ‘height’, to which cf. OS *penning*, *skeppian*, *heland*, OE *ceppe* ‘cap’. As fricative: OHG *slā(f)an* ‘sleep’, *skif* ‘ship’: OS *slāpan*, *skip*.

- **t(t):** As affricate: OHG *ziohan* ‘draw’, *setzen* ‘set’, *herza* ‘heart’, *holz* ‘wood’: OS *tiohan*, *settian*, *herta*, *holt*. As fricative: OHG *ezzan* ‘eat’, *hwaz* ‘what’: OS *etan*, *hwat*.

- **k(k):** As affricate: OHG *khorn*, *chorn* ‘grain’ (UG; CG *korn*), *wec(c)hen* ‘waken’ (UG; CG *wecken*), *t(h)enchen*, *denchen* ‘think’ (UG; CG *t(h)enken*, *denken*), *star(a)ch* ‘strong’: OS *korn*, *wekkian*, *thenkian*, *stark*. As fricative: OHG *mahhōn* ‘make’, *ih* ‘I’: OS *makon*, *ik*.

As elsewhere in WGmc., PGmc. \(δ\) became (at first) OHG \(d\); in addition, the other voiced fricatives, \(b, z\), became stops \(b, g\) in all positions.\(^3\) These stops \(b, d, g\) could then shift to \(p, t, k\), but to a different extent in different dialects. The stop \(d\) is shifted to \(t\) in all dialects except Middle and Rhine Franconian, as in *dohter* ‘daughter’, *bidden* ‘bid’, *biodan* ‘offer’, otherwise OHG *tohter*, *bitten*, *biotan*. The stops \(b\) and \(g\), on the other hand, are frequently written \(p, k\) in UG, especially initially, and particularly in Bavarian, but starting in the 9\(^{th}\) cent. in Alemannic and in the 10\(^{th}\) in Bavarian they start to be written \(b, g\) except where geminated, though the older spellings are still to be found, as well, as late as the 16\(^{th}\) century. Early UG forms thus include *peran* ‘bear’, *kepan* ‘give’, *stiçan* ‘ascend’, *sippa* ‘kinship’, *(h)rucki* ‘back’, later *beran*, *geban*, *stīgan*, *sippa*, *rucki*. The usual assumption, then, is that in Upper German there was no voicing contrast in
The High German consonant shift

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obstruents, only contrasts of length and of manner of articulation (stop : fricative : affricate; see Krahenmann 2003: 61–7). The handbooks cited in §1.20 should be consulted for details, and for discussion of what the phonological significance of these UG orthographic changes might be.

The results of the High German shift were mapped in the 19th cent. and played a significant role in the differentiation of NHG dialects represented in Figure 7. The isoglosses plotted there have plainly shifted some since OHG times (see §1.20), but for the most part the modern diatopic distribution of the results of the shift appears to be congruous with the OHG and (much more secure) MHG evidence. Line A in the figure represents the Benrather Linie (named after a village that is now a district of Düsseldorf), marking the northernmost limit of the shift (machen : maken); line B represents the Speyerer Linie (named after the city of Speyer; sometimes also called the Main line, after the river), marking the border between Upper and Central German (Apfel : Appel).

Several aspects of the shift have generated considerable controversy, especially the shift of the voiceless stops. The commonest assumption (as proposed by Braune 1874b: 49–50) is that the shift began with aspiration of voiceless stops, with subsequent conversion of aspirates to affricates, which then after vowels were simplified to fricatives, hence, e.g., \( p > p^h > pf (> ff) \). Alternative views are summarized concisely by Braune (2004a: §90 Anm. 2–3). The date of the shift’s origin and the manner of its spread, two closely related issues, are matters of greater controversy. The view of the

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**Fig. 7. New High German Dialects.** Line A represents the Benrath line, differentiating High and Low German; line B represents the Speyer line, distinguishing Upper and Central German. See also §1.20.
majority, again established by Braune (1874b), is that the shift originated in UG, in the area where its effects are most extensive, and as it spread northward it gradually affected fewer sounds. The pattern of spread would thus be like that for the change of ð to d, which can be traced over the course of the OHG period (§6.22). Yet it has also been argued that the change spread from north to south, or from the west; or that the shift was polygenetic in origin, arising in more than one related dialect (the Entfaltungstheorie, originating with Höfler 1955–56); or that the change initially produced the same results in all OHG dialects, but that there was a creeping ‘creolization’ of CG dialects under NSGmc. influence (so Vennemann 1987a: 48–53, and elsewhere); or that it originated in a Gallo-Romance substrate (Lange 2003, Schrijver 2011). See Goblirsch 2005: 137–81 for summary, discussion, and bibliography pertaining to these issues, and subsequently Callender 2012, 2017. The shift has been dated as early as the 1st cent. BCE, but the majority view is that it occurred in the 6–8th centuries CE; for a summary of views, see Vennemann 1994a. Vennemann (e.g. 1984b) has also argued in various publications that the shift can best be explained on the basis of the glottalic theory (§6.2), advocating very early dating and a centuries-long process of adaptivity and sound substitutions to account for application of the shift to Lat. loans, e.g. Zürich, from Lat. Turicum. For a thorough review of scholarship on all aspects of the shift, see Schwerdt 2000.

1. This sound is distinguished in spelling from the reflex of PGmc. s until late in the MHG period. The latter was probably postalveolar, given that it has become ⟨ʃ⟩ initially before a consonant, and given that OHG texts from Freising represent Slovene ⟨f, g⟩ as ⟨s⟩ and ⟨h, z⟩ as ⟨z⟩ (Braune 1874a). In that event, perhaps z was simply ⟨s⟩, reduced from ⟨ts⟩. For discussion and references, see Penzl 1986a: 38–9. Although ⟨z(z)⟩ may usually stand for either the fricative or the affricate, in Isidor the sounds are distinguished, the affricate being represented by ⟨ɔ⟩ (⟨ts⟩ when geminated), the fricative by ⟨ˈʃ⟩ (⟨zs⟩ when final). Likewise, in some manuscripts the affricate is represented by ⟨c⟩ (Braune 2004a: §157). And of course the fricative and the affricate are distinguishable on the basis of modern reflexes.

2. But Middle Franconian preserves final stops in the words dat, it, wat, the inflection -et, and (in part) up.

3. An exception is Middle Franconian, where the development of b agrees with that in OS: except initially, after m, and in gemination, where it had already developed to b, it remained b except when devoiced (i.e., next to a voiceless sound or finally); hence gevan ‘give’, pret. gaf, otherwise CG geban, gab.

4. Vennemann’s position has met with much criticism: see Braune 2004a: §90 Anm. 6 for bibliography. A supporter is L.C. Smith (1996); an opponent is Schwerdt 2000: 177–89; see further Schwerdt 2002.

6.22 Other consonant changes in Old High German

As noted in §6.21, unlike in Ingvaenic, PGmc. b and ʒ become stops b and g in all positions in OHG, except in Middle Franconian, and in UG these are commonly represented as ⟨p⟩ and ⟨k, c⟩.

The reflex of PGmc. ð is usually spelt ⟨d⟩ (also ⟨th, dh⟩) already in the earliest Bayerian texts, and the gradual spread of the change east- and northward is traceable in the OHG records, appearing finally in Middle Franconian in the 11th century. In this last dialect, then, it fell together with d from PGmc. ð, which was not shifted to t in Middle Franconian, and in UG and East Franconian, and variably in Rhine and South Rhine Franconian. Presumably, ð passed through the stage ð in the process of becoming OHG d, and this is apparently what relatively infrequent spellings with dh represent. Examples: dorn ‘thorn’ (Go. paírmus), bruíder ‘brother’ (Go. brôpar), ander ‘other’ (Go. änþar), tód ‘death’ (Go. dâuþs). When geminate, however, ðð (like dd, §6.21) becomes tt, as in smitta ‘smithy’ (OE smiþþe).
Devoicing of final voiced stops (final fortition, *Auslaut(s)verhärtung*) is frequently in evidence in Franconian, especially in *Isidor* and Tatian, rarely in Otfrid; yet it is hardly universal, and $d$ from PGmc. $b$ is always written $d$. Due to the development of the voiced stops in UG, the extent of devoicing cannot be reliably gauged.

Notker evinces a pattern of voicing alternations in initial stops under sandhi conditions, a pattern known as *Notkers Anlaut(s)gesetz* ‘Notker’s law of initials’. He uses $\langle b, d \rangle$ (the latter from $b$) and $\langle g \rangle$ to represent stops when the preceding word ends in a vowel or a sonorant $r, l, m, n$; otherwise he writes $\langle p, t, k \rangle$, i.e. either when the preceding word ends in an obstruent (etymologically either voiced or voiceless), or at the start of a sentence. OHG $t$ derived from PGmc. $d$ does not participate in the alternation. The usual explanation is that OHG $b, d, g$ are voiceless lenes, and writing $\langle p, t, k \rangle$ (usually representing voiceless fortes) expresses neutralization of the contrast between lenis and fortis stops after an obstruent. It naturally follows that OHG $t (< d)$, a fortis, would show no alternation. For discussion of this and alternative views, with a bibliographical overview, see B.R. Page 2013; also Luxner 2015.
MORPHOLOGY
CHAPTER 7

Nouns

7.1 Noun formation in Proto-Indo-European and Germanic

In the IE protolanguage, nouns were inflected for (probably) eight cases (nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, ablative, dative, locative, instrumental; perhaps also allative) and three numbers (singular, dual, plural), as in Sanskrit. Each nominal form was composed of stem plus inflection, e.g. stem *pod-* plus case inflection *-m = *pod-m > Gk. acc. sg. πόδα ‘foot’. The stem might be a simple root, as in the example given, or the stem might be a root plus one or more suffixes, e.g. *genh₁-es- in Lat. gen. sg. generis ‘family’ (cf., with different suffixes, Lat. gen. sg. gen-i-tus ‘nation’, co-gnā-t-us ‘related by birth’) and *genh₁-e-tōr- in Lat. gen. sg. gentīris ‘progenitor’. The commonest class of nouns comprised masc. and neut. stems ending in a vocalic suffix of the form *-e- or (more commonly) *-o- (which might or might not be attached to a consonantal suffixal onset), a suffix called the ‘theme vowel’ or ‘thematic vowel’ (a conveniently abstract term, given the alternation e/o), and hence the category is referred to as ‘thematic stems’. Examples are nom. sg. masc. *yλk₁-s-o-s > Skt. vṛkah, Gk. λόκος, Lat. lupus ‘wolf’ and neut. *yug-o-m > Hittite yukan, Skt. Yugām, Gk. ζυγόν, Lat. jugum ‘yoke’. Stems without the theme vowel are all said to belong to athematic classes, except that ā-stems are an ill fit with either category. The different PIE stem classes will be examined below in connection with the Germanic classes descended from them.

By the time of late PIE some of the transparency of the distinction between stem and inflection had been lost (see, e.g., Kastovsky 1995: 228). In part this is because inflections, though similar, were not identical across stem classes: e.g., the nom. sg. masc. and fem. inflection *-s was not used in the r-, ā-, and ī-stems, and the nom./acc. sg. neut. inflection *-m was used in o-stems but not s-stems. More significant, in many stem classes the juncture between stem and inflection had become obscured: e.g., the dat. sg. ending *-e₁ had in the thematic stems melded with the theme vowel *-o- to give the unitary inflection *-ō₁, with the result that, at least in the dative, the stem could no longer be said to end in the theme vowel. By the time of the earliest attested Germanic languages this fusing of inflections and stem endings has proceeded so far that the original points of juncture are no longer plainly recognizable: for example, among the n-stems in Gothic the inflection has attracted to itself what was originally the -en-/on-suffix attached to the stem, so that acc. sg. masc. *mēn-on-m has become Go. mēn-an ‘moon’, in which the original inflection has been lost altogether, and what was originally a stem-forming suffix has become an inflection. The result was a declensional system in which inflections differed a great deal from one noun class to another. Such changes ought to have terminological consequences for the analysis of Germanic: if *an in mēn-an is an inflection, the category is no longer literally the class of n-stems, since most such stems do not end in -n- (nom. ah-a ‘mind’, att-a ‘father’, etc.). However, some stem classes in Germanic retain their PIE characteristics: r-stems, for instance, do...
still have stems ending in -r-. Noun classes in Germanic are thus not wholly classifiable, synchronically, on the basis of either stem formation or the suffixes attached to the stems. Accordingly, it is both convenient and conventional to retain the stem-categories of PIE in reference to Germanic (r-stems, s-stems, etc.), making only such adjustments as are required by Gmc. phonology (e.g., a-stems rather than o-stems, due to the change of PIE *o to Gmc. a, and ð-stems rather than ð-stems, since PIE *ð > Gmc. ō).

1. There is much confusion, especially in the earlier literature, about what the term ‘thematic stems’ means. In current IE linguistics it refers only to o-stems, though in some works it is used to refer also to ð-stems, in others also to all vocalic stems (i.e., stems ending in a vowel in PIE, hence including ÷- and ù-stems, and sometimes, again, ð-stems, supposing early loss of laryngeals), in still others to all but root-stems (since all but root-stems bore a ‘theme’, i.e. a suffix, in PIE).

2. The PIE ð-stems are in origin athematic, inasmuch as they originally added athematic inflections to a stem ending in ō. Yet, like o-stems, they have a fixed accent throughout the paradigm. Current handbooks, unlike many earlier ones, explicitly limit thematic inection to the o-stems (so, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §7.1.4.6, Fortson 2010: 84), yet they do not expressly classify ð-stems with athematic stems.

7.2 The inflections of Proto-Indo-European root-stems

Although, as noted above, inflections were not uniform across noun classes in PIE, general patterns of declension are observable. To clarify the origins of the Gmc. endings, it will be useful beforehand to illustrate the inflections borne by PIE root-stem nouns, i.e. nouns in which the stem was an unsuffixed root, since these inflections were generally the basis for the inflections found in other stem classes, by the combination of the root-stem endings with suffixal elements in other classes. In the oldest inflectional classes, masc. and fem. nouns are declined identically, i.e. as uters (as opposed to neuters); only later in PIE did separate inflections for some feminine nouns arise. The dual endings are insufficiently relevant to Germanic to be treated here. The following is a typical reconstruction of the uter root-stem inflections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nominative</td>
<td>-s</td>
<td>-es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocative</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>-es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accusative</td>
<td>-m</td>
<td>-ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genitive</td>
<td>-eś/-ös</td>
<td>-(oh)öm (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ablative</td>
<td>-eś/-ös</td>
<td>-bh(į)ös, -mōs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dative</td>
<td>-ę</td>
<td>-bh(į)ös, -mōs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>locative</td>
<td>-í</td>
<td>-sū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instrumental</td>
<td>-óln/-óln</td>
<td>-bhis, -mis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The endings -m, -ns, -i become syllabic (-m, -ns, -i) when they follow a consonant. The neuter inflections are slightly different: in most classes the bare stem is used in the nom., voc., and acc. sg., whereas in some cases in the plural add *-ā < *-eh₂, which appears originally to have been a collective ending related to the nom. sg. inflection of a-stems: see Clackson 2007: 100–4. Uter nom. sg. -s is lost in some consonant-stem nouns, with compensatory lengthening of the root vowel, as in Gk. πατήρ < PIE *ph₂ter-s (Szemerényi’s law: §1.6 n. 1). This pattern was then extended analogically to many other consonant-stems, i.e. ones without a stem-final sonorant consonant. The alternative endings containing *-m- in the abl., dat., and instr. pl. are reflected in the Germanic and Balto-Slavic languages, and there is no generally accepted explanation for the substitution of *-m- for *-bh-: for discussion, see K.H. Schmidt 1963; also, for
§7.2 The inflections of Proto-Indo-European root-stems

The shape of the gen. pl. is much contested: some (e.g. Prokosch 1939: 232, 239, Szemerényi 1996: §7.2.1) assume that the original ending was *-om, and this was replaced in Skt., Gk. and some others by the o-stem ending *-ōm < *-o-om or (more likely) the ā-stem ending *-eōm, in large part because the Slavic ending points to *-om (see further Kortlandt 1978); others (e.g. Jasanoff 1983, 2002: 36) suppose that the ending was *-o-om or *-oHom, as suggested by, among other things, the accentuation of Gk. -ōv and the disyllabic scansion of Vedic Skt. -ām in roughly a third of instances.

The origins of some aspects of these inflections can be determined with some probability. The *s found in most cases of the plural is likely to be a plural marker abstracted from the nom. plural. In that event, acc. pl. *-ns is probably from *-m-s, i.e. as a pluralization of the sg. *-m. The loc. sg. is based on the hic et nunc particle *i, and the plural cases in *bh derive from the postposition *bhi, reflected in PDE as by.

1. Schmid (1986: 165) offers analogy to the pronominal inflection as an explanation; Beekes (2011: 30–1) asserts that the dat. pl. ending was *-okus, the instr. *-bhi.
2. *-oHom would have to be a late development, given the peculiar ablaut; the sometimes heated debate over this ending is thus to a great extent simply over whether the required analogical change took place in late PIE or afterward.

7.3 The inflectional categories of Germanic nouns

Dual number is not retained as an inflectional category among nouns in any Germanic language, though it is preserved in pronouns and verbs (the latter in Gothic only, where the 3 dual is lost), and perhaps in ‘2’ and ‘both’. More significant is that the eight cases of PIE are reduced to six in PGmc.: nominative, vocative, accusative, genitive, dative, and instrumental. The dative combines the functions of the PIE dative, ablative, and locative, and all three types of case endings appear to have contributed to the morphology of the dative of Gmc. nouns, although the locative is the chief source of dat. sg. endings in Germanic. No Gmc. language preserves all six of these PGmc. cases: in the inflection of nouns, only Gothic and (probably) early Runic preserve the vocative, and Gothic, Old Norse, and Anglo-Frisian substitute the dative for the instrumental, only the singular of the instrumental being preserved as a distinct case form elsewhere. In addition, however, a few relic forms of these cases survive in the singular, chiefly in West Germanic: see §7.8 under dat. sg. The nom. acc. neuter plural is in origin a collective form in *-eōh with rightward-shifted accent. Such collectives came to be regarded as plurals in the individual IE languages, though their collective origin is indicated by, e.g., the Latin and Greek rule that neuter plural subjects take a singular verb. In Gmc. the accent shift sometimes resulted in consonant alternations under Verner’s law (examples in §6.6).

1. The Gmc. syntactic rule that an adj. referring to two persons of different sexes is inflected neuter is often said to be a reflex of the homophony of the masc. nom./acc. dual and the neut. nom./acc. pl. as *-ō in PGmc.: so, e.g., Hirt 1931–4: II, 12.
2. But see especially the discussion of the a-stem dat. sg., §7.8.
3. The Go. vocative (sg. only) does not in fact retain discrete inflections: in Gothic a-, i-, u-, and nd-stems (including ja- and wa-stems), the vocative singular is identical to the accusative, e.g. skalk ‘servant’, gast...
7.4 Accent and ablaut in nouns

In thematic stems, the PIE accent fell on the same syllable throughout the paradigm. This could be the first syllable (the so-called acrostatic pattern) or it could be the theme vowel (mesostatic). In athematic nouns, on the other hand, the accent was usually mobile. For example, the suffix could appear with accented full-grade vowel *e/o in the nom. voc. acc. sg. dual and pl. and, in some categories, the loc. sg. (the so-called strong or direct cases), though commonly the vowel was lengthened in the nom. sg. of utter nouns; in the remaining, weak or oblique cases there was weak grade of the suffix and accent on the inflection. Hence, e.g., there may be reconstructed PIE r-stem nom. sg. *ph₂t-ōr < *ph₂t-ōr-s ‘father’, acc. *ph₂t-ōr-m, gen. *ph₂t-r-ōs. This is the so-called hysterokinetic (or hysterodynamic) pattern of accentuation. There are also to be found athematic stems following the amphikinetic pattern (or simply kinetic in root-stems), with accented root in the strong cases and accented inflection in the weak, as with nom. sg. *pōnt-ōh₂-s > Skt. panthāḥ ‘path’ (with -th- < *-th₂- extended from the weak cases), gen. sg. *pṇt-h₁-ēs > pathāḥ. In the proterokinetic type, the root is accented in the strong cases and the suffix in the weak, as with PIE nom. sg. *gʷén-h₂ ‘woman’ > OIr. ben, PIE gen. *gʷn-ēh₂-s > mná. In athematic nouns there do occur acrostatic types, with the characteristic that although the accent is fixed, there is ablaut alternation between the strong and weak stems. An example of this is heteroclitic PIE strong stem *iēkʷ-r- ‘liver’, reflected in Gk. ἥπαρ, weak stem *iēkʷ-n- reflected in Skt. gen. yáknaḥ. See further Clackson 2007: 79–111 on the PIE patterns, and on Germanic, Schäffner 2001, Mottauch 2011. Most ablaut alternations in nominal stems were eliminated in PGmc., though ablaut persisted in inflections.


7.5 Vocalic stems

IE noun stems are conventionally classed as vocalic or consonantal, depending on whether the stem ended in a vowel or a consonant. The vocalic stems in Gmc. are the a-stems (including the ja- and wa-stems), the ō-stems (including the jō- and wō-stems), the i-stems, and the u-stems.

7.6 a-stem nouns

The a-stems, or thematic stems, reflecting the PIE o-stems, are all masculine and neuter, with minor differences of inflection between the two. This is a highly productive class: when masc. and neut. nouns defect from other stem classes, it is usually to this class. The class includes simple a-stems, in which a (PIE thematic o) was added to the stem, as well as ja-stems and wa-stems, in which the theme vowel was preceded by a glide,
which was usually suffixal. The PIE accent is on the same syllable throughout the paradigm, usually on the root, though the theme vowel could instead be accented, as with *h₂egós > Skt. ajāḥ ‘drover’, Gk. ἀγός ‘leader’.

7.7 The simple a-stems

This class includes only masculine and neuter nouns. Masculine paradigms of a-stems in the major early Gmc. languages may be illustrated by Go. wulf ‘wolf’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>wulf</td>
<td>úlf</td>
<td>wulf</td>
<td>wolf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>wulfís</td>
<td>úlfís</td>
<td>wulfes</td>
<td>wolfes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>wulfā</td>
<td>úlfī</td>
<td>wulfē</td>
<td>wolfē</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td>wulfu</td>
<td>wolfu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voc.</td>
<td>wulf</td>
<td>wolf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>wulfōs</td>
<td>úlfar</td>
<td>wulfas</td>
<td>wolfas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>wulfans</td>
<td>úlfan</td>
<td>wulfás</td>
<td>wolfás</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>wulfē</td>
<td>úlfā</td>
<td>wulfō</td>
<td>wolfō</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>wulfam</td>
<td>úlfum</td>
<td>wulfum</td>
<td>wolfum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neuter nouns are declined similarly, the exceptions being in the nom. and acc. of both sg. and pl., as illustrated by forms of the word for ‘word’ (a heavy stem; on the light stems, see below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom./acc.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom./acc.</td>
<td>waúrd</td>
<td>orð</td>
<td>word</td>
<td>word</td>
<td>wort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflectional variants:

**Gothic.** Final -s in the nom. sg. masc. is lost if the stem ends in /r, s/, as with nom. wair ‘man’, freihals ‘freedom’.

**Old Icelandic.** Final -r in the nom. sg. is assimilated to a preceding /n, s, l/, as in himinn ‘heaven’, íss ‘ice’, jökull ‘glacier’; if such assimilation produces a postconsonantal geminate, the geminate is simplified, as with hrafn ‘raven’, jarl ‘earl’; so also aldr ‘age’ < *aldr-r.

**West Germanic.** Light-stemmed neuters take the ending -u (-o) in the nom. acc. pl. in OE and OS, e.g. OE scipu ‘ships’ (cf. word), OS grabu ‘graves’. In OE and OFris. there occur some rare instr. singulars in -um, which Bammesberger (2001) identifies as dual in origin. Besides OS nom. acc. pl. -os there occurs -a, -e, borrowed from pronouns. The quantity of final ⟨a⟩ in the OHG nom./acc. pl. masc. is disputed, though most regard the long variant as a dialectal development.¹ The spelling of vowels in inflections is far from uniform, especially in OS and OHG.

1. See Braune 2004a: §193 Anm. 4 for references; but cf. under nom. pl. in §7.8. Note that Braune regards -ă as the correct reflex of *-ōz. See further Shields 2006, regarding -ă as analogical to the ĕ-stem inflection.
7.8 Origin and development of a-stem inflections

The following issues may be noted:

**Nom. sg.** The masculine nouns reflect PGmc. *-az < PIE *-o-s; cf. Skt. áśvah, Gk. ἀκρός, Lat. equus < *ekyos ‘horse’. It is generally assumed that the variant *-az due to the voicing of */s/ under Verner’s law (§6.6) analogically replaced *-as in the type with accent on the theme vowel, which is particularly common in PIE o-stem adjectives (e.g. PIE *mhkrós in Gk. μακρός ‘long’, OHG magar ‘thin’), though it has also been proposed that every postvocalic final *-s was voiced to *-z in PGmc., regardless of the accent (so, e.g., Bammesberger 1990: 40, Boutkan 1995b: 43–51; cf. §6.16 supra). The vow el is lost independently in Go. and ON (cf. Runic þewar ‘servant’, ca. 400, with loss already in EGmc. awings, Vimose sheathplate, Fyn, 3rd cent.), and in ON, *-z (r in Runic, distinct from r) is supported by the acc. sg. masc. pronoun Go. þan-a, OE þon-e, from PGmc. *þan < PIE *to-m (Skt. tám, Gk. τόν) plus *-s (probably: see §8.10).

**Acc. sg.** PGmc. *-aₐn < *-an < PIE *-o-m. The stage -an is attested by the acc. sg. masc. pronoun Go. þan-a, OE þon-e, from PGmc. *þan < PIE *to-m (Skt. tám, Gk. τόν) plus *-s (probably: see §8.10).

**Gen. sg.** OE and Runic forms point to PGmc. *-as,1 which is usually explained as reflecting PIE *-ó-so, where the place of the accent prevents voicing of */s/ under Verner’s law, though certainly then analogy must be invoked, since it is hardly plausible that thematic genitives were always so accented. PIE *-o-so is supported by Old Prussian deitvas < *deiyo-so ‘of a god’, but the IE languages more usually reflect *-o-sio (probably originally pronominal), as in Skt. aśvasya, Homeric Gk. ἰπποιο < PIE *eky-o-sio ‘horse’? But OHG and OS -es point rather to PIE *-e-so (the ending -as is less common in OS, and OHG -as is a late, chiefly Bavarian development: see Braune 2004a: §193 Anm. 1), as does Go. -is. This *-e-so could reflect a PIE ablaut variant in nouns, as is often assumed, though the evidence for such an alternant outside of Gmc. is exiguous. Accordingly, Beekes (1988, with refs.) argues that the pronominal ending was PIE *-e-so in the pronoun kʷ-é-so ‘whose?’, and this supplanted the ending on a-stem nouns in PGmc.2 This would explain why */s/ was never voiced: in pronouns like *x₁wₚes (< *k₁wᵽeso) there was no opportunity for Verner’s law to apply. On this view, in NGmc. and OE, where *-as is reflected, the vocalism is an analogical innovation post-dating PGmc.: cf. OE demonstrative þæs < PIE *toso. Beekes’ analysis would also explain why the Gmc. ending reflects *-eso rather than *-eso: cf. OCS česo ‘of which?’ (Brückner 1960: 56–63, idem 1977: 226) argues that the *-as found outside of Gothic and OHG reflects the PGmc. ending, derived not from the PIE o-stem inflection but from pronominal gen. PIE *tósio, thus explaining why Verner’s law does not produce *-z in the genitive. OS OHG -es is then to be explained as analogical to the gen. pronouns *es and *x₁wₚes. Another fact to be accounted for is that OS and OHG -es do not cause umlaut (e.g. OHG tages ‘day’). Yet this observation would not be decisive in favor of Ringe’s position even if it were universally agreed that PIE e yields PGmc. i in unstressed syllables except before r.3 Although it does not appear to be possible to prove whether it is *-as or *-es that was the PGmc. inflection, the historically dominant position that there was no PGmc. e in unstressed syllables except before r does, all things considered, favor the assumption of original *-as, though, to be sure, the fate of unstressed e aside, Ringe’s does appear to be the more

**Dat. sg.** Go. dat. sg. -a in the a-stems perhaps derives from PIE instr. *-ei (i.e., *-eh*-h), given comparison to the relic instr. pe (as in ni pe haldis ‘none the more’, bi-pe ‘while’, jab-pe ‘and if’, pe-ei ‘that, because’; also Go. dat. huamma ‘every’ < PIE *-eh*-k-ei vs. huamma ‘who’ < PIE *-eh*-h), with development of unstressed -e to -a, though it would also be possible to derive Go. -a from a posited reduced form of the PIE dat. *-ā (beside usual *-ūi < *-o-ei: see Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §4; cf. Bammesberger 1990: 42). The same ending *-ē perhaps underlies endingless locatives in WGmc., e.g. OE OS OHG hūs: see Dahl 1938: 51–5, Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.18, but cf. Boutkan 1995b: 382–3. The WGmc. dat. sg., however, most likely derives from PGmc. dat. *-ai < *-ūī. The idea of Prokosch (1939: §79e) that this is an unnecessarily complicated derivation, since datives in other Gmc. classes derive from locatives, faces the difficulty of explaining forms like early OE fācni that are instrumental in function but, apparently, locative in form, with -i from thematic PIE *-ei (cf. early OE dat. sg. hrōfa ‘roof’ with -e, probably from PGmc. dat. *-ai < *-ūi < *-o-ei), though such forms usually lack umlaut. There is thus some reason to doubt the idea of Hollifield (1980: 160) that e in Go. huammē reflects PGmc. ai, further reduced to a in huamma; this also leaves Go. pei (etc.) unexplained: cf. þái ‘they’ (masc.) < PIE *toj. It is nonetheless very commonly assumed that the Gmc. dat. reflects the PIE loc. *-oi: see Euler 2013: 69, with references. Runic -ō (wodurīde, wallakurne) can reflect either *-ē or *-ei; note that although ē developed to ā in stressed syllables early in NGmc. (§4.6), this was not so in unstressed syllables: cf., e.g., *swestēr > PNorse *swestēr > Olcel. syster, later cystēr ‘sister’ (§5.6 & n. 4). See further Kotin 2012: 142–4. Pervasive uncertainties remain.

**Instr. sg.** In early texts in OHG and in OS there appear forms reflecting instrumental singular endings, e.g. OHG wortu ‘word’ and OS hobu ‘court’, with -u < PIE *-ōi (i.e., *-o-h).11 There must be assumed analogical restoration of the inflection after heavy stems (Gallée 1993: 197).

**Voc. sg.** In masc. nouns the ending in PIE was *-e (i.e. the bare theme vowel); cf. Gk.  ἱππος, Lat. eque ‘horse’. In neuter nouns, however, the vocative was probably identical to the nominative, as in Greek. This ending *-e is lost everywhere in Germanic, and this resulted in the loss of any distinction between vocative and nominative in WGmc. A distinction was preserved in Gothic, however (where the nom. ended in -s), and in early Runic, as attested by the vocatives alawid and alugod (personal names, the latter from ca. 200; cf. nom. in -(a)r, as above).

**Nom. pl.** In masc. nouns the PIE ending was *-ōs < *-o-es (cf. athematic PIE *-es, §7.2). This *-o-es perhaps results directly in PGmc. *-ōs, which may be reflected in Olcel. -ar, OHG -ā, and Go. -ōs.13 However, OE OS -as (cf. OFris. -ar, -er, -a, -an) require a different explanation, as *-z should have been lost in WGmc. Possibly PGmc. *-ōs and *-ōs were variants under Verner’s law (§6.6), with generalization of one or the other in the different Gmc. languages (unless final *-s was always voiced to *-z: see under nom. sg. above). Alternatively, comparison has been drawn to Indo-Iranian -āsas (see Beekes 1989 for refs.), implying PIE *-ōsas (i.e. normal *-o-es with re-addition of the athematic ending *-es), which could account for all the Gmc. endings (including -ar in Frisian—so van Helten 1889: 282—though this could be a borrowing from ON: see Markey 1981: 14, but cf. Boutkan 1995b: 188–91, H.F. Nielsen 2000: 253–4) except OHG: see Bammesberger 1990: 43–4. The OHG variant -a with short vowel is likely to
be analogical to the acc. pl. (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §4; see also Hollifield 1980: 43–4), as the nom. and acc. pl. influence each other throughout WGmc. declension. But Prokosch (1939: §49n note) offers the very different idea that acc. pl. *-ãns developed to *-ãs in NSGmc. (see §4.11), resulting ultimately in OE -as, to which the nom. pl. inflection is analogical. Stiles (1988: 139 n. 18), elaborating an idea of Björvand (1987: 186–7), argues that *-z was devoiced by analogy to the gen. sg. for the purpose of contrast with the fem. ending. Ringe proposes that after the loss of final *-z, the s-particle that spread through the paradigm of the proximal demonstrative pronoun (§8.12) was added to the remaining *-ð (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 162–3). For discussion and references, see Boutkan 1995b: 187–93, favoring the assumption of PGmc. *-ôsez. As for the neut., the PIE ending was *-ā (see §7.2); this develops to PGmc. *-ô, which gives, in normal fashion, -a in Gothic and -u elsewhere. This final -u is always lost in NGmc., though not without causing u-umlaut or fracture, e.g. in Olcel. nom. pl. born ‘children’, fjôll ‘mountains’. In WGmc. this -u was preserved only after light syllables, e.g. OE scipu ‘ships’, OSgrabu ‘graves’, but in OHG the endingless variant was generalized, the ending -u being preserved only in some Alemannic diminutives, e.g. chinîlliu ‘little children’, and in ja-stems (see §7.11).

**Acc. pl.** PIE masc. *-o-ns gives PGmc. *-anz, which develops regularly in Go. and OHG. In ON there must be assumed a development *-anz > *-ann > *-an > -a (not attested earlier than ca. 600 in Runic); cf. n-stem gen. sg. kepân (name; Belland stone, ca. 500) < *-anz; cf. Antonsen 1975: 19. The ending OE -as, OS -os is by analogy to the nom. pl. (cf. above under **nom. pl.** for the converse development in OHG). OS has also occasionally -a, -e, which Holthausen (1921: §265.4) is probably right to regard as analogical to pronominal declension, though Boutkan (1995b: 192) prefers to see it as a “special development” of the acc. pl. The neut. inflection was identical to the nom. pl. neuter.

**Gen. pl.** PIE *-o-Hom should have developed to PGmc. *-ôm. This accounts well for all the Gmc. forms except Go. -ê, which has been the topic of a great deal of controversy: see Ringe 2006b: 170–8 for an extensive survey of approaches. Some purely phonological explanations involve the supposition of qualitative ablaut in PIE (see, e.g., Möller 1880: 489, Loewe 1933: 2.9, and the references in Morgenroth 1965), though Gothic is the only IE language thought to show the variant with the front vowel, so that this account is difficult to credit. Others posit sound changes in Gmc. that are possible but not widely accepted. Morphological solutions seem likelier, the most widely credited of which is the idea of van Helten (1893: 570–3, 1909: 273–5) that the equality of the Gothic ending arose by analogy to the e-quality of the gen. sg. *-es (in consonant-stems) and *-eso (in a-stems). This (as pointed out by Prokosch 1939: §791) would explain why -ê is not the ending in the Gothic ô-stems (as well as the ôn-stems and în-stems), where the gen. sg. ending is -ôs. Another morphological solution is that of Brugmann (1914: 272–4), positing origin in the PIE neuter nom. sg. ending *-êjo-m of some adjectives (unfortunately unattested in Gmc.). The hypotheses of Morgenroth (1965: 333–6), Lehmann (1967: 109–11), and Kuryłowicz (Kuryłowicz et al. 1968–2015: 2.87 Anm. 8; see also Fullerton 1983: 119–27) show some similarity to that of van Helten, somewhat more abstractly assuming that -ê-arose in Gothic as part of a pattern of frontness/backness oppositions between the vocalism of feminine and non-feminine inflections. Some other morphological solutions assume that -ê is based on a different case ending, e.g. a supposed instr./abl. sg. (Sehrt 1930: 98–100) or abl. sg. (Eska 1988; see also Wood 1923: 107–8), whereas Kortlandt (2007) sees the Go.
ending as originating in the -i-stems, with *-ei-om developing to -e rather than the -ei or -i that Ringe (2006b: 173) says should be expected. See further Kotin 2012: 140–2.

**Dat. pl.** To PIE athematic instr. pl. *-bhis corresponds the desinence *-mis reflected in Gmc. and Balto-Slavic: see the references in §7.2. Thematic *-o-mis(1) develops to -um everywhere in Gmc. except in Gothic, where it gives -am: see §5.5.

1. OS -as also occurs on occasion. The vowel is still preserved in Runic hnamdas (Bo stone, ca. 500).
2. Ringe (2017: 141), conveying the opinion of W. Cowgill, explains PGmc. *-as as reflecting PIE *-osjo on the assumption that a postconsonantal sonorant consonant rendered final by the loss of a final vowel was lost in PGmc.
3. To the suggestion that PGmc. *-esa could have developed from PIE *-esjo, Roberge (1988: 143–4, with references) raises telling objections; cf. Szemerényi 1996: §7.6.2. Cf. also Hollifield 1980: 34.
4. The point would not be decisive because there remains the possibility that umlaut was analogically removed from the genitive forms, and because OHG -es is not actually an impediment to Beekes’ position even if it is assumed that PGmc. unstressed e became ĕ: if *-es is by analogy to *-ez-es (with ĕ retained under stress), it may have arisen after the change of e to ĕ ceased to apply, and at all events the analogical influence of the pronoun need not be assumed to have ceased after the initial change. Boutkan (1995b: 72–89, 178) is one who supposes that the raising of unstressed ĕ occurred on a limited basis and would not have occurred in PGmc. *-es(a).
5. Ringe does not actually posit direct analogy to the reflexes of PGmc. *es and *v*es, rather the spread of *-es from these to pronominal *hes, followed by extension of *-es to adjectives, followed by extension to nouns, the last two steps (apparently) occurring independently in Gothic and OHG.
7. That there was a development of PIE dat. *-ōf to PGmc. *-ō was first proposed by Wiedemann (1892). The issue has been much disputed: see A.W. Jones 1979: 118–23 for discussion and references.
8. The more usual reconstruction is *-ōf (cf. the inflection on Gk. dat. sg. θεῶ ‘god’), but see §5.4. Derivation from the PIE loc. *-ōj is also possible.
11. Traces of the instrumental case are found also in the singular of some pronouns and adjectives in WGmc.: see §§8.10, 9.2 infra.
12. The only attested Go. a-stem vocatives are skalk ‘servant’ and biudan ‘king’.
13. On the earlier reconstruction PGmc. *-ōez < PIE *-o-ēs, see §5.4. There are, of course, other possible explanations for PGmc. *-ōez (if indeed the vowel was trimoric, as is usually assumed, and if *-o-ēs contracted to *-ōer, with a bimoric vowel, already in PIE, as Jasanoff (2004) contends), e.g. that -z in PGmc. *-ō-z was replaced by the athematic ending *-ez, giving PGmc. *-ō-ēz > *-ōez.
17. The thematic ending was PIE *-ōjis, giving Skt. -ais, shortened in Gk. -ais; but the Gmc. thematic ending is formed by adding athematic PIE *-mis (pronominal in origin? see §§7.2, 8.9) to the theme vowel. Loewe (1918) instead regards *-mis as the proper PIE instr. pl. inflection. Some would reconstruct a PIE dat. pl. *-o-mus and derive the Gmc. ending from this: so, e.g., van Hellen 1890: 21, Loewe (op. cit.), Boutkan 1995b: 197, Beekes 2011: 212.
7.9 The *ja*-stems

These were formed in PIE by the addition of the theme vowel to both verb and noun stems in *-t- (or the ablaut alternant *-e₁-, chiefly in denominal adjectives, as in Lat. *aureus* ‘golden’), which was usually suffixal. The PIE nouns with *-t-o- and *-e₁-o- ultimately fell together in Germanic as *ja*-stems, but the development of the Gmc. suffix was different according to whether the preceding syllable was heavy or light,\(^1\) giving PGmc. *-ija- and *-ja-, respectively, under Sievers’ law (§5.8).

\(^1\) According to the usual formulation, polysyllabic stems behave like heavy stems in regard to Sievers’ law in Gmc., but see §2.5 on the challenge to this view offered by Dahl (1938) and others.

7.10 The *ja*-stems in Gothic

The difference between heavy and light stems is most pronounced in Gothic, where the heavy masc. stems may be typified by *hairdeis* ‘herdsman’ and the light by *harjis* ‘army’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>hairdeis</th>
<th>harjis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>hairdi</td>
<td>hari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>hairdeis</td>
<td>harjis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>hairdja</td>
<td>harja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voc.</td>
<td>hairdi</td>
<td>hari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>hairdjoš</td>
<td>harjoš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>hairdjos</td>
<td>harjos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>hairdje</td>
<td>harje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>hairdjam</td>
<td>harjam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The endings are thus identical to those for Go. *dags*, but with preceding -j- throughout the plural, in the dat. sg., and in the gen. sg. of the light stems; more remarkable divergences from the simple *a*-stem paradigm are to be found in the sg. in the nom., acc., voc., and, among the heavy stems, the genitive.

There is some controversy over how to account for the nom. and gen. singular. Heavy-stemmed nom. *-eis* is usually explained as deriving from PGmc. *-ijaz > *-ijz > *-iiz > -īs*. Such a development is plausible enough, but it demands the assumption that light-stemmed nom. *-jis* have been formed by analogy to gen. *-jis* (since nom. and gen. are identical in the heavy-stemmed nouns, both bearing the inflection *-eis*), and Barrack (1998: 102–4) objects that the nom. should not be expected to have been reformed by analogy to the genitive, since the genitive is more marked and far less frequent than the nominative. He supports the view of Sievers (1877–8: 129) that instead there was raising of *a* in *-ijaz > *-ijez > *-ijiz > *-iiz*, noting that although *a* is not elsewhere raised after *j*, the combined effect of *j* and following *z* could have caused raising.

But considering that stem-final -j- heavily predominates in the paradigm of *harjis*, as Barrack concedes, the gen. need not be considered the only analogical influence upon the nominative.\(^1\) It is quite possible that original *haris* acquired the stem *harj-* by analogy to the rest of the paradigm. In fact, if PGmc. *-ji-* was always reduced to *-i-*, even after a consonant (see §12.38), then the gen. sg. must also be analogical. The development of the remaining cases is straightforward:
§7.10 The ja-stems in Gothic

Acc. sg. PGmc. heavy *-ija* probably did not lose intervocalic *j* (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §6; cf. §6.11 supra, ad fin.); *-a* was lost, as in the simple a-stems, and the remaining final *-j* on light stems was syllabified.

Gen. sg. PGmc. heavy *-ijis* loses intervocalic *j*, giving *-iis > -īs*; light *-jis* either remains or, as suggested above, is reduced to *-is*, with subsequent analogical restoration of *j*, as in the nom.

Dat. sg. PGmc. heavy *-ijē* or *-ijai* changes to *-jē* or *-jai*, just as in heavy-stemmed verbs of weak class 1 (§12.38); it thus falls together with light *-jē* or *-jai*, which develops normally to *-ja*.

Voc. sg. PGmc. heavy *-ije* loses final *-e*, then *-ij* develops to *-ii > *-ī* and is shortened; yet Wright (1954: §154) cites the imp. sg. of heavy-stemmed verbs of the first weak class as evidence that there was no shortening of *-i* in Gothic (but see §12.38 n. 8 for an alternative explanation). Light *-je* loses final *-e* and then *-j* is syllabified.

For a different explanation of the voc. endings, see Ringe 2017: 142.

Pl. Developments are comparable to those in the dat. singular.

In Gothic neuters the heavy and light ja-stems are declined identically. Only the nom. sg. and the nom. and acc. plural should be expected to have borne endings different from the corresponding masc. endings in PGmc., giving Go. nom. sg. *-i* and nom. and acc. pl. *-ja*. The only irregularity is that the heavy- and light-stemmed gen. sg. ending should be expected to have been differentiated, as in the masc. nouns, whereas *-jis* (instead of *-eis*) is used for both types in the neuters. The simplest explanation is that the light-stemmed inflection has been extended to the heavy stems, a plausible change because it has the effect of eliminating alternations under Sievers' law in the neuters, creating a uniform paradigm.\(^1\)

1. Prokosch (1939: 306, n. 1 to §80) provides references to some alternative views. See also Barber 2013: 13–14.

2. For a different explanation, based on the argument that Gothic eliminated most stems ending in a short vowel, see Kiparsky 2000; but see also §9.4 n. 1.

7.11 The ja-stems in Northwest Germanic

There are differences between heavy- and light-stemmed ja-stems in NWGmc., though they are not as transparently conditioned by Sievers’ law as in Gothic. The heavy masc. stems may be exemplified by Olcel. hirðir ‘herdsman’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>hirðir</td>
<td>hierde</td>
<td>hirdi</td>
<td>hirti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>hirðis</td>
<td>hierde</td>
<td>hirdi</td>
<td>hirti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>hirði</td>
<td>hierdes</td>
<td>hirdies</td>
<td>hirtes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>hirði</td>
<td>hierde</td>
<td>hirdie</td>
<td>hirtie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td>hierðiu</td>
<td>hirde</td>
<td>hirdium</td>
<td>hirtiu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>hirðar</td>
<td>hierdas</td>
<td>hirdios</td>
<td>hirte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>hirða</td>
<td>hierdas</td>
<td>hirdios</td>
<td>hirte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>hirða</td>
<td>hierda</td>
<td>hirdio</td>
<td>hirteo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>hirðum</td>
<td>hierdum</td>
<td>hirdium</td>
<td>hirtum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Olcel., *-j* appears before a back vowel at the end even of heavy stems if the preceding consonant is velar: to gen. pl. hirða cf. mækja ‘swords’. There is considerable
variety in the spelling of inflections in OS and OHG, e.g. dat. sg. OS -ea, -ia, OHG -e; dat. pl. OS -ion, -eon, OHG -un, -on, -im, -in.

Heavy-stemmed neuters are declined the same way, except in the nom. sg. and the nom./acc. plural, as exemplified by Olcel. riki ‘kingdom’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>riki</td>
<td>rīce</td>
<td>rīki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom./acc.</td>
<td>riki</td>
<td>rīcu</td>
<td>rīki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The light masc. and neut. stems are declined the same way as the heavy in OS and OHG, except that in OS, the nom./acc. sg. of stems that do not end in /r/ may be inflectionless, e.g. neut. nom. bed beside beddi ‘bed’ (on which see further below). The inflections in Olcel. and OE may be exemplified by masc. Olcel. niðr ‘kinsman’, OE secg ‘man’, here ‘army’, neut. Olcel. kyn ‘kin’, OE cynn ‘kin’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>neut.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>OE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>niðr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>nið</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>niðs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>nið</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>niðjar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>niðja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>niðja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>niðjum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OE -cg- in secg represents the West Germanic gemination of *ʒ before *j, the latter of which was then lost after the heavy syllable thus created. Since r was not geminated (§6.15), j remains in the paradigm of here, where it is often spelt ⟨g⟩ before a vowel, whereas word-finally it is vocalized to ⟨i⟩ > e.

Thus, in Olcel., the vocalized *-ij- in the heavy stems is reflected as -i(-) in the singular, where it stands before a consonant or in finality, but it is lost in the plural, where it stood before a vowel (and is assumed to have become non-syllabic, though it is still syllabic after heavy syllables in early Runic, e.g. gen. sg. holtiżaz); in the light stems, to the contrary, the non-vocalic variant *-j- is lost in the singular but preserved in the plural.

In OE, nom. sg. -e in the heavy stems reflects early -i < *-i < *-ij(az), with shortening having occurred too late for the vowel to be apocopated. Light-stemmed nom. sg. seege is for expected *sege < *sæzi < *sæżaz. The geminate of the other cases was extended at an early date to the nom., though perhaps not as early in OHG as elsewhere in WGmc.: for details see Dal (1934), who assumes that the acc. sg. is also analogically reformed, though Dahl (1938; so also Hogg 1979: 68–73) supposes that WGmc. acc. *sæżaz would have developed before the loss of the final vowel.

In Old Saxon, poetry has forms like nom. sg. segg ‘man’ and acc. bed ‘bed’, whereas later texts have seggi, beddi, with analogical extension of the ending of heavy stems, e.g. nom. acc. hirdi. OHG generally has the latter type ((h)rucki ‘back’, tilli ‘dill’), though a few alternative forms are attested, e.g. hewi beside houwi ‘hay’, beti beside betti ‘bed’, seemingly attesting to forms like the original *sege posited for OE (above).
§7.11 The ja-stems in Northwest Germanic 153

1. The nom./acc. forms in -i are later creations by analogy to the heavy stems. OS stems ending in /t/ (only neut. heri ‘army’, swiri ‘cousin’) retain -i/-e in the nom./acc., as in OE, as do stems of more than one syllable. Masc. segg ‘man’ has gone over to the i-stems.

2. OE seeg of course is not technically a light stem, but the stem *sej- (assuming that -j- had been reanalyzed as belonging to the inflection) was light before the onset of WGmc. gemination (§6.15).

3. Cf. the spelling -heri in early glossaries. The claim of Prokosch (1939: §80b, followed by Krahe & Meid 1969: II, 15–16) that /j/ is preserved and spelt (e) or (i) in early light-stemmed plurals is unreliable: in spellings like gen. pl. (seecea), the (e) is a diacritic indicating the palatal nature of the preceding sound: see Hogg 1992: §2.68.

4. The only exception is the rare neut. dat. sg. kyn, beside usual kyni. The endlingless form must be older, since all strong neuter nouns in Olcel. have -i in the dat. sg., whereas -i fails also in masc. i-stems and r-stems.

5. The assumption of original *sege is supported by OE mene ‘necklace’, a neut. ja-stem transferred to the i-stems; probably also dili ‘dill’ (cf. OS dilli) in the Corpus Glossary, acc. sg. dile in EWS, as well as a few OHG forms like beti beside betti ‘bed’ noted below (Dal 1934, Braune 2004a: §201 Anm. 4). It is also implied by the appearance of geminates in some i-stems, e.g. OE gen. sg. hysses to nom. hyse ‘warrior’, best explained on the assumption that the nom. of ja-stems resembled that of i-stems (Dahl 1938: §4–6). Boutkan (1995b: 209–13) offers an alternative analysis whereby there was the development *mannja > *menn > *men, with analogical addition of the final vowel. His analysis of the ja-stems (assuming a development comparable to nom. sg. jō-stem *synnuj > *synnu > synn ‘sin’) requires the assumption that the apocope of -at(z) and of -i represent the same phonological development, though they are usually regarded as widely separated in time: Luick (1914–40: §350), e.g., dates the former to the 2nd or 3rd cent., the latter to the beginning of the 7th in OE, i.e. less than a century before the appearance of the earliest OE manuscripts. The dating of the latter is controversial (see Fulk 1992: §§402–4), but since the umlaut in OE caused by unapocopated *-i postdates the period of Anglo-Frisian unity (Fulk 1998a: 153), Luick’s position seems likely.

7.12 The wa-stems

These nouns, with stems ending in PIE *y before the theme vowel, were originally formed like the ja-stems but with *-w- where the ja-stems had -j-. This w remains before vowels, but in finality it is often vocalized to u and may undergo further developments, as summarized below. Typical are the paradigms of Go. ṣius ‘servant’, Olcel. hōrr ‘flax’, OE bearu ‘grove’, OS skado ‘shadow’, OHG horo ‘dirt’, all masc. except the last, which is neuter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ṣius</td>
<td>hōrr</td>
<td>bearu</td>
<td>skado</td>
<td>horo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiu</td>
<td>hōr</td>
<td>bearu</td>
<td>skado</td>
<td>horo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiwis</td>
<td>hōrs</td>
<td>bearwes</td>
<td>skadowes</td>
<td>horwes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiwa</td>
<td>hōrv</td>
<td>bearwe</td>
<td>skadowe</td>
<td>horwe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>OE</td>
<td>OS</td>
<td>OHG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiwōs</td>
<td>hōrv</td>
<td>bearwes</td>
<td>horo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiwans</td>
<td>hōrv</td>
<td>bearwes</td>
<td>horo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ṣiwē</td>
<td>hōrv</td>
<td>bearwa</td>
<td>horwo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following details are relevant:

**Gothic.** Few of these forms are actually attested, though the paradigm is reconstructible on the basis of comparison to other wa-stems nouns in Gothic. The vocalization of w seen in the nom./acc. sg. does not occur in heavy stems, e.g. snāīws ‘snow’. The light-stemmed neuters are like nom./acc. sg. kniu ‘knee’, nom./acc. pl. kniwa, the heavy like nom./acc. sg. gāidw ‘lack’, pl. gāidwa.
Old Icelandic. Final *-w (from *-wa*) is vocalized and then lost (after mutating the root vowel), as in the acc. sg.; so also in the nom./acc. sg. and pl. of neuter nouns, e.g. høgg ‘blow’, ból ‘misfortune’. Medially, *w is lost before -um in dat. pl. hórum.

West Germanic. There are no light-stemmed masc. nouns of the type in OHG to be compared with the OE and OS forms. Just a few OS plurals are attested: acc. knio, cneo ‘knee’, bū ‘farm’, gen. beuwo ‘harvest’, dat. kneohon ‘knee’. Before u, WGmc. w should have been lost, as in OIcel.; hence, OE dat. pl. barewum is analogical, as are OE nom./acc. pl. neut. searu ‘devices’ (replacing *saru < *sarwu < *sarwō). Since this loss preceded OE breaking, the diphthong in such forms, and in forms such as nom. sg. bareu, must be due not to breaking but to analogy to the cases retaining w (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§2.28a, 2.31.1). Stems with an original long vowel or diphthong before *-w- should have lost the *-u to which this was vocalized when final, but there is always analogical restoration of -w/-u/-o in such forms, e.g. OE snāw ‘snow’ beside rare snā < *snāu < *snaiwaz, OHG hleo ‘shelter’ beside lē, gen. sg. hlēwes. Short non-back vowels formed a diphthong with *-u < *-w, e.g. OS treo ‘tree’ beside gen. -treuues. In OE, the diphthong so formed was usually extended to the inflected forms, and the -w- of the inflected forms to the uninflected, so that gen. *þewes ‘servant’ was re-formed as þēowes, and nom. þēo as þēow: for details, see Fulk 1992: 146–52.

7.13 The ŏ-stems

This class in Gmc. reflects the so-called PIE ā-stems (since PIE ā gives Gmc. ǭ), which are all feminine. The same class is reflected in the Latin first declension, e.g. lingua ‘tongue’ (earlier *-ā), and in Greek feminines of the first declension, e.g. γόρα ‘land’; τίμη ‘honor’ (with η from ā, as preserved in Doric). The IE vowel -ā- that characterizes stems of this class must derive from earlier -eh₂-, to which, originally, the case endings of athematic nouns were added directly, though there is no ending *-s in the nom. sg., perhaps because it was assimilated to the preceding laryngeal. Parallel to the situation in the a-stems, this category includes two major subclasses, jō-stems and wō-stems.

7.14 The simple ŏ-stems

There is no distinction in any language between nom. and voc. in this class, nor between dat. and instr. The light-stemmed type may be typified by the paradigm of Go. giba ‘gift’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>giba</td>
<td>gjof</td>
<td>giefu</td>
<td>geba</td>
<td>geba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>giba</td>
<td>gjof</td>
<td>giefe</td>
<td>geba</td>
<td>geba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gibōs</td>
<td>gjafar</td>
<td>giefa</td>
<td>geba</td>
<td>gebā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gibáí</td>
<td>gjof</td>
<td>giefe</td>
<td>gebu</td>
<td>gebu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>gibōs</td>
<td>gijaθ</td>
<td>giefa</td>
<td>gebo</td>
<td>gebōno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>gibōs</td>
<td>gijaθ</td>
<td>giefa</td>
<td>gebo</td>
<td>gebōno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gibōs</td>
<td>gijaθ</td>
<td>giefa</td>
<td>gebone</td>
<td>gebōno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gibōm</td>
<td>gjafum</td>
<td>giefum</td>
<td>gebum</td>
<td>gebōnm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflectional variants:

Old Icelandic. Nouns like gjof < *gebu show u-fracture in the nom., acc., and dat. sg. and in the dat. pl. (in all which cases nouns like grōf ‘pit’ show u-mutation) and
a-fracture in the rest of the paradigm (see §4.8). Nouns in -ing (e.g. kerling ‘old woman’, dat. -ingu) and a few others bore the inflection -u in the dat. sg. before apocope, as did many personal names, e.g. Ingibjorg < *-berju, which additionally bore the same inflection in the acc. singular.¹ A number of ō-stem nouns in OIcel. are declined also (somewhat later) as i-stems.

**West Germanic.** Nom. sg. *-ō > -u was lost after heavy and resolved stems (§5.6), giving, e.g., OE lār ‘instruction’ beside light giefu. However, in OS and OHG the acc. sg. ending *-ō > -a was extended to the nominative, e.g. OS OHG lēra ‘instruction’ (compare how the a-stem nom. and acc. are formally identical), though there are a few early exceptions, e.g. OS tharf ‘need’, OHG scouwum ‘inspection’ and, retaining -u and even extending it to the accusative, some OHG nouns in -ung- and -id-, such as ladungu ‘invitation’ and grātidu ‘diligence’. As with the a-stems, there is considerable variability in the form of the inflections in OS and OHG, e.g. gen. sg. *-u, -ō, dat. pl. -on, -un. In OE, the etymological endings should be nom. pl. -a, acc. pl. -e (see Hollifield 1980: 42–3); WS has generalized the former to the latter case (though -e is still found occasionally in EWS), the Anglian dialects the reverse. In WGmc., the gen. pl. inflection of the n-stems replaces the original ending -a in OS and OHG, whereas in WS -ena is found chiefly in poetry, and usually only after light stems, so that the usual inflection -a, though identical to the original inflexion, is probably an analogical re-introduction, given the linguistic conservatism of verse. Compare Skt. gen. pl. aśvānām ‘mares’. EWS gief- shows diphthongization by initial palatal consonant (§4.13), corresponding to LWS gyf-, gif-, Anglian gef-, geof-.

¹. Boutkan (1995b: 228) explains this -u as adopted from the n-stems, Myrvoll (2015) as reflecting PNorse *-ān, bearing the ending PIE *-mi found also in Balto-Slavic instrumentals.

### §7.15 Origin and development of ō-stem inflections

The following inflections require comment:

**Nom. sg.** PIE *-ā* (from earlier *-ah₂, perhaps from *-eh₂h₂ < *-eh₂-s) > PGmc. *-ō, yielding NWGmc. *-u, as in Runic laþu ‘invitation’, OIcel. lōð.

**Acc. sg.** PIE *-ām* (earlier *-eh₂-m) produces PGmc. *-ōₐ, which develops regularly to -a in Go. and to OE -e, OS -a/e, OHG -a. It is usually assumed that in NGmc. the nom. inflexion was extended to the accusative, causing u-mutation in the appropriate stems before its loss, though Kortlandt (2005: 2) argues that the original ending, reflected as Runic -o, caused u-umlaut and was subsequently lost. This assumption demands an unusual analysis of the corresponding adj. ending -a (§9.2).

**Gen. sg.** PIE *-ās* (more precisely *-ah₂-es) yields PGmc. *-ōz; the length of the vowel of OHG -ā is thus to be deduced, as there is no direct evidence (Braune 2004a: §207 Anm. 3, contra Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §10). OE gen. sg. -e (for etymological -a, as in ermōda ‘misery’, Vespasian Psalter) is by analogy, perhaps to the original acc. pl. inflexion (so Flasdieck 1930: 60; cf. Boutkan 1995b: 227, Kortlandt 2005: 3), since the two inflections are identical in the other chief class of fem. nouns, the fem. n-stems (§7.14). It has been asserted instead that the PGmc. inflexion was *-ōz, with a bimoric vowel, and OE -e is thus etymological (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 59).

**Dat. sg.** PIE *-āi* (more precisely *-eh₂-ei) gives PGmc. *-ōi, which develops regularly in Gothic and in OE. The other languages reflect *-u < *-ō, which may be
either a shorter form of the PIE dative inflection (§7.8) or, more probably, an original instrumental, in either event from PIE *-ā.

Nom. pl. PIE *-ās (more precisely *-ah₂-es) yields PGmc. *-ōz, which develops the same way as the gen. sg. inflection.

Acc. pl. PIE *-ās < *-āns (cf. Skt. acc. pl. aśvāḥ ‘mares’) is usually assumed to have developed the same way as the nom. pl. inflection. However, early OE and Anglian -e is best derived from PGmc. *-ōz, with a bimoric rather than trimoric vowel. See Stiles 1988: 131, Bammesberger 1990: 105. To what extent the identity of nom. and acc. forms in the other languages is the product of analogy is difficult to determine: see Syrett 1994: 123–32 for discussion and references, and Schrijver 2004: 207–9 for an alternative analysis (to which cf. Kortlandt 2005: 3–4).

Gen. pl. PGmc. *-ōn develops to -ō in Gothic, -a elsewhere. Note the Gothic opposition between -ē in the a-stems and -ō in the ō-stems.

Dat. pl. PIE *-ā-mis yields PGmc. *-ōm (with trimoric vowel perhaps by analogy to the gen. pl.), which develops regularly in all languages.

7.16 The jō-stems

In Gmc. these bear the same relation to the ō-stems that the ja-stems do to the a-stems. The light-stemmed nouns of this type are inflected the same way as the simple ō-stems in all the Gmc. languages. (As a consequence, some grammars distinguish between light and heavy stems as jō- and iō-stems, respectively.) Only in the nom. sg. of heavy stems in Gothic and NGmc. does the inflection differ from that of the ō-stems. The pattern may be illustrated by Go. bandi ‘band’, Olcel. heiðr ‘heath’, and the WGmc. words for ‘rod’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>bandi</td>
<td>heiðr</td>
<td>gierd</td>
<td>gerdia</td>
<td>gerta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>bandja</td>
<td>heiði</td>
<td>gierde</td>
<td>gerdia</td>
<td>gerta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>bandjōs</td>
<td>heiðar</td>
<td>gierde</td>
<td>gerdia</td>
<td>gertā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>bandjái</td>
<td>heiði</td>
<td>gierde</td>
<td>gerdiu</td>
<td>gertu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>bandjōs</td>
<td>heiðar</td>
<td>gierda</td>
<td>gerdia</td>
<td>gertā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>bandjōs</td>
<td>heiðar</td>
<td>gierda</td>
<td>gerdia</td>
<td>gertā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>bandjō</td>
<td>heiða</td>
<td>gierda</td>
<td>gerdeono</td>
<td>gertōno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>bandjōm</td>
<td>heiðum</td>
<td>gierdum</td>
<td>gerdium</td>
<td>gertōm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The light-stemmed type, however, is inflected the same way as the ō-stems, e.g. Go. nom. acc. wrakja ‘persecution’, Olcel. nom. acc. sg. ben ‘wound’, OE nom. synn ‘sin’, acc. synne. Go. mawi ‘girl’, inflected like a heavy stem, is heavy in origin (*maʒw-), as is probably piwi (see Lehmann 1986, s.v.). Inflectional variants:

Old Icelandic. After a light root, stem-final /j/ is preserved before back vowels, e.g. gen. sg. benjar ‘wound’, dat. pl. eggjum ‘edges’ (the latter root light before gemination) : nom. sg. ben, egg. Also in the light stems, the dat. sg. inflection may be either -u or null, e.g. dat. sg. ben, dregg ‘yeast’, eggju, helju ‘death’. In the heavy stems, j is preserved before back vowels only after a velar consonant.

West Germanic. In OHG, nouns in WGmc. *-innjō in the nom. (and sometimes acc.) sg. may be inflectionless, as with kuningin ‘queen’, as may dithematic names and the noun thu ‘maid’ (cf. Go. þiwi, gen. þiujōs), and this is the original situation for the light-stemmed nouns. The reflex of *-j- in OS may be spelt either (i) or (e). This ele-
ment may also be preserved before all endings in OHG in texts of the eighth century, and similarly spelt, e.g. nom. sg. suntæa, suntia ‘sin’. In such early texts there are also forms in simple -e, e.g. nom. acc. gen. sg., nom. acc. pl. suntæ, where -e reflects *-ja, formed by analogy to the ō-stems. Otherwise, only the presence of umlaut (and gemination) distinguishes these from ō-stems in WGmc.

7.17 Origin and development of jō-stem inflections

Although stems in nom. *-iā < *-iðh do occur in the IE languages (e.g. Skt. vidyā ‘knowledge’, Gk. (Ionic) ἀληθεία ‘truth’ < *-esja), these are all secondary formations. For expected *-iā < *-iðh, PIE had instead the reduced grade nom. *-i < *-ið (cf. Skt. pālikñ ‘cow for the first time with calf’), perhaps with the variant *-ið: cf. Gk. τραπέζα ‘table’ < *((te)trapediō). This was the chief means of forming feminine alternants to athematic stems, e.g. Skt. dēvī ‘goddess’ (cf. masc. dyauḥ), including fem. forms of pres. parts., e.g. Skt. bhārantī ‘bearing’ (like Go. fem. frijōndī ‘friend’ (i.e., ‘loving (one)’), with -i for normal -ei because the word was no longer recognized as a participle). The lack of an inflectional -s in the nom. indicates the connection between such forms and the ō-stems. Another type bore consonant-stem inflections on an accented suffix *-ihr, e.g. *yklk*-ihr-s ‘she-wolf’ in Skt. vṛkṣāḥ and PGmc. *wulfgizens > Olc. ylgr, inflected like heidōr (but with j after the stem-final velar consonant when a back vowel follows).

Nom. sg. PIE *-i < *-iðh (or perhaps PGmc. *-i < PIE *-iðh, with PGmc. loss of the final syllabic laryngeal (§5.5 ad fin.) and vocalization of ţ) is reflected in Gothic as -i, and the ending undergoes regular loss in OE after a heavy syllable, whereas in OS and OHG the ending of the pure ō-stems replaces it. In Olc. it was replaced by the nom. sg. inflection of the fem. i-stems of the nauðr type (§7.22), except in names in -dis or -unn. In OE, the nom. sg. of light stems is properly inflectionless, by loss of *-j after the heavy syllable created by WGmc. gemination in, e.g., *bannjō > *bennju > *bennu, producing OE ben(n) ‘wound’ by loss of *-u after the heavy syllable (§5.6).

Acc. sg. Again there occur reduced-grade variants, PIE *-ūm (cf. Skt. dēvīm) and *-ūgm (cf. Skt. vṛkṣām ‘she-wolf’, Gk. τραπέζαv), but the Gmc. forms reflect the full-grade ending of the simple ō-stems added to stem-final *-j.

The rest of the jō-stem inflections surviving in Germanic were in full-grade form in PIE, and so it is unsurprising that they resemble the inflections of pure ō-stems.

1. Full-grade *-jō- occurred in the oblique cases of the sg., e.g. Skt. gen. dēvyāḥ: see, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §7.7.3.
2. The original ending *-i is nonetheless fossilized in the Go. fem. inflections on pres. parts., which have been reformed as in-stems. For this reason the idea of Boutkan (1995b: 231–5) that the normal PGmc. ending reflected PIE *-iðh rather than *-ið seems unlikely (though he also assumes a development *-ja > *-iā > *-i).

7.18 The wō-stems

These are inflected the same way as the simple ō-stems, and so all that need be remarked is the treatment of the stem-final w. This is retained in Gothic in all cases, e.g. nom. sg. bandwa ‘sign’, gen. sg. bandwōs, etc. In NGmc. and WGmc., w is lost before u (which may be from ō, §5.3), and this results in paradigms like Olc. nom. sg. or ‘ar-
row’ < PGmc. *arwō, gen. sg. ĕrvar. In OE, w in final position is vocalized, whereupon, like u from other sources, it is apocopated after a heavy syllable, hence lēs ‘pasture’ < *lēswō : sinu ‘sinew’ < *sinwō. Where it was lost before u it is commonly restored by analogy, hence OE dat. pl. lēswum (beside earlier lēsum), sinwum, though especially in early texts, in many forms w is lost even when it does not stand before u, e.g. acc. sg. mǣde ‘meadow’. In OS and OHG, postconsonantal w is lost everywhere, so that w is preserved only in forms like OS dat. pl. brāwon ‘brows’ (beside brāhon), OHG nom. sg. drawa, drowa, drouwa, drō ‘menace’.1 In OS gen. pl. frato (h)o ‘trappings’ may be seen anaptyxis before w (cf. OE fraetwa), which was subsequently lost.

1. These are comparable to OE þrēa ‘menace’ < *þrau < WGmc. *þrawu (§6.16 ad fin.) beside OE clawu ‘claw’, with the stem claw- re-introduced from, e.g., gen. sg. clawe.

7.19 The i-stems

In PIE these were of all genders, inflected alike, whereas in PGmc. there were originally few i-stems of neuter gender (of which PGmc. *mari (or *mariz?) ‘sea’ is a secure example), most of the attested examples in WGmc. having been transferred to this class from others, especially the s-stems. In Germanic there arose inflectional differences between the masc. and fem. nouns, since in all the Gmc. languages there is a tendency toward analogical reformation under the influence of the a- and ō-stems. On a phonological basis, in WGmc. there arose differences between the inflection of heavy and light stems, due to the loss of high vowels after heavy syllables (§5.6). In PIE these exhibited proterokinetic accentuation, i.e. accent on the root in the strong cases, otherwise on the suffix.

7.20 The masculine and neuter i-stems

The inflection of the heavy-stemmed type may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. gasts ‘guest’ and its cognates:1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>gasts</td>
<td>gestr</td>
<td>giest</td>
<td>gast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voc.</td>
<td>gast</td>
<td>gest</td>
<td>giest</td>
<td>gast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>gast</td>
<td>gest</td>
<td>giest</td>
<td>gast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gastis</td>
<td>gests</td>
<td>giestes</td>
<td>gaste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gasta</td>
<td>gest</td>
<td>gieste</td>
<td>gasteiu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td>gastiu</td>
<td>gestum</td>
<td>giestum</td>
<td>gestium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflectional variants:

Old Icelandic. Stems ending in a velar consonant retain j before inflectional back vowels, e.g. gen. pl. bekkja, dat. pl. bekkjum beside nom. sg. bekkr ‘bench’. Such may also have gen. sg. in -ar, hence bekjar beside bekks; the -s form is borrowed from the a-stems, as is the -i in dat. sg. gesti beside gest.

West Germanic. There is, as in other classes, considerable variability in the spelling of the inflections in OS and OHG, e.g. OS dat. pl. gestiun, gestion, gesteon,
7.20 Masculine and neuter i-stems

OHG *gestin, gesten*. Also in OS and OHG, umlaut fails in the nom. acc. sg. because of the loss of -i after heavy syllables (§5.6), whence the unmutated vowel may have spread to the other cases of the singular (if these indeed originally underwent umlaut: see below), since this serves to heighten the contrast between singular and plural. In OE, i-umlaut was earlier (§5.6), so that it preceded loss of -i after heavy syllables.

In Gothic there is no distinction in the inflection of light and heavy i-stems. The inflection of the light stems in the other languages may be illustrated by paradigms of Olcel. vinr ‘friend’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>sg. nom.</strong></td>
<td>vinr</td>
<td>wine</td>
<td>wini</td>
<td>wini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>acc.</strong></td>
<td>vin</td>
<td>wine</td>
<td>wini</td>
<td>wini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gen.</strong></td>
<td>vinar</td>
<td>wines</td>
<td>win(es)</td>
<td>wines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dat.</strong></td>
<td>vin</td>
<td>wine</td>
<td>wini, wini(e)</td>
<td>wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>instr.</strong></td>
<td>wine</td>
<td>wini(u)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **sg. nom.** | vinir  | wine, winas  | wini, winios | wini |
| **acc.** | vini  | wine, winas | wini, winios | wini |
| **gen.** | vina  | wina, winiga | winio | wino |
| **dat.** | vinum | winum | winium | winim |

Nom. pl. OE wine and OS wini are the original forms; OE -e is found only in early or poetic texts and on ethnic names, e.g. Dene ‘Danes’, with analogical extension to heavy stems, e.g. Seaxe ‘Saxons’ (without umlaut). OE winas and OS winios have been reformed under the influence of the a-stems. Likewise, OE wina and OHG wino show substitution of the a-stem inflection; the earlier forms are OE winiga (very rare, and paralleled only by Deniga ‘Danes’) and OHG winio; see Fulk 1992: 243–5. Unlike wini, most OHG light i-stems in have been altered analogically to inflect like heavy stems, with removal of umlaut in the sg., e.g. nom. sg. slag ‘stroke’; see Boutkan 1995b: 242–3 for lists of forms with and without -i and/or umlaut and a conspectus of explanations.

Neuter i-stems, which remain distinct only when light-stemmed, are preserved only in OE and OS, where they are declined like the masculines, but with -u in the nom. and acc. pl., e.g. OE speru ‘spears’, OS urlagu ‘wars’. A possible neuter i-stem in OHG is indicated by dat. sg. meri ‘sea’ (Sievers 1877–8: 107, Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §14), though this is indistinguishable from the fem. dative. Go. marei ‘sea’ shows reformation of an original neuter as a fem. in-stem.

1. Not all these forms are actually attested, though all the given inflections themselves are.

7.21 Origin and development of masculine and neuter i-stem inflections

In PIE, stem-final weak-grade *-i- appeared in the nom. acc. sg. and throughout the plural except for the nom. voc.; elsewhere this stem formative took the full-grade form *-ei₁*, and in the loc. sg. the lengthened grade *-ei₂*. To these stem-forms were added the usual athematic inflections (§7.2).

**Nom. sg.** PIE masc. *-i-s* (cf. Gk. *πόλις* ‘city’, Lat. *ignis* ‘fire’) develops to PGmc. *-iz*, which is reflected as *-iz* in Runic, e.g. in names in *gastr*,. This develops regularly in all dialects. PIE neut. *-i-m* develops the same way as the acc. (below).

**Voc. sg.** The PIE vocative ending was probably *-ei₂* (i.e. an endingless form with full grade of the i-suffix), as reflected in Skt. *agnē* ‘fire’: cf. the parallel in the u-stems (e.g. Go. sunau ‘son’, §§7.24–5), and see Szemerényi 1996: §7.5.1. As in Greek (cf.
\( \pi\omega i \), this must have been replaced in Germanic by \(*-i\), by analogy to the \(a\)-stems, where the voc. is identical to the bare stem of the nom. and accusative. This \(*-i\) is then lost by regular phonological development in Gothic (§5.2). Another possibility is that PGmc. \(*-i\) was replaced by the \(a\)-stem voc. inflection \(*-e\) (without change to \(*-i\); so Boutkan 1995b: 244). Only Gothic maintains a distinction between nom. and voc.

Acc. sg. PIE masc. and neut. \(*-i-m\) develops to \(*-i^n\) and is lost altogether after heavy syllables in the Gmc. languages, leaving its trace only in the \(i\)-umlaut of the root vowel in Olcel. and OE. After light syllables it is preserved in WGmc. (becoming \(-e\) in OE) but lost phonologically in NGmc. (§5.6). In Gothic it is lost on a morphological basis, since the inflection on light stems was replaced analogically by that on the heavy.

Gen. sg. In PIE the stem-final \(i\) was preceded by a full-grade vowel; hence, the stem ended in \(*-ei\) or \(*-oj\) (see, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §7.5.1, Fortson 2010: 120), to which the zero-grade form \(*-s\) of the gen. inflection was added. If it was the former that was inherited, this should have developed to \(*-is\) or \(*-iz\) in PGmc. (see §§3.4, 6.6), but in that event the Gothic and OHG inflections tell against the supposition of a long vowel, so that it is safest to assume replacement by the corresponding \(a\)-stem inflection.

(Otherwise Ringe 2017: 311.) If this was at an early date (and otherwise it must have happened at different times in the Gmc. branches), the \(i\)-umlaut of the root vowel in Olcel. and OE must be analogical. If it was PIE \(*-ois\) that was inherited, this would explain the Go. fem. ending (see below, §7.22), and possibly the North and West Gmc. light-stem masc. endings. On the merits of the competing explanations of ON \(-ar\) on the light stems either as reflecting etymological \(*-air\) or as analogical, see Syrett 1994: 93–104, favoring the latter; Stiles (1984: 10–12) and Boutkan (1995b: 244–6) conclude otherwise. See further Grønvik 1981: 63–5, 205–6. OS winies cannot directly reflect the so-called open-inflected variant of the PIE \(i\)-stem gen. sg. \(*-i-os\) (as in Skt. āvyah ‘sheep’: see Szemerényi 1996: §§7.5.2–3), as this should have produced gemination of the preceding consonant (though such could have been leveled out); more likely OS has simply generalized \(win\) as the stem, as in the case of the dat. pl. (see below).

Dat. sg. The PIE suffix plus inflection was probably \(*-ei^\prime\), as in Skt. agnayē, parallel to the \(u\)-stem inflection \(*-eq-ei\) (see §7.23), as this may plausibly be assumed to produce, by haplology, the \(*-eq\) that underlies Lat. ignē, OCS gosti ‘guest’ and others. This \(*-ei\), if assumed for Gmc. as well, would produce PGmc. \(*-i\), and this would explain the endingless dative of Olcel., as well as early OE spellings in \(-i\) (beside \(-æ\), the latter borrowed from the a-stems: see A. Campbell 1977: §601). It could also explain OS wini (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §13, though deriving the ending from PIE loc. \(*-ei\) or instr. \(*-i\)), though this could also be the result of generalization of the stem \(win\) (as with the gen. sg. above), with analogical addition to this in some instances of the a-stem inflection in its variant spellings.\(^1\) All the remaining Gmc. forms can be explained as reformed by analogy to the a-stems. Yet the Gmc. dat. sg. usually reflects the PIE locative, and so Antonsen (1972: 138) proposes the derivations PIE \(*-ei-i > PGmc. *-i\(\tilde{a}\)j\(\tilde{j}\)j > NWGmc. *-i and PIE \(*-oj-i > PGmc. *-aj\(j\)j > Go. -ai\) (though the Go. inflection is actually \(-a\), which may result from PGmc. \(*-ai\) but probably not \(*-\tilde{a}i\): see §5.4).

Instr. sg. Krahe & Meid (1969: §13) see the PIE instr. \(*-i\) underlying OE -e, OS -i. But the OE instr. is never distinguished from the dat. in nouns, so that analogy to the dat. must not be ruled out. OS OHG -iu shows analogical addition of the a-stem inflection to the stem in \(-i\).

Nom. pl. The masc. inflection is PIE \(*-ei-es\) (cf. Skt. agnayah) > PGmc. \(*-if\(j\)iz\), which is usually assumed to have developed to \(*-iz\). This accounts for the Go. and
Olcel. inflections, but WGmc. presents some difficulties, since OHG -i is certainly short (Braune 2004a: §215 Anm. 4), and the meter of Beowulf tells against deriving -e from a trimoric vowel unless trimoric high vowels were shortened earlier than trimoric non-high vowels (on which see Fulk 1992: 421–2). The likeliest explanation is that the nom. inflection is analogical to the accusative (Prokosch 1939: 246), yet even so, i ought to have been lost after a heavy syllable (§5.6), so that the OS and OHG endings in the heavy stems are probably best explained as analogical to the ending in light stems.2 An alternative solution is to assume that WGmc. *-i represents a generalization of the reflex of the PIE so-called open- inflected type of i-stem nom. pl. *-i-es, though the evidence for the survival of the open-inflected type in Gmc. is sparse: see Szemerényi 1996: §§7.5.2–3, especially regarding Go. kinnus ‘cheek’ and manna ‘man’. The ending -u on OE and OS neuters must be regarded as analogical to the a-stem ending.

Acc. pl. PIE masc. *-i-ns develops regularly in Germanic (cf. §7.8), except that OE winas beside earlier wine and OS winios beside earlier wini are analogical to the nom.

Gen. pl. The PIE inflection was perhaps *-i-(oH)om. The development of this in Gothic is subject to some of the same uncertainties that attend the development of the a-stem inflection (§7.8). If the PIE ending was indeed *-i-oHom, this could reasonably be supposed to have resulted in forms like Olcel. bekkja, OE winiga ‘friends’, and OS winio; if it was instead *-i-om, the reflex of PIE *-i may have remained part of the stem, with replacement of the inflection by the a-stem inflection.

Dat. pl. PIE instr. *-i-mis develops regularly as the dat. inflection in Go. and OHG, whereas the other languages show the analogical influence of the a-stems. On the supposition that this change is attested already on the seventh-century Stentoften stone, see §4.7 n. 4.

1. In Abrogans there occur a few light-stemmed OHG datives in -i, which Boutkan (1995b: 248) considers original, though such forms are more usually regarded as analogical to the nom. acc. sg. (so, e.g., Braune 2004a: §217 Anm. 4).

2. Such analogical restoration on the basis of light stems is encountered in some other grammatical categories in OS and OHG, e.g. imp. sg. OS sóki, OHG suochi ‘seek’ (cf. OE sēc). This analysis is perhaps reinforced by the observation that whereas the i-stems were a moribund class in OE, this was not the case in regard to German.

7.22 The feminine i-stems

The Gmc. inflections of the heavy-stemmed fem. i-stems may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. ansts ‘favor’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>ansts</td>
<td>ást</td>
<td>ēst</td>
<td>anst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voc.</td>
<td>anst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>anst</td>
<td>ást</td>
<td>ēst(e)</td>
<td>anst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>anståis</td>
<td>ástar</td>
<td>ēste</td>
<td>enst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>anståi</td>
<td>ást</td>
<td>ēste</td>
<td>enst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>ansteis</td>
<td>ástir</td>
<td>ēsta</td>
<td>enst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>anstins</td>
<td>ástir</td>
<td>ēsta, -e</td>
<td>enst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>anstē</td>
<td>ásta</td>
<td>ēsta</td>
<td>enstio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>anstim</td>
<td>ástum</td>
<td>ēstum</td>
<td>enstium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inflectional variants:

**Old Icelandic.** The alternant *ist* (cf. also dat. pl. *ústum*) shows u-umlaut by analogy to the ō-stems. Some nouns, e.g. nauð ‘necessity’, have also a nom. sg. in -r (nauðr), which is the older form, those without -r being subject to the influence of the ō-stems. Quite a few OIcel. i-stems were originally ō-stems and may therefore have dat. sg. in -u, e.g. rôstu ‘mile’. Note that there is no uumlaut anywhere in the paradigm, indicating early replacement of i-stem endings by ō-stem ones in most case-forms and generalization of the stem without uumlaut in the remainder.

**West Germanic.** OE still frequently has an uninfluenced acc. sg.; forms with acc. sg. -e have it by analogy to the ō-stems. OE attests an early gen. sg. uyrdi (Leiden Riddle) beside analogical forms in -e. In OS and OHG there are the expected variants, e.g. OS gen. sg. enste, dat. enstiu. One would expect instrumentals (in locative use) like OHG stetee ‘place’ to be late creations, but they are confined to early texts (Braune 2004a: §218 Anm. 3). On OS endingless datives and their analogical sources, see van Helten 1910: 468.

In Go. there is no distinction in the inflection of light and heavy fem. i-stems; likewise in OIcel. and OE, where the light stems have changed gender or declension. In OS, the oldest light-stemmed fem. i-stems have -i throughout the singular and in the nom. acc. plural. In OHG only kuri ‘choice’ and turi ‘door’ have -i in the nom. acc. sg.; otherwise, such nouns are inflected the same way as the heavy fem. i-stems.

7.23 Origin and development of feminine i-stem inflections

The PIE fem. inflections were identical to the masc.; differentiation of the two genders in Germanic is due to the analogical influence of the a- and ō-stem inflections. As noted above (§7.22), in North Germanic, the shift of so many fem. i-stems to the ō-declension was early enough to result in u-mutation, e.g. in dêþs ‘deed’ for expected *dæð (cf. Go. dêðs); correspondingly, the lack of i-umlaut in forms like nom. pl. dàðir is notable.

**Gen. sg.** The inflection must reflect the PIE o-grade variant *-oï-s-s, which develops regularly in Go. and OIcel. Euler (2013: 75) thinks an alternant PIE *-eï-s-s possibly explains the WGmc. forms (he compares the double formation in the gen. sg. of a-stems, but see §7.8); Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §15) compare Oscan -eis. Boutkan (1995b: 34–5, 244–6) argues rather that OE uyrdi ‘fate’ (Leiden Riddle) proves the development *-aiz > WGmc. -i (as opposed to *-ai > OE -e), improbable as that may seem, and this in turn constitutes one of three pieces of evidence for the derivation of Ingvaeonic directly from PGmc. rather than from NWGmc. But so much weight must not be accorded such an isolated form, given the possibility of scribal error. See further Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.68. H.F. Nielsen (2000: 244; cf. Grønvik 1998b: 124) admits the possibility that WGmc. *-iz has its vowel by analogy to the dat. sg.

**Dat. sg.** Go. -ái is commonly identified with the ending on Homeric Gk. πόληϊ (though the Homeric final is syllabic) and derived from a PIE loc. *-ēi (cf. u-stem loc. *-ēy). The Go. ending could instead be analogical to the corresponding ō-stem inflection. This would render natural the derivation of the WGmc. ending, PIE *-ēi > PGmc. *-ei > *-i > WGmc. -i; but the different development of the corresponding back diphthongs eu and ēu is undeniable (§5.3 ad fin.). No matter the explanation, the inflectionless OIcel. form cannot be a regular phonological development. It is most likely analogical to the ō-stem form.

**Acc. pl.** OIcel. -ir is borrowed from the nom.
7.24 The u-stems

In PIE these were formed the same way as the i-stems, but with stem-final *u/* rather than *i/*, with the same variety of ablaut grades in the same cases, and all three genders were inflected alike, aside from the neut. nom. sg. and pl., which were, as always, identical to the acc. The masc. and fem. u-stems maintain identical inflections in Gmc., but almost no neuters remain, the securest examples being Go. faíhu ‘cattle, property’, OE līþ ‘strong drink’, and cognates; OIcel. mjǫðr ‘mead’ and Gmc. cognates are masc., but they have neuter IE cognates. Due to the loss of high vowels after heavy syllables (§5.6), in WGmc. there arose an inflectional distinction between light and heavy stems. The u-stems were never very numerous in Gmc., and the class is moribund in WGmc.1

The declension may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. sunus ‘son’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>voc.</td>
<td>sunus</td>
<td>sunr</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>sunu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>sun</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>sunu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>sunánus</td>
<td>sonar</td>
<td>suna</td>
<td>sunies</td>
<td>sunes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>sunáu</td>
<td>syni</td>
<td>suna</td>
<td>suno</td>
<td>sune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td>suniu, sunu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>sunjus</td>
<td>synir</td>
<td>suna</td>
<td>suni</td>
<td>suni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>sununs</td>
<td>sunu</td>
<td>suna</td>
<td>suni</td>
<td>suni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>suniwé</td>
<td>sona</td>
<td>suna</td>
<td>sunio</td>
<td>suneo, suno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>sunum</td>
<td>sunum</td>
<td>sunum</td>
<td>sunum</td>
<td>sunim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inflectional variants:

**Gothic.** In the singular, -u- and -áu- in endings are occasionally confused, e.g. nom. sunáus, dat. sunu.7 A few neuters remain as such in Go., though no plurals to them are attested; they have -u in the nom./acc. sg., as with faíhu ‘cattle’.

**Old Icelandic.** Only masc. nouns remain in this class, the feminines having assimilated to the ð-stems, though relics forms like gen. sg. neut. fjár ‘property’ (a-stem, to nom. fé) and dat. sg. fem. hendi ‘hand’ (consonant-stem, to hónd) point to original affiliation with the u-stems. In the dat. sg. there are alternative, somewhat later forms that are most commonly endingless, showing u-mutation or u-fracture where possible, e.g. vǫnd beside vendi ‘rod’, and hjört beside hirti ‘heart’, and these are most likely based on the accusative. The alternation of u and o in sunr is due to a-umlaut of u (§4.8); the alternation resulted in analogical extension of both stems, resulting in forms like nom. sg. sonr, nom. pl. sonir, gen. pl. suna.

**West Germanic.** The inflection of the heavy u-stems differs from that of the light only in that the nom. and acc. sg. are endingless, due to loss of *-u* after a heavy syllable (§5.6). However, from an early date there is a tendency toward reformation in accordance with the a- and i-stems for masculines, the ð-stems for feminines. Likewise, in OE the endings -a- and -u are confused from an early date. OS has no light-stemmed feminines, OHG no heavy-stemmed masculines. The gen. sg. in OS and OHG is plainly reformed analogically; there are just a few, early traces of the original ending in OHG, e.g. frídō ‘peace’. OS fehu and OHG fihu, feho ‘property’ remain neuters, which may take the endings of a-stems in the gen. dat. sg.

1. On the Gothic u-stems in particular, see Neri 2003.
2. The cooccurrence of such alternatives in the sg. only has suggested to some that Go. preserves a subsidiary amphikineletic *-stem type, i.e. with accent on the root in the strong cases and on the inflection in the weak. See Braune 2004b: §104 Anm. 2, with references.

7.25 Origin and development of *u*-stem inflections

The original endings closely parallel those of the *i*-stems, but with *u/*y where the *i*-stems have *i/*j.

Nom. sg. PIE *-u-s develops regularly in Germanic. Neuter *-u-m develops like the acc. sg. (below).

Voc. sg. PIE *-øy would regularly produce PGmc. *-au > Go. -āu (8×); the alternative ending -u (9× in native words) thus probably developed parallel to the *i*-stem ending (§7.21), i.e. as a bare stem. But Ringe (2017: 150–1, after Bazell 1937: 4 and Rasmussen 1983: 207–8 n. 10, 214–15) argues plausibly that PIE *-øy yields PGmc. *au in final, unstressed syllables, and thus it is unnecessary to reconstruct a PIE ablaut variant o rather than e to explain the Gmc. *u*-stem inflections.

Acc. sg. PIE *-u-m is regularly lost in Olcel., though the vowel is still to be found in magu 'son' on the fifth-century Kjolevik stone.

Gen. sg. The ending of PIE perhaps varied between *-øy-s and *-øy-s (so Szemerényi 1996: §7.5.1, but cf. the voc. sg. above). If so, the latter adequately explains the attested inflections, excluding the analogical endings of OS and OHG. Instead, Bammesberger (1990: 152) supposes that the diphthong *au spread from the dat. The reconstruction PIE *-øy-es of Antonsen (1975: 20) is contradicted by Skt. sūnōḥ. Runic *-or (i.e., *-ōr) shows monophthongization in PGmc. *-auz.

Dat. sg. The PIE endingless locative *-øy regularly gives Go. -ōu, Olcel. -i (Runic -i in kunimun[n]diu, Turkjö bracteate, Sweden, ca. 500), and OHG (instr.) -iu.1 If there was an ablaut alternant PIE *-ōy, this could account for OE suna, OS suno, and the Go. ending could also derive from this. Bammesberger (1990: 153) suggests that PIE *-øy might regularly produce the OE and OS endings, though the Runic form illustrates the hazards of this.2 It has also been argued that *-au- spread from the gen. sg. (the opposite of Bammesberger’s position, under gen. sg. above) to the dat. sg. and nom. pl. (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 57–8).

Nom. pl. PIE *-øy-es (parallel to *i*-stem *-i-ez-es), as in Skt. -avah, Gk. -αι, yields PGmc. *-iwiź for uter nouns. This develops regularly in Gmc., e.g. to *iwiź > Go. -jus, NWGmc. *-iuiz > *-iz. This accounts for the inflections listed except OE -a (cf. OFris. -a beside -ar, -an, -en), which is difficult to explain. It is often said to derive from a PIE ablaut variant *-oy-es (so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §17; A. Campbell 1977: §612; Hollifield 1980: 36), but there is no evidence for such an alternant outside of Anglo-Frisian.3 OHG nom. acc. pl. feho in Notker is probably by analogy to the a-stems; cf. Gk. neuter nom. acc. pl. ἀστη < ἀστεα ‘cities’. OE neut. wintru appears beside winter; the former is probably analogical (to the light stems?), as the reflex of PIE *-uh2 should have been lost.

Acc. pl. PIE *-uns gives PGmc. *-unz, which develops regularly in East and North Germanic. The WGmc. inflections are analogical to the nom. pl.; that the OS and OHG endings should have been drawn from the *i*-stems, as the gen. (and dat. in OHG) was (Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §17), is also possible. In the view of Dahl (1938: 182), the three examples of acc. pl. -u in the OE Orosius are doubtful, and yet, even though the
ending is otherwise always -a before the tenth century, he regards -u as directly reflecting PGmc. *-unz; similarly Boutkan (1995b: 257).

Gen. pl. In PIE *-y- (of)óm, zero-grade *-y- could be replaced by full-grade *-ey-, as in Gk. πύξεον ‘cubits’ < *bhāgheyóm, and on this basis Gothic -iwe is to be expected. OE -a is by analogy to the a-stem ending, whereas the other languages have their inflections from the i-stems, since the nom. pl. was identical to that of the i-stems, by regular phonological rule. An exception is that OHG suno is influenced not by the i-stems but the a-stems.

Dat. pl. PIE instr. pl. *-umis gives PGmc. *-umiz, which develops regularly except in OHG, where the ending is analogical to that of the i-stems, as are the alternative OS endings -iun, -ion.


2. Antonsen (1989: 287–8) argues instead that we should assume “alternate derivation from the ablauting variants PIE */-ew-i/-ow-i/. Since every Germanic dative form can be derived from the Proto-Indo-European dative/locative ending */-i/ (see Antonsen 1969–70: 75), we can discard the highly improbable development posited in the standard handbooks (e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969[: I,] §129), whereby a PIE ‘long diphthong’ */eu/ becomes Go. -au, but Run. -iù, OHG -iu (cf. the completely analogous alternative derivation of the Gmc. gen. sg. Run. -où, Go. -aus, ON -ar, etc. from PIE */-ow-es/)."

3. Prokosch (1939: §83) invokes analogy to gen. dat. sg., gen. plural. Dahl (1938: 182; similarly Bammesberger 1985) posits an original dual in PIE */-i/. High-frequency u-stem ‘hand’ would have been used frequently in the dual; so also ‘door’ (e.g. OE duru), if this was originally a u-stem, though the comparative evidence suggests otherwise.

4. Euler (2013: 77) supposes rather that w was assimilated to the preceding i, so that the OHG ending is derived phonologically from WGmc. *-iójô.

7.26 The consonantal stems

The consonant-stem nouns in Gmc. are the root-stems (including apparently vocalic root-stems like OIcel. kýr ‘cow’ and sýr ‘sow’, on which see §7.28 n. 2), the n-stems, the r-stems, the s-stems, the nd-stems, and the dental stems. All except the first were formed in PIE of stems bearing a suffix ending in a consonant. The accent was usually mobile, most commonly on the root or suffix in the strong cases, on the inflection in the weak (§7.4).

7.27 The root-stems

These, also called root-nouns, are masc. and fem. nouns which in PIE attached athematic inflections (§7.2) directly to the root, without any intervening suffix. In PIE these mostly showed amphikinetic accent, i.e. accent on the root in the strong cases, on the inflection in the weak. A few, however, followed the acrostatic pattern, with accent on the root thoughout, but different ablaut grades of the root vowel in the strong and the weak cases, e.g. strong *pod- in Gk. nom. pl. πόδες ‘feet’ but weak *péd- extended to a strong case in Lat. pedes (Clackson 2007: 81, but cf. Ringe 2017: 57, 59). Griepentrog (1995) identifies 23 root-stems in the early Gmc. languages as original. Masc. and fem. were originally inflected alike, though the two have diverged in Gmc. A great many root-stems have defected to other classes; those that retain root-stem inflections are usually
nouns of high frequency. In ON, however, the class attracted many nouns of different origin to it. The inflections for masc. root-stems may be illustrated by the paradigm of Go. reiks ‘ruler’,¹ along with the paradigms of Olcel. maðr ‘person’ and its WGmc. cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>reiks</td>
<td>maðr</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>reik</td>
<td>mann</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
<td>man(n), mannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>reikis</td>
<td>manns</td>
<td>mannes, -as</td>
<td>man(n), mannes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>reik</td>
<td>manni</td>
<td>men(n)</td>
<td>man(n), manne, -a</td>
<td>man(n), manne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sg. nom.</td>
<td>reiks</td>
<td>menn</td>
<td>men(n)</td>
<td>man(n), men(n)</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>reik</td>
<td>mann</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
<td>man(n), manne, -a</td>
<td>man(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>reikē</td>
<td>manna</td>
<td>manno, -a</td>
<td>manno</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>reikam</td>
<td>mǫnnum</td>
<td>mannun, -un, -on</td>
<td>mannonum, -un, -om, -on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The masc. nouns are particularly poorly preserved in Gothic, having mostly gone over to other stem classes. Cognate with Olcel. maðr is Go. manna, the paradigm of which combines root-stem (originally u-stem: Szemerényi 1996: §7.5.2) and n-stem forms (the latter in boldface in the following): nom. sg. manna, acc. mannan, gen. mans (with degemination before s), dat. mann, nom. and acc. pl. mans beside mannans, gen. mannē, dat. mannam. In OE there is a parallel n-stem paradigm, nom. sg. manna, etc., but forms other than acc. sg. mannan are infrequent. Weak forms also occur rarely in Olcel. The reason for the co-occurrence of root-stem and n-stem forms of this noun is contested, along with the word’s IE derivation.²

In Olcel., some masc. root-stems have gen. sg. in -ar, e.g. fótar ‘foot’. The inflection of the fem. root-stems may be illustrated by the paradigm of Go. baúrgs ‘city’, along with the paradigms of Olcel. bók and OE bōc, both ‘book’, and of OS naht and OHG naht, both ‘night’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>baúrgs</td>
<td>bók</td>
<td>bōc</td>
<td>naht</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>baúrg</td>
<td>bók</td>
<td>bōc</td>
<td>naht</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>baúrgs</td>
<td>bókar</td>
<td>bēc, bōce</td>
<td>nahtes</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>baúrg</td>
<td>bók</td>
<td>bēc, bōc</td>
<td>naht, nahta</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>baúrgs</td>
<td>bœkr</td>
<td>bēc</td>
<td>naht</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>baúrgs</td>
<td>bœkr</td>
<td>bēc</td>
<td>naht</td>
<td>naht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>baúrgē</td>
<td>bóka</td>
<td>bōca</td>
<td>nahto</td>
<td>nahto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>baúrgim</td>
<td>bōcum</td>
<td>bōcum</td>
<td>nahtun, -on</td>
<td>nahtum, -un, -on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no neuters that can properly be called root-stems: on OE scrūd ‘garment’, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.3 n. 3; on Go. fōn, see §7.42 infra.

¹ The acc. sg. is not actually attested, though the form is not in doubt.
² The word is usually derived either from an n-stem PIE *dghm-on- (or similar, from which Go. guma ‘man’ is also derived), containing an ablaut variant of a root meaning ‘earth’ (so, e.g., Kroonen 2011: 29), or from a u-stem based on the root *men-, as in Skt. mánu- ‘person’ (so, e.g., Euler 2013: 92): for discussion and references, see Bammeberger 2000, where both of these explanations are regarded as improbable. Bammeberger’s own hypothesis is that the word is in origin a root-stem, from which were derived both a thematic variant (as in, e.g., Go. mana-sēþs ‘humankind’) and an n-stem in the weak cases of which the geminate arose, e.g. gen. sg. *man-n-az; similarly Mottausch 2011: 73.
7.28 Origin and development of the root-stems and their inflections

Originally, the inflections were the athematic ones listed in §7.2. The original distribution of endings is better preserved among fem. nouns than masc., and chiefly in Gothic, hence PGmc. nom. sg. *burʒ-s > *burξs, acc. *burʒ-u, gen. *burʒ-i or *−u, dat. (originally loc.) *burʒ-i, nom. pl. *burʒ-i, acc. *burʒ-unz, gen. *burʒ-u, dat. *burʒ-um(i)z. All these sg. forms develop regularly in Go. except for the acc. (cf. u-stem acc. handu ‘hand’), which may be explained as endingless by analogy to the i-stems. In the plural, as in many classes, the nom. inflection is extended to the acc. (as in all these languages), and Go. fem. -im in the dat. is again by analogy to the i-stems (and masc. -am to the a-stems), as may be gen. pl. -ē. The original dat. pl. ending appears in some other consonant-stems, e.g. mēnōþum ‘month’, but not among the root-stems (cf. Boutkan 1995b: 261–2). Among the masc. nouns in Go., certainly acc. sg. reik and gen. reikis are by analogy to either the i-stems or the a-stems.

In Olc., most masc. case-forms are indistinguishable from a-stem or u-stem forms, the chief exception being the nom. and acc. pl. (the latter replaced analogically by the former), where *mann-i > *menn-R > menn (cf. feet ‘feet’ < *fōt-iz) shows umlaut with a distinctive inflection. The dat. might be expected to show umlaut, as in OE; dat. feeti, however (with analogical ending), is the only Olc. root-stem to show it.1 Gen. sg. -ar is borrowed from the u-stems, -s from the a-stems (in slightly later by-names, e.g. gen. waafōts ‘ox-foot’); the original ending *-i should give *-r (cf. the fem. stems below). Nom. sg. maðr is usually regarded as a regular phonological development from *mannr; cf. fem. pl. teðr ‘teeth’ beside analogical kemnr (but see §6.14). As for the Olc. fem. root-stems, most cases are reformed by analogy to the ð-stems, the exceptions being the nom. and acc. plural. In the nom. sg., the reflex of PIE *-s was retained in a few fem. vocalic stems, where the vowel is subject to u-umlaut (§4.7): kyr ‘cow’, sýr ‘sow’, ær ‘ewe’. The original gen. sg. ending -r (with umlaut) < *-iz < PIE *-es is preserved only in gen. sg. kyr ‘cow’, merkr (to mörk ‘mark (of silver)’), and a few others listed by Noreen (1970: §416.1).2

In WGmc., the original situation is best preserved in OE, where gen. and dat. sg. bēc are the earlier forms, bōce and bōc having been formed by analogy (the former to the ð-stems), as is OS dat. sg. nahta (cf. ð-stem dat. geƀa beside normal gebu ‘gift’). Rare OHG gen. sg. man (= Go. mans) is original, and dat. sg. OE menn, OS OHG man are also archaisms (from *manni).

The nom. sg. of some uter root-stems (and other consonant-stems, those ending in a nasal, liquid, or dental consonant, including s) should have been subject to consonant loss and compensatory lengthening in PIE under Szemerényi’s law (§1.6 n. 1). For example, Lat. pēs ‘foot’ results from *pes < *pet-s < *ped-s, whereas Skt. pāt results from analogical restoration of d to *pād-s, probably from *pāk.3 The variety of ablaut grades to be found in such words thus results in analogical changes in the IE languages to reduce paradigm allomorphy. Whereas Lat. and Gk. have a long vowel only in the nom. sg. of this word, Gmc. has generalized ð throughout the paradigm. In Gothic the word has acquired u-stem inflections (fōtus; likewise *tunbus ‘tooth’), probably due to acc. sg. fōtus, pl. fōtuns. Thus, the stems of Gmc. root-stems may differ from those of IE cognates, or even within the Gmc. family itself (e.g. Go. tunb- ‘tooth’ < *h₂dœnt-: OHG zant(d) < *h₂dent-; cf. Lat. dēns, gen. dentis, derived from the zero grade of *h₂dœl- ‘eat’, with participial suffix, and see Lass 1986). However, ‘tooth’ is the only root-stem in which it is provable that ablaut alternations in the root persisted in Gmc.4
1. The PGmc. dat. (originally loc.) ending *-i should have been lost after the heavy syllable (§5.6), but presumably it was restored by analogy to light-stemmed root-stems, and perhaps to r-stems (see §7.36).

2. It may seem odd to refer to vocalic consonant stems, but these would have ended in a consonant in PIE, usually a laryngeal. A possible alternative explanation for a nom. sg. like mǫrk is that it has its back mutation by analogy not to the ō-stems but to the acc. sg. (Prokosch 1939: §87a), or by the combined influence of the two. Note that analogical forms of the nom. sg. appear elsewhere among feminines of this class, e.g. tǫnn ‘tooth’ and nót ‘night’ (beside nátt), the latter with the combined labial mutation proper to the acc. sg. and dat. pl. (§4.8).

3. On ‘Doric πώς and its unexplained alteration to Gk. πούς, see Sihler 1995: 117–18. “The difference in vowel colouring between πούς and pēs is explained by alternation within the paradigm (e.g. nom. *pōs: gen. *ped-ōs), or between simple[x] and compound (e.g. *pēs: *su-pōs ‘with good feet’), with subsequent generalizing of one or the other timbre” (Szemerényi 1996: §7.2.1).

4. A further, probable example is PGmc. *wrōt- > ON rót ‘root’ : *wurt- > Go. wārts, ON urt, OE wyrt, OS wurt, OHG wurz ‘plant’.

7.29 The n-stems

These are commonly referred to as ‘weak’ nouns, just as with weak adjectives, which are also n-stems (see §9.7). In PIE either there were no fem. n-stems or the only gender opposition in this class was between animate and neuter nouns; the category of fem. in Gmc. no doubt arose from substantivized weak fem. adjectives. Neuters in Gmc. are very few in number. To be distinguished are the three types of Gmc. n-stems: the an-stems, the ōn-stems, and the in-stems.

1. The terms stark ‘strong’ and schwach ‘weak’ are used in reference to nouns, adjectives, and verbs already in Grimm’s Deutsche Grammatik: see, e.g., Grimm 1822–37: I, 597–8, where the terms are defined in reference to declension.

7.30 The an-stems

These comprise masc. and neuter nouns. The masculines are very commonly deverbal agentive nouns, e.g. Go. hana ‘cock’ (cf. Lat. canō ‘sing’), blōma ‘flower’ (cf. OE blōwan ‘bloom’). There also occur jan-stems, inflected the same way, e.g. Go. masc. baúrgja ‘citizen’ (cf. baírgan ‘protect’), neut. sigljō ‘seal’ (cf. sigljan, from Lat. sigillāre). The masc. inflections may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. guma ‘man’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>guma</td>
<td>gumi</td>
<td>guma</td>
<td>gumo, -a</td>
<td>gomo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>guman</td>
<td>guma</td>
<td>guman, -an</td>
<td>gomon, -un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gumins</td>
<td>guma</td>
<td>guman, -an, -on</td>
<td>gomen, -in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gumin</td>
<td>guma</td>
<td>gumen, -an, -on</td>
<td>gomen, -in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>gumans</td>
<td>gum(n)ar</td>
<td>guman, -un, -an</td>
<td>gomon, -un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>gumans</td>
<td>gum(n)a</td>
<td>guman, -un, -an</td>
<td>gomon, -un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gumanē</td>
<td>gumna</td>
<td>gumena, -uno, -onu</td>
<td>gomōno</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gumam</td>
<td>gum(n)um</td>
<td>gumum, -un</td>
<td>gomōm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The plural of Olcel. gumi is actually atypical of the type, which usually lacks -n- in all cases of the plural, having adopted a-stem inflections. Rather, in poetry a few n-stems referring to persons preserve the original gen. pl. ending -na1 and extend -n- thence to the other cases of the plural. Another masc. type, and a rare one, is represented by Go.
gen. pl. aúhsnē 'oxen', Olcel. nom. acc. pl. yxn, ὤxn, gen. yxnā, ὤxnā, dat. yxnum, oxnum (nom. sg. uxi, oxi), OE (chiefly Anglian) nom. acc. pl. æxen, æxin, æxen, gen. oxna, dat. oxnum (nom. sg. ox). In these the PIE suffix took the form *-en- in the strong cases, rather than *-on-. On Go. manna, see §7.27.

The neuters are declined similarly in the genitive and dative. The nominative and accusative inflections may be illustrated by forms of Go. áugō ‘eye’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nom. acc. sg.</th>
<th>Nom. acc. pl.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>áugō</td>
<td>augðōna</td>
<td>auga</td>
<td>ēage</td>
<td>ð̣̄ga, -e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>augu</td>
<td>ēagan</td>
<td>ōgnun, -on, -an</td>
<td>ougun, -on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A different type of neuter is represented by Go. nom. acc. pl. namna ‘names’, i.e. with the ending -na rather than -ōna. Such neuters hadPGmc. *-ō or *-ōn in the nom. sg., just as the masc. nouns did, and so they were made masc. in WGmc. (Bammesberger 1990: 167; Jasanoff 2002: 35). Besides namō, only PGmc. *sēmō (OHG sēmo ‘seed’) and *aŋkʷō (OHG ancho ‘butter’) are of this latter type. On heteroclitic stems like Go. watō, dat. pl. watnam, see §7.42.

1. As in the ōn-stems, §7.32. It is otherwise usually replaced by a-stem -a (but cf. §7.31 n. 8); cf. Runic gen. pl. arbijano ‘heirs’ on the Tune stone, ca. 400.

2. This is the PIE ‘hysterokinetic’ or ‘hysterodynamic’ type (§7.4), in which the final syllable bore the accent: for discussion, see Kroonen 2011: 27–40. Similar is Go. gen. pl. abnē, dat. abnam ‘men’: see Sen 2002, Johnsen 2005; probably also Olcel. bogna ‘bows’. This is not the origin of OE genitives like brōgna, which occur in the conservative language of poetry, and which must be assumed to show syncope (for the reasons offered by Brunner 1965: §276 Anm. 4).

3. This ending is unexplained; the PIE ending was *-ŋ, reflected in Skt. nāma, Lat. nāmen, OCS imē.

### 7.31 Origin and development of an-stem inflections

These nouns in PIE bore the suffix *-en-/on-. The Gmc. an-stems mostly reflect the PIE amphikinetic type, with accent on the root in the strong cases (§7.4), the stem-formative suffix taking the form *-on- (*-ōn < *-on-s in the nom. sg.), but the form *-en- in the loc. sg. (and acc. sg.?) and elsewhere *-n- or *-ŋ-. The weak grades of the suffix are all replaced by full grades in Gmc. Only Gothic retains significant traces of the original inflections; in the other languages it is mostly the n-suffix that has become the inflection. Reconstruction of the development of these nouns presents many difficulties (some of them remarked by Ringe 2017: 306–8); the nouns and the weak adjectives must have exerted considerable mutual analogical influence. But the agreement of Go. and OHG on key points leads to the conclusion that originally *-on- (becoming *-an- or *-un-: see under acc. sg. below) appeared in the acc. sg. and all cases of the plural, whereas *-en- appeared in the gen. dat. sg.

The neuters would account for Go. masc. -a. Olcel. -i is commonly derived from *-ēn (or from analogically created *-ē, *ē, or *ēn; see, e.g., Jasanoff 2002: 31, 44), but the older Runic ending, which is well attested, is -a, and so a morphological refashioning is perhaps to be assumed. Only *-ō or *-ōn will account for the WGmc. masc. forms (continental Runic -ō is attested from the end of the 6th cent. in boso (name) and leubo ‘beloved man’: see Euler 2013: 80), and the origin of the trimoric vowel in these, as elsewhere among the n-stems, is perplexing. Likewise, *-ō is required to explain Go. neuter -ō,
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whereas the neuter endings in the other languages require *-ōn; PIE neuter *-ōn, however, is to be derived from *-on-h₂, just as PIE *ph₂stér is to be derived from *ph₂stēr-s (§1.6 n. 1; see Jasanoff 2002: 33). ² Boultan (1995b: 285–6) rather assumes analogical extension of *-ōn(n) from the neut. pl.

**Acc. sg.** The PIE animate ending was *-en-n (see Szemerényi 1996: §7.3.1), but Gmc. requires *-on-ŋ > *-on-un, in which *-on- should have yielded, in (N)WGmc., *-un- before *u in the next syllable, whereas *-on- in EGmc. developed to *-an- (§5.5). This accounts for the OS and OHG endings, but OE (and Olc.? see §5.5) must have extended *-an- from other cases to the acc. ⁶ (The an-stem acc. unfortunately is not attested in early Runic.) Early Northumbrian galgu < *źalsun < WGmc. *źalsunum on the Ruthwell Cross suggests that OE originally had *-un- in this case. The neuters bore the same inflection as in the nom.

**Gen. sg.** Only in Skt. is the original weak form of the n-suffix preserved, as in gen. sg. rājñāḥ ‘king’. The other IE languages generally point to *-en-os or *-en-es, giving PGmc. *-iniz, *-iniz.? This accounts for Go. -ins and OS OHG -en. The Olc. and OE endings must derive from forms with the PIE alternant *-on-, as in Gk. acc. sg. ὁδιμον ‘divinity’ < *-on-ŋ, or by analogical extension (ultimately from the nom. pl.?), as in the accusative. OHG -in here and in the dat. produces umlaut (e.g. nemin ‘name’), though the original root vowel is always restored outside of the earliest texts.

**Dat. sg.** PIE *-n-eq is to be expected (cf. Skt. dat. rājīṇē), but the Gmc. ending is more likely to derive from loc. *-en-i or *-on-i. The former will account for Go. -in, OS OHG -en (CG), -in (UG); the latter (cf. Gk. ἀκμονί ‘thunderbolt’) for Olc. -a and OE -an, assuming early loss of *-i in third syllables (§5.2 n. 7).

**Nom. pl.** PIE *-on-es gives PGmc. masc. *-aniz, which accounts for the Go. and OE endings. OS and OHG -on, -un are probably analogical to the acc. pl., whereas Olc. -ar is modeled on the a-stem ending. As for the neuter, the cognates point to PIE *-ōn-h₂, as in Skt. nāmāṇi ‘names’, in which *-ōn- may be a collective suffix (Jasanoff 1980: 376). This should have produced PGmc. *-ōna, but *-a in this was replaced by *-ō, borrowed from the a-stems, with the NWGmc. development *-ōnō > *-ōnu > *-ōn-.

**Acc. pl.** Only Skt. preserves the original weak form of the suffix, as in rājñāḥ ‘kings’. Gmc. reflects the suffix in o-grade, PIE *-on-ps > masc. *-on-unz, in which *-on- should have developed to *-an- in EGmc. and *-un- in (N)WGmc. (see §5.5). This accounts for the OS and OHG endings, whereas the OE ending is analogical to the nom. plural. Olc. shows the same development as in the acc. singular. Go. -ans may be due to the combined forces of haplography (§12.33 n. 6) in *-an-unz and analogical influence from the nom. plural. The neuter ending was the same as the nominative.

**Gen. pl.** PIE weak *-n-(oH)om finds expression in forms like Go. aihšnē (see §7.30) and OE oxa. However, in Gmc. there should be expected the reflex of a full-grade form of the suffix, *-on-, and this accounts for Go. -anē. The Olc. ending -a, like the nom. pl. ending, seems to be analogical to the a-stem ending, ⁸ whereas the WGmc. endings reflect *-ōn-ō, which is perhaps borrowed from the ōn-stems (§7.32), probably via the weak adjectives (§9.8).

**Dat. pl.** PGmc. *-miz (cf. a-stems, §7.8) was attached directly to the suffix *-on-, giving *-on-miz > *-ammiz in EGmc., *-ummiz elsewhere (§5.5). This accounts for all the endings except OHG -ōm, which was influenced by the ōn-stems, as in the gen. pl.

2. Loss of *-n may be due to sandhi conditions (Prokosch 1939: §84d).

3. Stiles (1984: 16–17) argues plausibly that masc. Runic -a was extended to the nom. from the oblique cases for the purpose of re-differentiating the masc. and fem. forms (nom. masc. *-ð and fem. *-ða having fallen together as *-ð), since, outside the nom. sg., the feminines had *-ðn- throughout and the masculines *-an-, the latter having been generalized by analogy to the feminines. Subsequently Runic -a was lost by regular phonological rule, not only in the regular n-stems but also in the subcategory of ijan-stems (i.e., jan-stems with a heavy root syllable), leaving the n-stems and the ijan-stems inflected identically, except that in the nom. sg. the latter had -i, which was then adopted by the n-stems (similarly Boutkan 1995b: 281). Cf. the discussion in Syrett 1994: 134–52. To the contrary, Nedoma (2005: 172–3) and Jón Axel Harðarson (2005: 227–8; see also Ringe & Taylor 2014: 520) assume that Runic -a actually reflects PIE *-ēn.

4. The usual assumption is that *-ō and *-ē were the result of loss of the final consonant in PIE, and Bamnesberger (1990: 167 n. 275, 169) defends this view by reference to PGmc. *nefō, reduced from PIE *nepōs. But only Balto-Slavic and Gmc. require the reconstruction of trimoric vowels in this declension, and trimoricity is otherwise to be related to hiatus between the MSS).” Jasano (2002: 37), who intends the term ‘trimoric’ literally and thus assumes that trimoric vowels were simply overlong, proposes a rule of Gmc. and Balto-Slavic whereby *ō (but not any other vowel) gained an extra mora in final position. This is a simple solution, but the motive for the change is obscure. Lane (1963, supported in part by Boutkan 1999b: 127, 281) supposes that *-an- (from earlier *-an-un) was leveled into the nom. sg. in WGmc., and that this accounts for the attested endings. This entails certain complications, one of which is that *-an-un should have developed to *-an: see §5.5. The form of the suffix *-an- could have been extended, however, from other cases, e.g. nom. pl., though this leaves unexplained the coincidence of Baltic intonation and of what would appear to be a trimoric Gmc. reflex.

5. Prokosch (1939: §84e) remarks a complementarity in the development of the nom. sg. between Go. and Old Norse with masculines, but in WGmc. with feminines and neuters. On the other hand, the tri-moric ending -ō is used in Gothic and Old Norse with feminines and neuters, in WGmc. with masculines (in Old Saxon there is a good deal of variation between the MSS).”

6. To the contrary, it is usually assumed that *-an- spread from the acc. sg. to other cases (e.g. Prokosch 1939: §84d; Bamnesberger 1990: 168). Certainly, the spread of *-an- is justly assumed, since it has replaced *-ēn- in the feminine n-stems in OE, but the acc. sg. ending is not likely to be the source, at least in WGmc.

7. Bamnesberger (1990: 168) suggests that at least in Gmc., gen. *-en- may be analogical to the dat. suffix (PIE loc.). Boutkan (1995b: 283–4) argues that *-en- remained as such in the gen.

8. However, Prokosch 1939: §84d posits the replacement of -na by -a from stems like hani ‘cock’, gen. pl. *hanna > hana, facilitated by the disappearance of inflectional -n- from the rest of the paradigm.

7.32 The ōn-stems

This class includes feminine nouns only. The inflections may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. tuggō ‘tongue’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go. sg. nom.</th>
<th>OIcel. sg. nom.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tuggō</td>
<td>tuggō</td>
<td>tunga</td>
<td>tunga, -e</td>
<td>zunga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuggōn</td>
<td>tungun</td>
<td>tungan</td>
<td>tungun, -on, -an</td>
<td>zungūn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuggōns</td>
<td>tungun</td>
<td>tungan</td>
<td>tungan, -on, -an</td>
<td>zungūn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuggōn</td>
<td>tungun</td>
<td>tungan</td>
<td>tungan, -on, -an</td>
<td>zungūn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuggōns</td>
<td>tungun</td>
<td>tungan</td>
<td>tungan, -on, -an</td>
<td>zungūn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A subtype, the jón-stems, have -j- before the inflection, which causes umlaut, e.g. OIcel. brynjá ‘coat of mail’, and these have gen. pl. in -a instead of -na, e.g. brynjja, unless the stem ended in a velar consonant, e.g. gen. pl. kirkna (to kirkja ‘church’). Contracted
forms are generally uninflcted in the sg., e.g. frú ‘lady’, pl. frúr, and kona ‘woman’ has gen. pl. kvenna, kvína, probably based on a stem *kven- to a different noun (Go. qinó, OE cwene, OHG quena: see Jón Axel Harðarson 1989).

7.33 Origin and development of ōn-stem inflections

In PIE there was no inflectional distinction between masc. and fem. n-stems (if in fact any PIE n-stems were fem.), but in PGmc. the two genders became differentiated by the elimination in fem. nouns of the variation in vowel quality and quantity in the stem-forming suffix, which was regularized as *-ōn-.

The likeliest source of the long vowel in this analogical process is the ō-stem nouns. Of those that survive in Gmc., nearly all PIE ō-stem nouns designating persons have become ōn-stems, e.g. PIE ō-stem *genā ‘woman’ (cf. Russian жена (žena)) > Go. qinó, gen. -ōns (Krahe & Meid 1969: III, §91). There thus arose a correspondence between the masc. proportion a-stem -ar: n-stem -an- and the fem. proportion ō-stem -ō: ōn-stem -ōn- that could be exploited and expanded. There may also have been influence of the fem. adjectives upon the nouns (Kuryłłowicz 1968). The conversion of ō-stems to ōn-stems must have been a relatively late development, as ō-stem forms are still encountered in ōn-stem nouns in Gothic, e.g. dat. sg. bandwāi to ōn-stem bandwō ‘sign’ (Streitberg 1910: 111).

At first, then, the use of *-ōn- was the only distinction between masc. and fem. n-stems, since they bore the same inflections after the stem-forming suffix. This situation remains little changed in Gothic, the only alterations being the extension of gen. pl. -ō (to form -ōnō) and dat. pl. -ōm (for original *-ūnam) from the ō-stems. Although the phonological changes are much disputed, the commonest assumption is that PGmc. *-ōn- should have changed to NWGmc. *-ūn- before u in the next syllable (§5.5)—i.e., in the acc. sg. and pl.—and before tautosyllabic n at a later date (§5.6) in all the remaining cases except nom. sg. and gen. and dat. pl. This situation is well preserved in OS and OHG. Some analogical reformation has taken place in Olcel.: in the plural, nom. acc. -ur is analogous to -ar (borrowed from the a-stems) in the masc. n-stems, and the dat. pl. corresponds to the Go. form. PGmc. *-ōn- should have yielded ON *-ana; gen. pl. -na may be influenced by masc. forms like yxna (§7.30; Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §29), but it is likelier to have been influenced by the neuter form, as the original nom. acc. pl. inflection would have agreed with the neut. (Heusler 1967: §233). In OE, the fem. paradigm has been made to conform almost entirely to the masc.; Northumbrian acc. sg. foldu ‘earth’ and eordu ‘earth’ are most likely relics of an earlier inflection like that in Go., though it should be noted that these forms are not necessarily exceptions to the rule of conformity to the masc. paradigm: cf. masc. acc. sg. galgu ‘gallows’. Original *-ōn- is reflected also in OE pl. Ėastron, -un ‘Easter’. For alternative analyses, see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 163–4.

1. Cf. similarly in Greek, masc. nom. sg. ἁγών ‘assembly’, gen. ἁγώνος, etc., and in Latin, nom. sērmō ‘conversation’, acc. sērmōnis, etc.

7.34 The ōn-stems

Like the ōn-stems, this class includes feminine nouns only. The inflections may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. managei ‘multitude’ and its cognates, along with Olcel. gørsimi ‘treasure’:
It will be seen that the Go. paradigm corresponds precisely to that of the ōn-stems, but with -ei- (/iː/) where the other has -ō-.

The OHG paradigm closely resembles the Gothic, corresponding exactly to the OHG ōn-stem paradigm above (§7.32). The OHG forms in -īn (as opposed to -i) are limited to a small number of textual sources: see Braune 2004a: §228 Anm. 1, Boutkan 1995b: 292–3. In OS the inflection of these nouns is indistinguishable from that of fem. i-stems, though occasional jō-stem forms occur, e.g. dat. sg. menigo (1× beside usual menigi). In OIcel. the sg. corresponds phonologically to the Go. sg., whereas the pl. inflections are the same as those of the ō-stems. In OE a few forms, mostly in early or Anglian texts, e.g. acc. gen. dat. sg. strenge, show that originally the OE paradigm was more closely comparable to the OHG one. The substitution of the ending -u for -e < *-i is usually explained as the result of analogy to stems in Gmc. *-iþō, e.g. OE strengþu (see, e.g., A. Campbell 1977: §569(7), and cf. Brunner 1965: §280), though the extension of -u within the paradigm of the latter type is difficult to account for, and doubts have been raised (see Bammesberger 1975, and cf. Ringe 2002: 149 & n. 42).

The origin of the suffix *-īn- in this class is uncertain, as it is unparalleled in the IE languages. But if, as supposed above (§7.33), the ō-stems played a significant role in the spread of *-ōn- throughout the paradigm of the ō-stems, it may be supposed that *-īn- was analogically constructed on the basis of the jō-stems, in which the nom. sg. ended in *-ī (§7.17).

1. In Gothic, the suffix -ein- is found also in feminine abstract nouns derived from weak verbs of the first class, e.g. dáupeins ‘baptism’ (cf. dáupjan ‘baptize’), but these bear different inflections: those of the i-stems in most cases, but those of the ō-stems in the nom. gen. plural. Gothic and ON first participles and adjectives in the comparative degree are also inflected as īn-stems (§§9.9–10).

### 7.35 The r-stems

This small class comprises nouns of family relationship, which were formed in PIE with a suffix *-ter- or *-er- in alternating ablaut grades. The inflections may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. brōpar ‘brother’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sg. nom.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brōpar</td>
<td>brōðar</td>
<td>brōðor</td>
<td>brōðer, -ar</td>
<td>bruoder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>brōbar</td>
<td>brōðar</td>
<td>brōðer, -ar</td>
<td>bruoder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>brōprs</td>
<td>brōður</td>
<td>brōðor</td>
<td>brōðer, -ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>brōpr</td>
<td>brōður</td>
<td>brēper</td>
<td>brōder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl. nom.</td>
<td>brōprjus</td>
<td>brēdr</td>
<td>brōðor</td>
<td>gibrōder, -ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>brōpruns</td>
<td>brēdr</td>
<td>brōðor</td>
<td>gibrōder, -ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>brōbrē</td>
<td>brēdrā</td>
<td>brōpra</td>
<td>bruodero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>brōbrum</td>
<td>brēdrum</td>
<td>brōbrum</td>
<td>brōdrum, -on</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The other nouns in this class are Go. *fadar ‘father’ (once, in the voc., beside usual *attu), *mōdar ‘mother’, *daúhtar ‘daughter’, *swistar ‘sister’, and their cognates. Note Runic *swestar on the (probably) 5th-century Norwegian Opedal stone. Beside Olcel. dat. sg. *foður ‘father’ there occurs the (probably more original) by-form *feðr, which may be extended to the acc. and reformed in gen. *feðras; *foður itself is then probably analogical to the gen. acc. sg. (Gutenbrunner 1951: 104). In OHG, *muuter is inflected like *bruoder, but *fater has nom. acc. pl. *faterā, and there develop alternative forms modeled on the a-stems, gen. sg. *fateres, dat. *faterē. Similarly, OE *fæder always has a-stem nom. acc. pl. *fæð(e)ras, and analogical gen. sg. *fæð(e)res occurs not infrequently. Umlaut is usually missing from dat. sg. *fæder, but cf. Northumbrian *feder beside *fæder; conversely, umlaut may be extended to cases in which it is not etymological, as in Mercian gen. sg. *daether (spelt with *œ). OE *mōdor has always nom. acc. pl. *mōdryr or *mōdra, and the variation that the origin of the inflection is in a collective neuter plural (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.93), as PGmc. acc. pl. *-unz should have been lost (otherwise Boutkan 1995b: 275). The lack of umlaut in nom. pl. *brōpor (as opposed to dat. sg. *brēper) is unexpected. Of particular interest is Mercian gen. sg. *feðr, Northumbrian *-fadar, *fodor, on which see §7.36.

1. Go. *aifei is used instead of *mōdar, which is entirely unattested, but which is reconstructible from related forms. According to Prokosch (1939: §85), and as might be expected from the vocalism, *mōdar (as well as OE *mōdor, OS *mōðar, OHG muoter; Olcel. mōður is ambiguous) derives from PIE *mātēr, with root accent throughout (cf. Gk. μητέρ, Lith. motė; but cf. Pokorny 1959-69: II, 700), and the apparent effect of Verner’s law (§6.6) is thus to be attributed to analogy to *fader; cf. Skt. mātār- beside pātār-.

2. Go. *aun in *daíhtar is due to the following h (§4.5), whereas o in NWGmc. *dohter- is due to lowering of u before the following mid vowel (§4.3; the etymon is PIE *dhug(h)hēter-, as in Gk. θυγάτηρ), with compensatory lengthening upon loss of /x/ in Olcel. *dōttir (§4.9).


4. It cannot be due to full grade of the stem suffix in PGmc. *brōper-iːz, with early loss of i in a third syllable (as in dat. pl. *-miz, §§2 n. 7, §7.8), unless it is assumed that e was not raised to i before *-ri- (§§4.4, 5.5). Umlaut is lacking in the plural throughout WGmc.; the umlaut in NHG Väter, Mütter, Brüder, Töchter is modern and analogical. Umlaut is found in all the NGmc. forms, however: *feðr, *maðr, *brædr, *dætr.

7.36 Origin and development of r-stem inflections

In PIE at least ‘father’ had a regular alternation between strong and weak cases (§7.4), with shift of accent between stem and inflection, as in Greek acc. sg. *pátepa ‘father’, gen. *pátpoc. In Go. and Olcel. the weak stem has been extended to all cases but the nom. and acc. sg., whereas in WGmc. it is the strong stem that prevails. If it is assumed that alternation in the place of the accent occurred in all these words, not just ‘father’, it must be supposed that the consequent alternations in voicing under Verner’s law (§6.6) have been leveled away.

**Nom. sg.** *brôþer* (< PIE *brhātēr* < *brhātēr-s) may be assumed for PGmc. This would explain OHG *bruoder*, though the stem *brôper-* of the acc. and voc. would produce the same result if extended analogically to the nominative.1 The usual assumption is that in Go. *brōhrar, *-ér has resulted in -ar (§5.3), and that *-ēr also explains Olcel. -ir as well as early Runic *swestar*, assuming that ⟨a⟩ stands for /œ/; which later developed to /œ/ in the unstressed syllable, still later merging with /i/. Alternatively,
Streitberg (1892: 108, *idem* 1896: §§160, 179), followed by some others, has argued that *swerst* reflects the *-৷r̥* of PIE *suesōr. Both of these assumptions have been challenged by Stiles, who argues that Go. *fiawōr ‘four’ must be derived from PIE neuit. *kʰetōr rather than the usually assumed masc. *kʰetōres, with subsequent analogical extension of o̊ from the neuter (see Stiles 1985–6: 6.86–8), and therefore shortening in Gothic is not to be expected in *brōðer; rather, Go. nom. brōhar has acquired the stem of the vocative or, less likely, the acc. (Stiles 1988). He also argues that Runic *swerst* is unlikely to represent a nom. in *-ēr* but a voc. in *-ar* (Stiles 1984). Hamp (1990) supports Stiles but posits nom. sg. *brōhēr* for PGmc. Boutkan (1992, 1995b: 272) argues that runic *swerst* reflects the original *-or, whereas OIcel. *systir* reflects the analogical ending *-ēr*. The issues are complex and capable of more than one interpretation, but the analysis of Stiles seems quite likely.

**Acc. sg.** PGmc. *brōper-u* < PIE *bhrāter-ṇ* develops normally in Gothic and OIcel., in the latter instance through the series of changes *-eru* > *-aru* > *-oru* > -ur (see Heusler 1967: §113). The WGmc. developments appear to be natural; on OE -or, see note 1.

**Gen. sg.** The Gothic and main NWGmc. forms may be derived regularly from PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇ* or *bhṛtṛ-ṇ*. OIcel. *faðir* has gen. sg. *fóður*, which is usually associated with Skt. *pítur* and derived from *phṛtr̥s*, though how such a form arose in PIE is difficult to explain, since the original ending should have been PIE *-ro-ṇ* (see Szemerényi 1996: §7.3.3, with references, and cf. Stiles 2013: 30). Accordingly, Bammsberger (1983a) argues that the Gmc. and the Skt. forms are analogical creations. Corresponding to *fóður* are the variant Anglian OE forms cited above, *feaddr*, *-fadur*, *fador.*

**Dat. sg.** The Gmc. dat. corresponds to the PIE locative, hence PIE *phṛtr̥r̥-i* ‘father’ (cf. Gk. *πατήρ*, Lat. ablative *pater*), in which the loss of final *-i* after the heavy syllable was earlier in Go. than elsewhere in Gmc. (§5.2). PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇ* explains all the forms in the paradigms in §7.35 except for OIcel. *brōður* (for expected *braðr̥*, which is rare), which is analogous to the acc. and gen., like dat. *fóður* beside etymological *feaddr*. But doubts have been raised about the retention of *-i* in Proto-Norse: see §5.2 n. 2.

**Nom. pl.** PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇs* > PGmc. *brōhr-iz* develops regularly into the OS and OHG forms (aside from the elimination of voicing of ō under Verner’s law, if instead *bhṛtār-ṇs* is assumed, as explained above). OIcel. *braðr̥* results from generalization of the weak grade of the suffix *-r̥* in PNorse, resulting in *brōhr̥s*, cf. Runic *dohtr̥r̥* on the Tune stone of ca. 400. OE *feaddras* has been analogically reformed on the model of the *a*-stems. Go. *brōpr̥s*, with zero grade of the suffix, as in ON, has acquired the *u*-stem ending because the acc. and dat. pl. endings of Go. *r*-stems were indistinguishable from those of *u*-stems.

**Acc. pl.** PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇs* > PGmc. *brōhr-nuz* produces the Go. form by regular sound change, whereas the NWGmc. forms are analogical to the nom. pl.

**Gen. pl.** PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇHom* produces the expected results everywhere except in OIcel., where the unlaute of the nom. pl. is extended throughout the plural, and in OHG, where *bruodero* may be due to analogical generalization of the stem with *-er-* (cf. the dat. pl.), or, less likely, it may reflect an original variant with full grade of the suffix: cf. Gk. *πατέρων* beside Homeric *πατρόν*, Lat. *pater.*

**Dat. pl.** PIE *bhṛtṛ-ṇs is an instr. form (§7.2; cf. Skt. instr. *mātḥhis ‘mothers’) which may be assumed to give PGmc. *brōhr-ṇs* (with *-ru-* rather than *-ur-* under the influence of the other weak cases: see §12.31 n. 3). This produces
regular results, except that the umlauted vowel of the nom. pl. is extended to the dat. in Olcel., and in OHG the stem with -er- has been generalized.

1. By contrast, OE has -er (as in fæder) or -or (as in brōþor) depending on whether the vowel of the preceding syllable is front or back, due to nuclearization originating in the gen. and dat. sg., according to A. Campbell (1977: §631). Alternatively, Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §23) suppose that -er in nom. sg. fæder directly reflects PIE *-ær, with loss of the vowel after a heavy syllable in all the remaining r-stems and subsequent parasiting. But phonological loss of the stem vowel in an uninflected form seems unlikely.

7.37 The s-stems

In PIE these were almost all neuter, and in Gmc. they are exclusively so.1 They bore the PIE accent on the root in the nom. sg., but otherwise there is wide disagreement about the pattern of accentuation in this class.2 The category remains distinct in several IE languages; an example of an s-stem is, from PIE *ǵēnḥ-ōs ‘kind, family’, gen. *ǵēnḥ-es-ōs, Skt. jānah, gen. jānasah, Gk. γένος, gen. γένος, Lat. genus, gen. generis. In Gmc. the s-stems as a noun class remain nowhere very distinct, having conformed to the inflection of more productive classes, though in OE the cooccurrence of alternative stems in different noun classes attests to the alternations in earlier s-stem paradigms. Thus, for example, beside gāst ‘spirit’, hlāw ‘mound’, hrēð ‘corpse’ there occur also the umlauted gēst, hlǣw, hrǣw. The only plain exceptions to the obscuration of paradigm alternations are to be found in Anglian texts. One exception is dōgor ‘day’: in Northumbrian (Lindisfarne Gospels) this has a singular stem dēg- (spelt (dœg)), whereas the plural stem is dōg(o)ra-, the latter used for both sg. and pl. in poetry.3 Similarly, the Mercian gloss on the Vespasian Psalter has sg. cælf (with i-umlaut)4 but pl. calfur, calfer-. In poetic texts, nom. sg. hrēð ‘glory’ occurs beside hrōð(o)r(-) in the dat. sg. and in the plural. On the basis of such alternations may be reconstructed an original paradigm like the following (see Brunner 1965: §289, Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.96):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>dēg</td>
<td>dōgor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>dēg</td>
<td>dōgor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>dōgores</td>
<td>dōg(o)ra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>dōgor(e)</td>
<td>dōgrum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The two residual signs of s-stem inflection are thus variable umlaut of the root vowel and variable appearance of suffixal r < z. Aside from the exceptional examples of preserved paradigm alternation noted above, the OE paradigms of original s-stems are of two types: (1) The nouns cealf ‘calf’, lamb ‘lamb’, and āeg ‘egg’ decline as neut. a-stems, except that in the plural the inflection is preceded by -r-, e.g. nom. acc. cealfru, gen. cealfra, dat. cealfrum. (2) The remainder are declined mostly as neut. a-stems but have extended stem-final -r- throughout the paradigm, e.g. nom. sg. hōcor ‘derision’. Usually it is the stem without i-umlaut that is generalized, though a few nouns show generalization of the umlauted form, e.g. nom. pl. scērero ‘shears’. In some instances there is a dual development, e.g. OE i-stems sige ‘victory’, sele ‘hall’, hǣl ‘salvation’ beside a-stems sigor, salor, hālor (see A. Campbell 1977: §636).5

In Gothic and Olcel., the s-stems are declined entirely like a-stems, e.g. Go. riqis ‘darkness’ (cf. Skt. rājāh, Gk. ἱππός), gen. riqizis = Olcel. rōk(k)r, gen. rōk(k)rs. A probable exception is gen. sg. hatis (for expected a-stem *hatizis) ‘hatred’ < PIE *-es-
os (though this is disputed: see Braune 2004b: §94 Anm. 5): other forms of the word decline on the pattern of a-stems.\(^6\) In OHG and OS, the few remaining s-stems decline as a-stems, but with r-suffix in the plural and, in OHG, umlaut, e.g. OHG lamb ‘lamb’, nom. pl. lembir < *lambizu < *lambesō, gen. lembiro, dat. lembirum. This method of forming the plural was to become quite productive in German, for reasons sketched by Klein (2013). A few OHG forms with -ir or -ar in the sg. also occur (Braune 2004a: §197 Anm. 1).

1. The Gmc. material is collected in Kluge 1926: §84, also Schlerath 1995: 259–60. See also Schenker 1971, Casaretto 2000, the latter arguing that the type was productive in Gmc. Adamczyk 2012 traces the decline of the type in OE and OHG.

2. For instance, Clackson (2007: 94) reconstructs nom./acc. sg. *nébhōs ‘cloud’, gen. sg. *nébhés-os, nom./acc. pl. *nébhēs-ho, whereas Ringe (2017: 62–3) reconstructs root accent throughout, and Beebeses (2011: 198) assumes for the s-stems accent on the root in the nom. sg., on the suffix in the acc. sg., and on the inflection in the gen. sg. See further Schaffner 2001, Mottausch 2011. There must be assumed an alternating PIE accent, sometimes on the suffix, in order to explain the generalization of s or z, alternants under Verner’s law, for example z in Go. aqizi ‘axe’ but s everywhere else in Gmc., e.g. OE (Mercian) axes.

3. The two Northumbrian stems are not uncommonly regarded as belonging to separate paradigms (so, e.g., Cook 1894: 40–1, Klein 2013: 170 n. 1), but the complementary distribution by number is unmistakable.

4. In Anglian there is retraction of æ to a before covered l, and this a then may be umlauted to æ.

5. Wagner (2011) argues that PGmc. a-stem *dāzaz ‘day’ was in origin an s-stem, derived from the etymon of OE dāg: cf. Gk. Δαγισθαῖος, probably a Go. name, and OHG tagar-ōt ‘dawn’. There does not appear to be evidence outside of Gmc., however, for quantitative ablaut alternations in the root of s-stems.

6. In Go. the s-stems have -s- after h or a diphthong, otherwise -is-. For the reason, see Boutkan 1995b: 266–7.

### 7.38 Origin and development of s-stem inflections

The usual pattern in PIE was for the suffix to take the form *-os in the nom. voc. acc. sg. only (cf. the Finnish loanword lammas ‘lamb’), elsewhere *-es-, which should produce PGmc. *-iz-. Thus, the reconstructed paradigm of OE dāg in §7.37 shows precisely the opposite of the expected historical distribution of i-umlaut, which is found in the nom. acc. sg. only, with the expected loss of final *-iz after the heavy stem. Against the usual IE pattern, then, the reflex of PIE *-os- must have prevailed outside the nom. acc. sg., though how -or- developed from *-os- is a matter of some debate.\(^1\) The likeliest explanation (that of Bammesberger 1990: 210) is that nom. acc. pl. *dōzazō developed to *dōzr (with rhotacism and syncope of *-a-, followed by apocope of *-u < *-ō), in which *-r was then syllabified to -ur, which was subsequently extended to most cases, with subsequent lowering to -or. Yet this explanation, too, faces some difficulties.\(^2\) OE gen. sg. dōgores was formed by analogy to the a-stems, since *-a- should have been lost from the final syllable of PGmc. *dōzazaz, giving *dōzaz > *dōzr, a situation reflected in the Mercian gen. sg. calfur (with analogical replacement of *-ar by -ur, as above). OE dat. sg. dōgor is perhaps to be derived from a PIE instr. in *-ē, which ending should have been lost; but a locative in *-ē would explain the form if the ending is assumed to have been lost in a third syllable (§5.2 n. 7). The alternative dat. dōgore (in poetry beside dōgor) probably does not reflect the PIE dat. in *-ef reconstructed for this class (note the lack of umlaut) but is analogous to the a-stems.
1. For discussion and references, see Boutkan 1992, Hogg & Fulk 2011: §2.99 n. 1, Klein 2013: 171–5. Boutkan’s analysis, whereby -or(-) always reflects syllabified r, is discounted by Hogg & Fulk (2011: §2.100 n. 6), who conclude that -or in at least some instances must reflect *-uz-, a conclusion agreed to by Klein, though no very convincing explanation as to how *-uz- arose has yet been devised (see Schaffner 2001: 589–91, Klein loc. cit.).

2. This hypothesis could be tested metrically, since nom. acc. pl. dōgar should then be monosyllabic in the meter of Beowulf, where, unfortunately, the relevant cases do not occur. Acc. pl. lomber at Guthlac B 1042 is disyllabic, but the metrical features of this poem are not conservative enough to ensure that the second syllable is not due to parasing. The Mercian gloss on the Vespasian Psalter perhaps suggests that Bammesberger’s explanation is incorrect, since in this text the final sequence PGmc. *-arō yields -eru rather than -ur (as in nom. sg. fem. öderu ‘other’), and this must be the etymological outcome rather than the result of analogy (see Fulk 2010b). In this text are to be found nom. acc. pl. calferu and lomberu, once each. It is possible, though, that -r-, later syllabified, originated elsewhere in the paradigm. The hypothesis that PIE forms in *-us- and *-hr- should be reconstructed among the s-stems reflected in Gmc. is highly questionable: see Fulk 1988: 155–6 for references.

7.39 The nd-stems

These are sometimes categorized under the dental stems (§7.41), which also bore athematic inflections in Pímc., though the development of the two types is different. The inflections may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. frijōnds ‘friend’ (cf. frijōn ‘love’) and its WGmc. cognates, along with Olcel. bóndi ‘farmer’ (cf. búa ‘settle’):¹

In WGmc. there occur also analogical forms. Thus, in the nom. acc. pl. are to be found forms analogical to the a-stems, OE fréondas (regularly in Anglian), OS friundos, friunda, OHG friunta, OS OHG dat. sg. -e is also analogous to the a-stem ending (dat. sg. friunt is rare in OHG), and beside OE friend there occurs fréonde, the ending -e being universal in stems of more than one syllable such as dat. sg. hettende ‘enemy’. OE polysyllabic stems regularly have genitive plural in -ra and frequently nom. acc. pl. in -e, both of which endings are borrowed from adjectives.

1. Olcel. bóndi is represented here because in frændi ‘kinsman’ a single stem vowel has been extended throughout the paradigm, though a rare, archaic, uncontracted pl. friendr is also attested.

7.40 Origin and development of nd-stem inflections

These are in origin substantivized polysyllabic present participles in PIE *-nt- (cf. Gk. pl. φέροντες ‘bearing’), which in PIE bore consonant-stem inflections (§7.2), as present participles still do in Skt., though on a dialectal basis the true participles acquired a-and
7.40 Origin and development of nd-stem inflections

The original set of inflections is best preserved in Gothic, where the nom. acc. dat. sg. and nom. acc. gen. pl. directly reflect the consonant-stem endings (cf. Go. baúrgs ‘city’, §7.27). Several of these endings, however (nom. acc. sg., gen. pl.) are identical to the a-stem endings, and probably on that basis a-stem inflections were adopted for the gen. voc. sg. and the dat. pl.

Umlaut in the nom. pl. in OE and Olcel. (and cf. Olcel. nom. acc. pl. gefendr ‘giver’ beside nom. sg. gefandi) is the result of the consonant-stem ending *-iz < PIE *-es, with the acc. pl. patterned after this, and in OE there is umlaut in the dat. sg., just as in the root-stems and the r-stems (§§7.27, 7.35), due to PGmc. and PIE *-i (locative). Olcel. thus preserves the consonant-stem character of these nouns in the plural, whereas the singular has been made to conform to the declension of the an-stems (§7.30). Aside from the endingless forms (those which in OE have umlaut), there is nothing to distinguish these nouns from a-stems in WGmc., though that is in part due to regular sound change, in part to analogy, the latter having applied in the gen. sg., where *-iz (cf. Go. -is) should have been lost.

1. Ringe (2017: 224) doubts that there was a class of nd-stem nouns in PGmc, supposing that they were still regarded as participles. That is not impossible, but since Go. frijōnds and its Gmc. cognates all have the meaning ‘friend’ and do not inflect like participles in any Gmc. language, the assumption that PGmc. had nd-stem nouns cannot justly be called rash.

2. The voc. sg. would normally have developed to *frijōn (§6.11).

7.41 The dental stems

Most of these are disyllabic stems ending in p, which reflects a PIE t-suffix (as in Lat. nepōs, gen. nepōtis ‘grandson’); but cf. Go. weitwōds ‘witness’. In Gothic and Olcel., in large part, these bear the same inflections as the masc. root-stems, e.g. Go. mēnōþs, Olcel. mánaðr ‘month’ (originally an s-stem: cf. Gk. μήν, gen. μηνός < *μηνσός; Lat. mēnsis, but perhaps with PIE nom. *mēnōt: Pokorny 1959–69: I, 731). In WGmc. only the nom. acc. pl. remains distinctively athematic: cf. OE mōnaþ, OHG mānōt. In WGmc. some dental stems developed in ways similar to the n-stems, so that the original athematic inflections were lost in most case-forms, leaving the dental element to serve as an inflection. Only OE preserves this situation recognizably, and in just a few words, as illustrated by nom. acc. sg. ealu ‘ale’, gen. dat. sg. ealþ, gen. pl. ealeþa, though analogical forms occur beside these, e.g. Northumbrian gen. sg. alþes. Although mōnaþ shows its origin in this class only by the nom. acc. pl., mæg(e)p ‘maiden’ is uninflected in the gen. dat. sg. and nom. acc. pl., though -p has been extended analogically to the nom. acc. singular. OE nom. acc. sg. hæle ‘hero’ has nom. pl. hæleþ (beside hæleþas), gen. pl. hæleþa, dat. pl. hæleþum. In the other WGmc. languages such nouns are declined according to other classes, e.g. OS heliđ ‘hero’ as an a-stem, OHG magad ‘maiden’ as an i-stem.
7.42 The heteroclitic stems

In PIE there was a class of neuter nouns with stems in *-r- in the nom. and acc. sg., whereas in the other cases the stem was in *-n-, as in Lat. femur, gen. feminis ‘thigh’.\(^1\)

This irregularity must have survived in some words into PGmc., since the different branches of Gmc. have generalized one or the other stem individually. The plainest example is Go. watō ‘water’, gen. watins, inflected as a regular neut. an-stem, except that the dat. pl. is watham (other pl. cases unattested; hence, like gen. pl. aūhsnē, §7.30); cf. Gk. ὕδωρ ‘water’, gen. ὕδατος < *h₂ud-n- with post-PIE dental extension; cf. also Hittite watar (PIE *h₂yd-r-), gen. witenas. NGmc. has also generalized the form of the stem with -n- in OIcel. vatn, a regular a-stem, though rare vatr occurs early, as confirmed by the rhyme in some skaldic poetry, e.g. vatr (in one manuscript, but vatn elsewhere) rhyming with vitri in Sigvatr Bóðarson, Lausavísa 19. WGmc. re-ects only the stem in -r-, e.g. OE wæter, an a-stem. Also notable is Go. fōn ‘fire’, gen. funins, dat. funin (comprising all the attested cases), hence inflected as a root-stem, the only neuter root-stem in Gothic. To this corresponds OIcel. funi, inflected as a masc. an-stem, whereas WGmc. has again generalized the stem in -r-, OE fyr, OS OHG fiur (neuter a-stems), but cf. the derivative OHG funcho ‘spark’ and the alternative, disyllabic form OHG fiur (spelt vugir in Muspilli), which is difficult to explain: see Bammesberger 1990: 205, Ringe 2017: 147, 162.\(^2\) On the ablaut in heteroclitics, see Schindler 1975. On Go. aba ‘man’ as a heteroclide, see Johnsen 2005.

1. Schindler (1975) posits separate singular and collective paradigms for such nouns, e.g. nom. acc. sg. *h₂yd-r-, gen. *h₂yd-n-s, nom. acc. collective *h₂yd-ōr, gen. *h₂ud-n-ēs (though he does not assume an initial laryngeal).

CHAPTER 8

Pronouns

8.1 Types of pronouns in Proto-Germanic

The Germanic protolanguage inherited from PIE a system of pronouns including personal pronouns for only the first and second persons, which were declined in three numbers (singular, dual, plural) and in the same cases as nouns (§7.1), though not all the case forms are securely reconstructible for all pronouns. Personal pronouns were declined without gender distinctions. The function of the personal pronoun for the third person was filled by demonstrative pronouns (which lacked dual forms), particularly the anaphoric pronoun *is, and these were declined in three genders, though in some case forms no more than one gender can be distinguished. It should not be surprising that gender is not distinguished in the personal pronouns: the referents of pronouns of the first and second person are both present in dyadic interaction (or, in the dual and plural, at least one of each must be present), and so specification of gender would not under most circumstances contribute any useful information: for discussion, see Siewierska 2013.

In addition to these, interrogative, relative, possessive, and reflexive pronouns are reconstructible for PIE. Pronouns might be stressed or unstressed in PGmc., and with the usual changes affecting vowels in unstressed syllables there arose alternative forms of one and the same pronoun, and one or the other alternant might then be generalized, for example by extension of unstressed forms to stressed positions. Tonic and enclitic forms are likewise assumed to have been in alternation in PIE. The development of Gmc. pronouns has been particularly heavily influenced by analogical proportions.

I. Personal Pronouns

8.2 Personal pronouns of the first person

Reconstructing the pronouns of PIE is fraught with difficulties, but a comparison of personal pronouns in Vedic Sanskrit, Old Church Slavonic, Greek, Old Latin, Gothic, and Hittite suggests that the following is a plausible reconstruction of the first person pronoun in PIE, where the colon separates tonic and clitic forms, respectively:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>*h₁e₂̱oH</td>
<td>*h₁e₂Hom</td>
<td>*ue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>*h₁m̩e</td>
<td>*h₁me</td>
<td>*n̩e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>*h₁m̩ene</td>
<td>*mej/moj</td>
<td>*n̩e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abl.</td>
<td>*med</td>
<td></td>
<td>*n̩e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>*mebhi</td>
<td>*mej/moj</td>
<td>*n̩e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Germanic reflects only the tonic forms. The commonest corresponding forms attested in early Germanic are the following. Note that Old High German preserves no dual pronouns, with the exception mentioned below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>acc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>ik</td>
<td>mik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>ek</td>
<td>mik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>ic</td>
<td>mec, mē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>ik</td>
<td>mi(k), me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>ih</td>
<td>mih</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In OE the acc. forms in -c are confined to the Anglian dialects and poetry; dat. and acc. are identical in WS. OS mik is rare but attested in the *Heliand*. In OHG, beside 1 sg. ih there occurs *ihha*, *ihcha*, semantically equivalent to Lat. *egomet*. The Germanic forms may be remarked upon as follows:

**Nom. sg.** The Gmc. forms *ik* and *ek* cannot be derived directly from either PIE *h₁égH*om (as in Skt. ahám, Av. azám, OCS *(j)azъ*) or *h₁égH* (as in Gk. ἐγώ(ν), Lat. *egō*), since there should not have been raising of *e* to *i* in either reflex, and neither will produce Runic *ek*, rather *eka* or *eku*. Thus, *h₁égH*om adequately explains enclitic -(e)ka, attested in East Norse inscriptions after ca. 600 (Seebold 1984: 21–2). But Gmc. *ik* and *ek* are most plausibly to be derived from *h₁eg* (or *egh*: so Ringe 2017: 163), which must underlie OLith. *eš*, OPruss. *es*, Latvian *es* < *e*, presumably devoiced from *e* before a voiceless initial (Prokosch 1939: §98b). This *h₁eg*, as opposed to *h₁égH*om, explains the raising of the root vowel seen in all the East and West Germanic reflexes, since the monosyllable could be entirely unstressed and thus undergo raising of the vowel (see §5.5), whereas OIcel. *ek* must reflect *eka* < *h₁égH*om. The coöccurrence of *h₁eg* and *h₁égH*om is paralleled in Slavic, where, e.g., OCS azъ beside infrequent *jazъ* indicates earlier *h₁ég* beside *h₁égH*om, with lengthening.

**Acc. sg.** The Gmc. forms *wit* and *OK* cannot be derived directly from either PIE *h₁égH*om (as in Skt. ahám, Av. azám, OCS *(j)azъ*) or *h₁égH* (as in Gk. ἐγώ(ν), Lat. *egō*), since there should not have been raising of *e* to *i* in either reflex, and neither will produce Runic *ek*, rather *eka* or *eku*. Thus, *h₁égH*om adequately explains enclitic -(e)ka, attested in East Norse inscriptions after ca. 600 (Seebold 1984: 21–2). But Gmc. *ik* and *ek* are most plausibly to be derived from *h₁eg* (or *egh*: so Ringe 2017: 163), which must underlie OLith. *eš*, OPruss. *es*, Latvian *es* < *e*, presumably devoiced from *e* before a voiceless initial (Prokosch 1939: §98b). This *h₁eg*, as opposed to *h₁égH*om, explains the raising of the root vowel seen in all the East and West Germanic reflexes, since the monosyllable could be entirely unstressed and thus undergo raising of the vowel (see §5.5), whereas OIcel. *ek* must reflect *eka* < *h₁égH*om. The coöccurrence of *h₁eg* and *h₁égH*om is paralleled in Slavic, where, e.g., OCS azъ beside infrequent *jazъ* indicates earlier *h₁ég* beside *h₁égH*om, with lengthening.

Final -k has often been derived from a clitic particle reflected in Greek as ye ‘at least, for one’ (e.g. by Fortson 2010: 150), which is joined to pronouns, as in ἑγεῖσαι ‘me’. This is not improbable, since the particle has an emphasizing function, and the PGmc. form may be assumed to have undergone the development *me-ke > *meki > *mik* (Hirt 1931–4: II, §69; Seebold 1984: 34). It is also possible, however, that -k has been extended from the nominative, with raising of *e* to *i* in the monosyllable under low stress. A similar explanation, at all events, seems to be required to account for Hittite acc. dat. loc. *amug* by comparison to nom. *ug* (Szemerényi 1996: §8.4.2) and for Venetic *mego* beside nom. *ego* (Sommer 1924: 130–1). See Shields 2001 for discussion and references. As for the alternative accusative forms of Ingvaenic, OE mē, OFris. *mi*, OS *mē* (seldom me), it is difficult to explain why the distinction between acc. and dat. forms should have been eliminated. Seebold (1984: 35–6) argues, somewhat diffidently, that there was an oblique enclitic form *me/mi* used in PGmc. for acc. and dat. alike, with dedicated acc. *mik* and dat. *miz* reserved for use in contexts in which the distinction was important, and after dat. *miz* fell together with this dual-purpose *me in
WGmc., the alternative acc. *mik came to be regarded as superfluous in most of North Sea Germanic. Likelier perhaps is the possibility of confusion of the two cases in unstressed forms, a confusion then extended to stressed ones: see Howe 1996: 105–11, with discussion and references. See also H.F. Nielsen 2000: 250.

Gen sg. The Gmc. forms probably are to be derived from PGmc. *mēn warrior, a remodeling of PIE *men, by equation of *-n warrior with the directional suffix reflected in Lat. superne ‘from above’ and Go. útana ‘from without’ (§1.4), leading to replacement of *me- by locative (or enclitic: Szemerényi 1996: §8.4.4e) *mei, the sense ‘mine’ thus deriving from ‘with me’ (Seebold 1984: 49–51). This *-n warrior gives Go. -na, otherwise -n in Gmc. (§5.3). With reanalysis, the pronominal stem *mēn- then became the basis for the possessive Go. meins, OIcel. minn/min-, OE mīn, etc. To the contrary, Ringe (2017: 236) derives all genitive personal pronouns from possessive adjectives.

Dat. sg. PGmc. *miz, tonic *mez will account for all the attested forms; OIcel. mér shows lengthening before Proto-Norse *-r, and OE mē (beside me) and OS mī show lengthening in the re-stressed pronoun (§2.5). The origin of *-z in the PGmc. form is much disputed, since there is no obvious IE parallel: see G. Schmidt 1978: 135–6 and Seebold 1984: 45–6 for discussion of some proposals, and see below regarding the acc./dat. dual.

Nom. du. PGmc. *wit accounts for all the Gmc. forms. Its final *-t is generally explained as derived from one or another form of ‘two’ (a construction with parallels: cf. Lith. mūdu (Samogitian vēdo) and Slovene mīdva), perhaps PIE *de, as in *de-kvant ‘ten’ < ‘two hands’, as argued by Seebold (1984: 25–6, with references; cf. Cowgill 1985: 15, reconstructing *yē-dyo). On the basis of modern dialect forms may be reconstructed OFris. *wit (Siebs 1901: 1353).

Acc./dat. du. The PGmc. stem is plainly *unjt, in which k is unparalleled outside of Germanic, though un- regularly derives from PIE *y (probably for earlier *m-: see the acc. pl. below), as in tonic Skt. āvá- < *n̥t- (cf. the unreduced grade in Skt. nā, Lat. nōs). The usual explanation of *-k- is that it is borrowed from acc. sg. *mik (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §98d). Seebold (1982) instead argues for the development of g (> PGmc. k) out of PIE y between a front diphthong and a syllabic liquid, though the evidence for such a change is hardly straightforward. Ringe (2017: 112, 233–4, following Katz 1998: 89–99, 212–17) reconstructs PIE *gmez, with subsequent substitution of y (borrowed from second-person forms) for m and a velar consonant as reflex of the laryngeal. Also difficult are the desinences, since Go. -is has no close IE parallel, and there is no umlaut of the root vowel in ON or OE. The standard explanation is that the ending is extended from dat. sg. Go. m-is, OIcel. mē-r to the dat. pl., with subsequent extension to the dual, along with elimination of the formal distinction between dat. and acc., as in the plural. Alternatively, -is in Go. may have been borrowed from nom. pl. we-i-s before ei developed to a diphthong and was monophthongized to i (Hogg 1992: §3.3). Ringe (2017: 234–5, following Katz 1998: 118–21) supposes that the source of Go. -is is an analogue of PIE instr. pl. *ps-mis, which furnished the PGmc. dat. pl., and -is in the other datives (sg. and dual) is analogous to this, with a complex derivation. Anglian OE acc. uncit (beside unct, WS and Kentish unc) must be dissimilated from *unk-ik (so Stiles 1996; cf. A. Campbell 1977: §703 n. 1, deriving -it from the nom. dual, and similarly Bahnick 1973: 153, Seebold 1984: 32): cf. acc. pl. ǔsic (OHG unsih) and second-person acc. pl. ćowic, and see the discussion of those forms as regards the origin of -ic. Umlaut (along with affrication of c) has thus been
analogy reversed in *uncit (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §5.26 n. 2). Note that OFris. *unk may be reconstructed on the basis of North Frisian unk (Seebold 1984: 32).

**Gen. du.** Go. *ugkara* is unattested but may be inferred from the corresponding pronoun of the second person, *igkara. The stem is derived from the PGmc. possessive adj. *unkera-, which in turn was formed by the addition to the pronominal stem *unk- (cf. the acc. and dat. du.) of a suffix *-er- seen also in Go. anapar ‘other’, hula(par ‘which of two’, a thematicization of the PIE suffix *-er- used to form locative adverbs,⁴ e.g. Go. jāinar ‘yonder’ (cf. jāins ‘yon’; so G. Schmidt 1978: 203; see the gen. sg. above on possessive meaning derived from locative). OS unkero shows the ending of the gen. plural. In OHG there is a dual pronoun unkēr attested twice in Otfrid, but only with the qualifier zweio ‘two’, showing that the dual meaning was no longer transparent; cf., however, OE uncer twēga (Beowulf 2532). See also §8.3 on MHG duals in the 2nd pers. pronoun.

**Nom. pl.** The Gmc. forms reflect the PIE stem *ue- recoverable from Skt. vayám, OCS več, Hitt. weč, Tocharian B wes, Lith. du. vė-du. Go. weis and OEN vi(r) reflect PGmc. *wēz, probably from *yei(e)s, i.e. ye-ī plus the the nom. pl. inflection of athematic nouns, whereas the other Gmc. forms reflect *wez, from *yes, with raising to *wiz when unstressed, and lengthening when re-stressed.⁵ There appears to be no very compelling basis for regarding either *wiz or *wez as more original. In the view of some (e.g. Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §32), the OWN and WGmc. forms may be derived from *wiz, to be regarded as derived from PGmc. *wēz by vowel shortening under low stress. How the vowel in *wiz could have been lowered in OE, however, is difficult to explain, since lengthening would then have to have taken place after this lowering, even though such lowering can have occurred only in the historical period, as with acc. sg. mec, early mic. On the preservation of *-z > -r in OHG wir, see §6.16.

**Acc./dat. pl.** The stem is PGmc. *unis- < PIE *ps-, with *p probably for earlier *y (cf. m- in the oblique cases of the sg.) by assimilation to the following coronal consonant. The ending Go. -is (probably originating in the dat.: see the discussion of the acc./dat. du.) is facultative, though Dickhoff (1913: 468) finds that unis is commoner as dat. (50× : 44×) and unis as acc. (16× : 77×). Likewise variable is umlaut in OIcel. oss < *unis beside ōs < *ons (§4.9) < *uns (Noreen 1970: §112.1), though the usual form is oss.⁶ Anglian OE acc. āsīc parallels OHG unsīh, with WGmc. *-īk taken over from the acc. singular. OS acc. unsik (without NSGmc. loss of n, §4.11) occurs only in the 10th-cent. gospel glosses in the Essen manuscript.

**Gen. pl.** As in the dual, the Gmc. stem is usually thought to derive from the PGmc. possessive adj., here *unser-, though there is no general agreement as to which case-form of the adj. it represents.⁷ The ending is probably PGmc. *ē (> Go. -a, elsewhere lost, §5.3), which can be explained as the same ending seen in the gen. sg. (Seebold 1984: 55).⁸ OS forms in -o have acquired this vowel by attraction to a following substantive with the gen. pl. suffix -o. In OHG unsēr the long vowel is usually assumed to have been lengthened by analogy to the nom. sg. of the pronominal inflection of adjectives, e.g. blintēr ‘blind’, though there is no consensus.⁹ This accounts for all the Gmc. forms except OIcel. vár and OE ūre. The former is usually taken to represent the borrowed stem of the possessive adj. vārr (and see §8.5 on the derivation of the adj.), though there has also sometimes been posited a form PIE *ye-ro (e.g. by Stritberg 1896: §183), derived from a variant of the dual stem.¹⁰ As for OE ūre, this cannot be derived from *unserē by normal means. Perhaps when the NSGmc. possessive adj. stem *ūser- was unstressed, e could be syncopated, giving *ūsr- > *ūr-, which was then
extended to the pronoun (so, tentatively, Hogg & Fulk 2011: §5.25), though this leaves final -e in the pronoun unexplained. Rather than ūre, the conservative Mercian dialect of the gloss on the Vespasian Psalter has the ūr expected on the basis of this explanation. The form ūre is also used as a possessive adj.—oddly, since it is thus inflected like a ā-stem, but without umlaut11—whereas Northumbrian (and, frequently, poetry) has ūser, ūsr, with use of ūser-, ūsr- (also uss- < ūsr-) as the stem of the possessive adjective.

1. Here and throughout this chapter, posited paradigms represent an amalgam of a variety of reconstructions, especially those of Szemerényi 1996: §8.4.1–4, Sihler 1995: 372, and Beekes 2011: 15.3.1. Intensive studies are G. Schmidt 1978 and Katz 1998. The Indo-Iranian forms Skt. āhām, Av. azm are here assumed to have developed *-gh- from *-ghH.

2. In OS, too, duals not infrequently have plural meaning, foreboding the loss of dual forms.

3. Just twice ik, which Krause (1971: 120) explains as due to WGmc. influence or aberrant orthography or (least plausibly) development in unstressed position, whereas Antonsen 1975: 71) perceives the influence of acc. *mik.

4. Rather, Euler (2013: 110) regards it as a comp. suffix.

5. The cooccurrence of *ge- (as in Skt. vay-) and *ges- is due to alternate use of pronominal and nominal plural suffixes. The reason OWN vēr cannot be derived from PGmc. *wīz is that original ĭ appears not to have been lowered before ĭ, as in Glīru-Halli ‘blinking (or squinting?) Halli’; cf. Faroese glīsa ‘large, staring eye’, glīs ‘blink’.

6. Prokosch (1939: §98c, in reliance on Noreen: see Noreen 1970: §112.1) regards oss as a contamination of ōs and oss, but oss is the usual form in older texts, and so Heusler (1967: §143) is probably right to regard oss as comparable to Go. unsara, with -sr- (after syncope) developing to -ss-.

7. For a survey of views (ablative, loc./instr., nom./acc. pl. neut.), including some that divorce the form from the poss. adj., see Shields 1985.

8. Sometimes *-ō is assumed, instead (e.g. by Prokosch 1939: §98c, Euler 2013: 110–11), but under Prokosch’s law (§2.5 supra) this should be reflected as final -wō rather than lost in OE ūser. See further G. Schmidt 1978: 88.

9. Johansson (1890), with a summary of alternative views, argues strenuously against this analysis, assuming rather that -ēr reflects a PIE r-case of an instrumental stem with a long vowel comparable to Go. hēr ‘here’, OE fēr ‘there’, hwēr ‘where’ (1890: 133).

10. Seebold (1984: 52–4), rather than treating the pronoun as formed by analogy to the adj., derives it directly from PGmc. He posits a development in PGmc. *unsers-> *unszez- > *ūsez-, followed by assimilation to *ūsez-, and then loss of z by dissimilation, producing *ūez- > *ūer- > *ūar- > vār. Although this series of changes is dubitable, assuming as it does the forces of noncontiguous assimilation and dissimilation applying to the same sequence of sounds, it accounts well for the parallel instance of *isern- > *īsein -> jārn ‘iron’.

11. The most probable conclusion to be drawn from the lack of umlaut is that the possessive adj. ūre is simply a borrowing of the gen. pronoun, with adj. inflections added. The idea of Seebold (1984: 54) is that ūre derives from *īsez (derived by the same means as in the case of the Olcsl. pronoun, as above, n. 10), which must have been uninflected, as otherwise *-z would not have been lost. Naturally, this complicates the problem of explaining ūser. Cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 339, positing a sound change ūser > ūre without parallel in OE.

8.3 Personal pronouns of the second person

A comparison of personal pronouns in Vedic Sanskrit, Old Church Slavonic, Greek, Old Latin, Gothic, and Hittite suggests that the following is the most plausible reconstruction of the second person pronoun in PIE (Szemerényi 1996: §8.4.1–4, with some modifications; dual forms adapted from Sihler 1995: 373):
Once again, only the tonic forms are reflected in Gmc. The commonest corresponding forms attested in early Germanic are the following. Note that Old High German preserves no dual pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th></th>
<th>dual</th>
<th></th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>*tū/*ti</td>
<td></td>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>*tiðh₁</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There occur in MHG (Bavarian) some duals ez, enc, and possessive enker, with plural meaning, showing that dual forms existed in OHG (or at least Bavarian) but went unrecorded. These have reflexes in present-day Bavarian (Howe 1996: 244–5, with discussion). Some remarks may be offered on the Gmc. forms:

**Nom. sg.** Gmc. *þū* may be derived unproblematically from either *tu* or *tū*, the former undergoing lengthening as prescribed in §5.2.

**Acc. sg.** In their development the given forms are entirely parallel to those of the corresponding pronoun of the first person (§8.2), suggesting PGmc. *þik*, except for Go. *þuk*. This is usually explained as having borrowed the vowel of the nom. sg., though Seebold (1984: 36–7) argues that the Go. form is an archaism, and Prokosch (1939: §98b), in related fashion, tentatively derives Go. *þu-* from a PIE stem *(*)e- (producing both *tu* and *te*: cf. Skt. nom. *tvām*, abl. *tvād*, loc. *tvē*, Gk. *σέ < e* (and cf. parallel developments in the reflexive pronoun, §8.4). If Go. *þuk* is not analogical to the nom., the other Gmc. forms must be analogical to the corresponding pronoun of the first person.

**Dat. sg.** Go. *þus* presents the same problem of vocalism as in the acc. singular. Otherwise, the attested forms are to be explained the same way as the dat. sg. of the first person pronoun.

**Gen sg.** The attested forms developed parallel to the corresponding pronoun of the first person.

**Nom. du.** Although the Go. form is unattested, the parallel with the nom. pl. (see below) suggests that the PIE stem *jū(h)₂*- might be expected to have been preserved here, too, as *jūt*, since the other Gmc. forms can readily be explained as reformed by analogy to the nom. du. of the first person pronoun—i.e., *jū-t* (from *jū(h)₂-de*, with *-de* added as in the corresponding first person form, §8.2) became *jī-t* by analogy to *wi-t*. The form *jīt* may also be reconstructed for OFris. on the basis of modern dialect
forms (Siebs 1901: 1353). On NHG (Bavarian) evidence for *iz in OHG, see Seebold 1984: 17.

Acc./dat. du. Go. ıggis and Olcel. ykker require PGmc. *ıŋkwis (the latter with *-ı), as does OFris. *ıunk (§4.8), reconstructible on the basis of North Fris. junk. This reconstruction will also account for OE inc and OS ink, with loss of w (> u) after the heavy syllable (§5.6). That this stem contains w, whereas that of the corresponding pronoun of the first person does not, is most commonly explained as due to the analogical influence of the plural, on the proportion *unsiz : *uŋkiz = *izwiz : x (so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §33; cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 519). Less convincing is the attempt of Seebold (1982) to derive *ıŋkw- from PIE *i-wḥr-ı-. Anglo OE acc. incit is formed the same way as the corresponding pronoun of the first person. OHG *ink and *inkiz (= OE inc, incit) are reconstructible on the basis of Bavarian NHG enk, enks (Seebold 1984: 32).²

Gen du. The attested forms developed parallel to the corresponding pronoun of the first person.

Nom. pl. Possibly the final consonant, a plural inflection, was added after the PIE period. The quantity of the vowel in Go. jus cannot be determined, and the comparative IE evidence is inconclusive. The other Gmc. forms almost certainly show replacement of PGmc. *juz by *jiz (cf. developments in the first person pronoun), with lengthening before r in OEN to *jīr (giving ĕ(r)). On the basis of the reasoning offered above in regard to the corresponding pronoun of the first person, OE gê must then be regarded as analogical to wê.

Acc./dat. pl. The Gmc. forms show wide discrepancies, and there is no consensus as to how they are to be accounted for. Probably the most plausible explanation is that of Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §33): the PIE form *yjes gave PGmc. *wız, which, to avoid homophony with the enclitic form of the first person plural (*wiz), was reduplicated to *wız-wız, with subsequent loss of initial w by dissimilation, producing Go. ızwis.³ In the form *izwiz, dissimilation further led to NGmc. *iðwiz (so already Bugge 1855: 251–2), which regularly produces Olcel. ydr. In WGmc., on the other hand, *izwiz results in *iуwiz, either by change of *-zw- to *-ww- (so first Kluge 1908: 65; see Stiles 1985–6: 6.92 for further references) or with the prior change to *iðwiz seen in NGmc., since Stiles shows that the change of PGmc. *feðwōr ‘four’ to WGmc. *feuwar also requires the change *-ı(w)- > *-ww- (though Stiles does not assume NWGmc. *iðwiz). It has also been proposed that WGmc. *izwiz was reduced to *iıziz, again by dissimilation, which accounts adequately for OS eu, OHG iu, but not (pace Krahe & Meid) OE ēow (Northumbrian ēow), which would have to be assumed to have its w by analogy to gen. pl. ēower: cf. the discussion of OE wa-stems, §7.12. Alternatively, Prokosch (1939: §98c) suggests that the PGmc. form was *iıziz (*ju + ız, as in the corresponding pronoun of the first person, Go. unsis), with insertion of s (> z by Verner’s law) by analogy to the corresponding pronoun of the first person in East and North German. But the structural parallel between *iıziz and *unsiz seems less compelling as a motive for the insertion of s in the former than does the structure of *izwiz for development to *iıuwiz in West Germanic. A variety of less plausible solutions is summarized briefly by Seebold (1984: 41–4), whose own attempt to derive the attested forms from a supposed PIE honorific stem *sgıhw- is less persuasive. Ringe (2017: 235, following Katz 1998: 102–5, 110–12), reconstructs PIE *ısuı́ (assuming that, by analogy to the pronoun of the first person, *-uı́ was replaced by *-me in Greek and Indo-Iranian), from which initial u was lost in PGmc. under some sandhi conditions, with later addition of
prothetic *i-, followed by a number of other changes. In Anglian OE there is addition of the suffix -ic, derived from mic (later mec), with a similar development in OHG (and cf. MLG jük).

Gen pl. The attested forms developed parallel to the corresponding pronoun of the first person, except that in OS and OHG the monophthongal root vowel has been replaced by the diphthong seen in the dat. plural.

1. Yet possibly *sme is by analogy to *tme: so, e.g., Pokorny 1959–69: I, 882.
2. There is some confusion in the discussion of these forms in Euler 2013: 110, where the pronouns of the first and second persons are both said to have q in Gothic.
3. For a different explanation, with references to earlier literature, see Kroonen 2008.

8.4 Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns do not occur in the nominative, since, historically, they refer back to the subject of the clause. They are indifferent as regards gender and number;¹ in OHG, however, the gen. is used only with a sg. masc. or neut. subject, and the dat. has been replaced by anaphoric pronouns. In North Sea Germanic no reflexive pronouns are preserved (see H.F. Nielsen 2000: 250–1), having been replaced by anaphoric pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>acc.</th>
<th>dat.</th>
<th>gen.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>sik</td>
<td>sis</td>
<td>seina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>sik</td>
<td>sér</td>
<td>sín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>sih</td>
<td>sín</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Old Gutnish there also appears a gen. sīna, another connection between Go. and that language (§1.14). Throughout early Gmc. there occur reflexive possessive adjectives to the same root, on which see below, §8.5. The development of these pronouns is entirely parallel to that of the sg. pronouns of the first and second persons. The ultimate source is the PIE reflexive pronoun *s(e) acc.) seen also in Gk. ἐ, as a possessive adj. in Skt. svā-, Lat. suus, and extended in Go. swēs, OE swēs (etc.) ‘(one’s) own’.

¹ An exception is that although the usual form of the pronoun in Old Low Franconian is sig (7-) regardless of case and number, there once appears a dat. pl. sīl (Kyes 1983: 83), though this is almost certainly an error (so, e.g., Köbler 2014b s.v.).

8.5 Possessive adjectives

To the personal and reflexive pronouns were formed adjectives Go. meins ‘my’, þeins ‘your (sg.)’, seins (reflexive), unsar ‘our’, izwar ‘your (pl.)’, *ugkar ‘our (du.)’, *igqar ‘your (du.)’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>meins</th>
<th>þeins</th>
<th>seins</th>
<th>unsar</th>
<th>izwar</th>
<th>ugkar</th>
<th>igqar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>minn</td>
<td>þinn</td>
<td>sinn</td>
<td>vārr</td>
<td>ydvarr</td>
<td>okkarr</td>
<td>ykkarr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>mīn</td>
<td>þīn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>ūre</td>
<td>ūser</td>
<td>ūower</td>
<td>uncēr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>mīn</td>
<td>þīn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>ūsa</td>
<td>euwa</td>
<td>unka</td>
<td>inka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>mīnēr</td>
<td>dīnēr</td>
<td>sīnēr</td>
<td>unserēr</td>
<td>iuwerēr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These are inflected as strong adjectives. There are no dual possessives in OHG, and in Franconian OHG (as in OS, where they are used exclusively) there are shorter forms of the plural pronouns, with inflections added to the stem without the PGmc. suffix *-er-, masc. unsēr, iuwēr, neut. unsaz, iuwaz, fem. unsu, iuwu.1 Go. *iggar is reconstructed on the basis of dat. sg. fem. iggarai, and *ugkar on the basis of the pronoun ukgis and comparative evidence. The reflexive adjectives are infrequent in NSGmc., losing ground before anaphoric pronouns, and in OFris. and OS they are restricted to sg. masc. and neut. reference.

Go. *meins probably contains the reflex of a PIE loc. *mej, which is reflected with a further suffix in Skt. pron. māyi, and which is thematized in Lat. meus < *mej-os. The affinity of the sense ‘at me’ to ‘in my possession’ is plain. The n-suffix in Gmc. is perhaps akin to that seen in directional forms like Go. hindana ‘behind’ (cf. hindar ‘behind’) and OE norderne ‘northern’: see the discussion under gen. sg. in §8.2. The vowel i was extended to heins and seins, to which the locatives apparently would have been PIE *tey and *seg: see Seebold 1984: 49–51 for details. The most widely credited alternative explanation (originating with Bugge 1855: 244–5) is that the singular possessives are formed with a possessive suffix PIE *-ino-, as in Lat. asinīnus ‘belonging to an ass’ (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §98e). The dual and plural possessives are formed from the oblique stem of the corresponding pronoun by the addition of a suffix *-ero-, which G. Schmidt (1978: 203) analyzes as a thematization of the suffix -er used to form locative adverbs, e.g. Go. undar, hindar.

On OE ūre, ūser, see the discussion of the corresponding pronoun, §8.2.

Olcel. várr shows in the oldest texts some striking stem alternations within the paradigm by gender and number: commonest is the stem vör-, vär-, but there also occur òr- and oss- (consult the handbooks identified in §1.14 for the precise distribution of the variants), the last occurring almost exclusively in archaic poetry, with (vör- >) vär-replacing òr- gradually in the 13th century. Deceptively, then, the paradigm appears to show loss of *w- before rounded vowels (§6.14), but the cognates show that this cannot have been the case. Of the stems òr- and oss-, the former is probably from *unnar- > *unnarō > *unnrō > òr- (cf. *punrar > Þórr), the latter from *unsar-, with ò- from *un- before s (cf. §8.2): so Heusler 1967: §§143, 147 Anm. 2, 255.2 Old Gutnish òar and Modern Gutnish euar point to *ðar- or *ūar- as the source of ON vár-: cf. the shift of diphthongal nucleus, with lengthening, in PNorse *iulu > Olcel. jól ‘Yule’ and *iuzar- > júgr ‘udder’. The most plausible explanation for *ðar- is that it is the result of paradigm regularization, with extension of *ō- (developed from *unn- before r) to cases in which *unn- remained before an unsyncopated vowel (von Friesen 1901–6: I, 63–5); cf. Seebold’s attempt at a purely phonological explanation (above, §8.2).

1. The shorter stem originates in cases with r-inflections, e.g. nom. sg. masc. unserēr, gen. pl. unserero, by haplology (Baesecke 1918: 180).

2. Prokosch (1939: §98c) objects to Heusler’s explanation but misunderstands it. His own assumption is of the development *unsarô > *ðs(arı)ru > òr, but his explanation of the pronoun oss as the result of contamination (see §8.2 n. 6 supra) seems unlikely on chronological grounds, which means that *unsar- likelier yields oss- than òr-.
II. Anaphoric Pronouns

8.6 Anaphoric pronouns in Proto-Indo-European

The PIE anaphoric pronoun that formed the basis for the Gmc. pronoun of the third person was perhaps declined as follows (cf. Szemerényi 1996: §8.2.2; Beekes 2011: 229; Sihler 1995: 391–2; Seebold 1984: 62–6):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>neut.</th>
<th>fem.</th>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>neut.</th>
<th>fem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>*is</td>
<td>*id</td>
<td>*ih₂</td>
<td>*ejes</td>
<td>*ih₂</td>
<td>*ih₂es</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>*im</td>
<td>*id</td>
<td>*ih₂m</td>
<td>*ins</td>
<td>*ih₂</td>
<td>*ih₂ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>*ih₃(j)₀</td>
<td>*ih₃(j)₀</td>
<td>*ih₃(es(j)eh₃s</td>
<td>*ih₃(ej)osm</td>
<td>*ih₃(ej)osm</td>
<td>*ih₃(ej)osm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>*ih₃smōi</td>
<td>*ih₃smōi</td>
<td>*ih₃(esjeh₃j)</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abl.</td>
<td>*ih₃smōd</td>
<td>*ih₃smōd</td>
<td>*ih₃(esjeh₃j)</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
<td>*ih₃(eibhos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loc.</td>
<td>*ih₃sm</td>
<td>*ih₃sm</td>
<td>*ih₃(esjeh₃j)</td>
<td>*ih₃(eisu</td>
<td>*ih₃(eisu</td>
<td>*ih₃(eisu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It thus appears that the PIE paradigm was suppletive, with a stem *i- (full grade *e₁i- in the nom./acc. and *e₂e- elsewhere. In the dat./abl. pl., *-bh- corresponds to -m- in Gmc. and Balto-Slavic, and some reconstruct PIE *-m- for anaphoric/demonstrative pronouns: see §7.2.

8.7 Anaphoric pronouns in Germanic

In Gmc. the anaphoric pronouns inherited from PIE are used as personal pronouns of the third person. As in PIE, they are differentiated for gender, but they lack dual forms. Unlike pronouns of the first and second persons, they have no related possessive adjectives; instead, the genitive is used as a possessive except when the reference is to the subject of the clause (in which event a reflexive pronoun would be used, at least originally).

The pronoun of the third person was declined in early Germanic as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>nom.</th>
<th>acc.</th>
<th>dat.</th>
<th>gen.</th>
<th>nom.</th>
<th>acc.</th>
<th>dat.</th>
<th>gen.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>ina</td>
<td>imma</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>eis</td>
<td>ins</td>
<td>im</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>ita</td>
<td>ita</td>
<td>imma</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>ija</td>
<td>ija</td>
<td>im</td>
<td>izē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>ija</td>
<td>ija</td>
<td>izāi</td>
<td>izōś</td>
<td>*iizōs</td>
<td>iizōs</td>
<td>im</td>
<td>izō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcl.</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>hann</td>
<td>hann</td>
<td>honum</td>
<td>hans</td>
<td>þeir</td>
<td>þā</td>
<td>þeim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>þat</td>
<td>þat</td>
<td>þvi</td>
<td>þi</td>
<td>þess</td>
<td>þau</td>
<td>þau</td>
<td>þeim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>hon</td>
<td>hana</td>
<td>henni</td>
<td>hennar</td>
<td>þær</td>
<td>þær</td>
<td>þeim</td>
<td>þeir(r)ₐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>hēo</td>
<td>hie</td>
<td>hirm</td>
<td>his</td>
<td>hī</td>
<td>hī</td>
<td>him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>hit</td>
<td>hit</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>his</td>
<td>hēo</td>
<td>hīe</td>
<td>hīe</td>
<td>him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>hēo</td>
<td>hie</td>
<td>hire</td>
<td>hire</td>
<td>hīe</td>
<td>hīe</td>
<td>hīe</td>
<td>him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>hē,</td>
<td>hē,</td>
<td>hēm</td>
<td>im(u)</td>
<td>is,</td>
<td>sia,</td>
<td>sia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>it,</td>
<td>et</td>
<td>et</td>
<td>im(u)</td>
<td>is,</td>
<td>sia,</td>
<td>sia</td>
<td>im</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>iro,</td>
<td>iro,</td>
<td>iro,</td>
<td>iro,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>er</td>
<td>in(an)</td>
<td>imu</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>sie,</td>
<td>see,</td>
<td>sia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>iz</td>
<td>iz</td>
<td>imu</td>
<td>es</td>
<td>siu</td>
<td>siu</td>
<td>iro</td>
<td>iro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>siu,</td>
<td>sī,</td>
<td>iro</td>
<td>iro</td>
<td>iro</td>
<td>iro</td>
<td>iro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Franconian there occur some forms in h- comparable to the OE forms, most commonly nom. sg. her (see Howe 1996: 241–2). After the early period in the Gmc. languages there occur enclitic forms of third person pronouns, and Seebold (1984: 60) argues that these were present in the earlier period but remained unrecorded because they did not belong to the standard languages. It seems likelier that they are later developments. Note that in no instance is the postconsonantal glide in forms like PIE fem. abl. sg. *hēresēhōs reflected in Gmc.

**Gothic.** In all but a few cases the stem has been regularized to i-, whether by analogical extension of the nom./acc. stem or by the regular development of PGmc. e to Go. i. To this stem are added endings on an analogical basis, for the most part the same as those of the demonstrative sa ‘this, that’ (§8.10). Thus, to masc. acc., dat., gen. sg. ina, imma, is compare ānna, āmma, ās; to fem. dat., gen. sg. izái, izōs compare āzái, āzōs, and so forth. Nom. pl. masc. eis is instead comparable to the ending -eis of i-stems, a borrowing perhaps motivated by the identity of acc., dat. ins, im to the corresponding i-stem endings -ins, -im. Nom. sg. fem. si probably shows extension of s- from the demonstrative, in the paradigm of which only nom. sg. masc. sa and fem. sō have initial s, making it a distinctive marker.1 Acc. sg. fem. ija is comparable to Lat. eam, both with the analogical addition of the reflex of PIE *-ām found in the PIE ā-stems (Go. -a). Likewise, nom./acc. pl. neut. īja is comparable to Lat. ea; in both languages, as in Greek, the nom./acc. pl. of neut. i-stems was in *-i-ā (as in Gk. τία, Lat. tria, Go. þrija ‘3’).

**Old Icelandic.** In ON the original anaphoric pronouns have been abandoned in favor of demonstrative pronouns (§8.10) in the neuter singular and throughout the plural. Remodeling in the rest of the paradigm has been extensive. Either nom. sg. masc. hann < *hānR represents the PIE particle *ke ‘here, there’ (cf. Lat. cīs ‘on this side of’, Lith. šis, OCS šb ‘this’) plus the demonstrative *eno-s ‘that’, a combination seen also in Epic Gk. κεῖνος ‘that (over there)’ < *ke-eno-s (the usual older explanation: see, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §94), or the compound is (*ke > x + *ainar (< PGmc. *jainaz, as in Go. jains ‘that’): see, e.g., Rosenfeld 1955a, b, Orel 2003: 205.2 The Proto-Norse stem *hān- then spread throughout the masc. and fem. singular, with shortening in most cases, though long vowels are in evidence in some early texts (see Noreen 1970: §466 Anm. 1). There are also the usual mutations of a in the stem, e.g. dat. sg. masc. hánun > hōnun > honun, similarly nom. sg. fem hon < *hānu, with front mutation in dat., gen. sg. fem. henni, hennar due to the desinences -irai, -iôs (cf. Go. demonstratives þizia, þizōs). Replacement of the original nom. sg. masc. pronoun may have been motivated by the need to differentiate the pronoun from *is/er meaning ‘is’ and ‘who/which’.

**West Germanic.** All the WGmc. languages but OHG have a nom. sg. masc. pronoun in h- (including OFris. hī, OLF he, hie, her) derived, as in ON, from PIE *ke, the reflex of which would still have been recoverable with deictic meaning from forms like OS hīu-dīga ‘today’, hēr ‘here’, and hīnan(a) ‘hence’. It was added to the nom sg. because PGmc. *iz (Go. is) would have been reduced to WGmc. *e, which would have been difficult to distinguish from other forms reduced solely to vowels (see n. 1, and see below on remedies for this problem in other case forms in WGmc.), which prompted onset-strengthening by the addition of h-.3 OHG is the exception because final *-z was not lost in monosyllables in that language (§6.16). In OE this h- was subsequently extended throughout the paradigm, and a new nom. sg. fem. form hēo was created either from the masc. stem *hī- with addition of the nom. ō-stem ending *-u < PGmc. *-ō or
by analogy to the dem. sēo, formed in the same fashion (§8.10). Just as Go. nom. pl. masc. eis is analogical to the corresponding i-stem inflection, a new OE nom./acc. pl. pronoun hie was formed by the addition of the corresponding i-stem adj. inflection (OE -e) to the stem hi- found in nearly all other OE case-forms (cf. gen. pl. heora < hiora < hira), producing hie, alongside earlier uthē, neuter hēo (cf. Go. masc. eis, neut. ija).

This is a development rendered fairly certain by metrical and dialectal evidence (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §5.17 n. 3). Like OE, OFris. has initial h- throughout the paradigm, except that originally reflexive sēin is used for the gen. sg. masc. and neut.

OHG er probably derives from PGmc. *iz, but why the root vowel was lowered remains obscure; OHG ir is the sole form in use in Isidor.6 OHG nom. sg. fem. sē is comparable to Go. si, the form with long vowel due to stressed conditions (§5.2). To si- was added in OS and OHG the ending of the nom. sg. fem. demonstrative OS thiù, OHG diu (§8.10) (and cf. OLF sia = thiā). This pattern of attaching demonstrative inflections to the stem si- was subsequently extended to all those forms which, as comparison to Gothic shows, would have been reduced solely to vowels in WGMc., and thus difficult to distinguish from one another, i.e. the acc. sg. fem. and the nom. and acc. pl. of all genders. Gen. sg. es < PIE *hē-s(j)ı̂ is retained in the neut. in OHG, whereas the reflexive pronoun is adopted for the masculine. Acc. sg. masc. OS ina, OHG in represent the earlier forms; inan shows addition of the corresponding adj. inflection.

The masc./neut. dat. sg. ending -mu in OHG (-m is the earlier form in OS) is generally traced to a PIE instr. ablaut variant in *-ð (beside usual *-e), e.g. by Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §37); cf. Boutkan 1995b: 303–4 and the references in Howe 1996: 255. Spellings in OS are variable as usual, e.g. nom. pl. masc. sia, sie, sea, se. In OHG there occurs in the Lex Salica fragments of ca. 830 an alternative dat. sg. emu, which Euler (2013: 12), comparing Skt. asmāi, regards as archaic, though the earliest texts use exclusively imu. It is thus likelier to be analogical to the demonstrative demo (§8.10); see also Szemerényi 1996: §8.2.2 n. 1.

1. Seebold (1984: 64) speaks of PIE *iə/ī (his notation) as needing “strengthening” because of its minimal phonological material (what Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §35 refer to as Einlauteinig, an idea not infrequently appealed to in the literature. Seebold’s solution to the problem of Go. si is instead to reconstruct, on the basis of Celtic and Greek forms, an “archaic” *sia/sī, of any gender, which replaced the original pronoun. See Ringe 2017: 233 for another suggestion.

2. Seebold (1984: 64–6) distinguishes *ke ‘here’ from *ko ‘there’ and identifies the latter as the source of Gmc. h- in pronouns, though usually the meaning ‘there’ is assumed to be a later development of *ke (so, e.g., H.F. Nielsen 2000: 249–50), is plainly at odds with that of Euler (2013: 112–13), who reconstructs PGmc. *xai (cf. Klingenschmitt 1987: 173; *xaiz) to account for OE OS hēc.


4. Analogy to the gen. sg. neut. is sometimes invoked (e.g. by Prokosch 1939: §94, Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §35), but why the gen. sg. should have exerted such influence is not obvious. Seebold (1984: 66–9) argues for an etymological distinction of PIE origin between the vocalism of the OHG pronouns mir, dir, wir ir, with i, and wer, der, er; with e.
III. Demonstrative Pronouns

8.8 Demonstrative pronouns in Germanic

Germanic inherited a pronoun *so, *tod, *sā from PIE, for which no definite deictic implication of relative distance from the speaker or hearer is reconstructible: it seems to have meant alternately ‘this, that, the’, alternative meanings which its reflex may take, for instance, in NHG.¹ PGmc. also had a distal deictic reflected in Go. jáins, PDE yon, NHG jener (§8.11), and apparently in NWGmc. the need was felt for a corresponding proximal demonstrative ‘this’ (§8.12). In addition, in NGmc. there arose a new deictic nom. sg. masc. hinn, neut. hit, fem. hin, on which see §8.11. Similar modifications of the system of deictics are observable in other IE languages, e.g. the ternary system of Lat. hic ‘this here’, iste ‘that of yours’, and ille ‘this (yonder)’, and of Gk. οὗτος ‘this (the aforementioned)’, ὁδε ‘this (in regard to forthcoming information)’, and ἐκεῖνος ‘that’.

1. Compare, e.g., Das Ergebnis wäre das gleiche ‘The result would be the same’ and Das Erbebnis wäre ideal = Dieses Ergebnis wäre ideal ‘This/That result would be ideal’. The deictic import of the PIE pronoun thus probably pertained to information structure rather than location, i.e. old versus new information.

8.9 Demonstrative pronouns in Proto-Indo-European

On the basis of reflexes in Skt., OCS, Lith., Go., and Doric Gk., Szemerényi (1996: §8.2.1) reconstructs the paradigm of the PIE demonstrative ‘this, that, the’ more or less as follows (and note that he dispenses with laryngeal notation):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th></th>
<th>plural</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>masc.</td>
<td>neut.</td>
<td>fem.</td>
<td>masc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>*so</td>
<td>*tod</td>
<td>*sā</td>
<td>*tōj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>*tōm</td>
<td>*tod</td>
<td>*tām</td>
<td>*tōn(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>*tōsōm</td>
<td>*tōsōm</td>
<td>*tāsōm</td>
<td>*tōsōm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>*tōsīm</td>
<td>*tōsīm</td>
<td>*tāsīm</td>
<td>*tōsīm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abl.</td>
<td>*tōsmōd</td>
<td>*tōsmōd</td>
<td>*tōsās</td>
<td>*tōsmōd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loc.</td>
<td>*tōsmi(n)</td>
<td>*tōsmi(n)</td>
<td>*tōsās</td>
<td>*tōsmi(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dual</td>
<td></td>
<td>fem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>*tō</td>
<td>*tōj</td>
<td>*tōj</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>*tō</td>
<td>*tōj</td>
<td>*tōj</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the dat. abl. pl., *-bh- corresponds to -m- in Gmc. and Balto-Slavic, and some reconstruct PIE *-m- for anaphoric/demonstrative pronouns: see §7.2. The Gmc. dat. pl. derives from *toi-mis > *paimiz, with the same desinence seen in nominal inflection, though -m- probably originates in the masc. neut. sg. of forms like this.

There were thus two stems to the PIE paradigm, one in *s- and one in *t-, the former confined to the nom. sg. masc. and fem. The element *-sm- in the oblique cases of the singular (probably related to PIE *sem- ‘one’ and *som- ‘same’) may have been an optional element lending emphasis (so Szemerényi 1996: §8.2.1), as it is missing from some forms, e.g. Go. pei ‘that’ (originally loc.: see below).
8.10 The inherited demonstrative pronoun in Germanic

The PIE demonstrative ‘this, that, the’ is reflected in Gmc. as follows (with a few alternative forms remarked below):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go. m.</td>
<td>sa</td>
<td>bana</td>
<td>þama</td>
<td>þis</td>
<td>þá</td>
<td>þáns</td>
<td>þáim</td>
<td>þizē</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go. n.</td>
<td>þata</td>
<td>þata</td>
<td>þama</td>
<td>þō</td>
<td>þō</td>
<td>þōs</td>
<td>þōs</td>
<td>þizō</td>
<td>þizō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go. f.</td>
<td>sō</td>
<td>bō</td>
<td>þizāi</td>
<td>þis</td>
<td>þō</td>
<td>þōs</td>
<td>þōs</td>
<td>þizō</td>
<td>þizō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olc. m.</td>
<td>sā</td>
<td>þanna</td>
<td>þammá</td>
<td>þis</td>
<td>þáim</td>
<td>þáim</td>
<td>þáim</td>
<td>þizē</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olc. n.</td>
<td>þata</td>
<td>þata</td>
<td>þammá</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þizō</td>
<td>þizō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olc. f.</td>
<td>sū</td>
<td>þā</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þizō</td>
<td>þizō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE m.</td>
<td>sē</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þē, þē</td>
<td>þēs</td>
<td>þēs</td>
<td>þēs</td>
<td>þēs</td>
<td>þēs</td>
<td>þēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE n.</td>
<td>þæt</td>
<td>þæm</td>
<td>þē, þē</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE f.</td>
<td>sō</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS m.</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
<td>þēm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS n.</td>
<td>þæt</td>
<td>þæm</td>
<td>þē, þē</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
<td>þæs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS f.</td>
<td>sēo</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
<td>þē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG m.</td>
<td>der</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
<td>þān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG n.</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
<td>daz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG f.</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
<td>dīu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many alternative forms of individual pronouns are to be found in Gmc. outside of Gothic. The handbooks should be consulted for these; the following discussion is limited chiefly to the forms given in these paradigms.¹

1. Some Gmc. forms point to e rather than o in the pronominal stem (e.g. Go. þis, þizē, þizōs, OS þē, þē, þæs, þē, þēs, þā, þē, þēs, þis, þōs, þō, þizō), and this has led some to posit alternation in the stem in PIE; it is likelier, however, that e is a Gmc. innovation, borrowed from the interrogative pronoun (§8.13; but see below on Go. þei), which, as assumed below, exerted other kinds of influence on this paradigm. After PIE acc. sg. masc. *tom had developed to PGmc. *þan, to this was added a particle, the reflex of PIE *-ō or *-ōm, producing *þanō or *þanō.² Although the vowel is reduced finally in all the Gmc. languages, it can still be seen in Go. indef. acc. þanōh ‘each, every’, formed from interrogt. *hʷ-anō (> Go. hana ‘whom?’ parallel to þana) plus -uh (as in nom. hauh). Although a masc./neut. gen. sg. containing PIE *i is well attested in the IE languages (cf. masc. *-o-sio in the IE o-stems, as in Skt. aśvasya, Homeric Gk. ἰπποιο < PIE *eky-ō-sio ‘horse’), the Gmc. forms lack it (cf. Old Prussian deiwas < *deiü-o-so ‘of a god’); yet most of the Gmc. languages reflect *-e-so rather than *-o-so, again probably by analogy to the corresponding interrogative pronoun (PIE kʷ-ė-so > OCS česo, Ionic Gk. τέο ‘whose?’). The Gmc. dat. sg. is generally assumed to reflect the PIE instr., which is not securely reconstructible for PIE *so; for the etymon of the Gmc. masc./neut. dat. is usually reconstructed *tosmē, on the basis of forms like Go. indef. huanōh ‘each, every’ (cf. acc. huanō, above, and on *-zm- > -mm- see §6.8) beside unsuffixed hamma, and the neut. instr. þē (in the phrase ni þē haldis ‘none the more’ (also OE þē mā ‘the more’) and some compound conjunctions, e.g. biþē ‘while’). This þē is probably old (cf. OCS instr. té-mu, also Gk. (Thera) τη-με ‘in this way’), in which event þamma may be explained as formed by the addition of instr. *-ē to the dat. sg. stem inherited from PIE (so, e.g., Krause 1968: §180; cf. the discussion under dat. sg. in §7.8). Likewise, PIE loc. sg. *tosmi appears to have borrowed the dat./abl. stem; Go. complementizer þei ‘that’ is formally a locative, and it is perhaps more plausible that it should be original

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¹ Some Gmc. forms point to e rather than o in the pronominal stem (e.g. Go. þis, þizē, þizōs, OS þē, þē, þæs, þē, þēs, þis, þōs, þō, þizō), and this has led some to posit alternation in the stem in PIE; it is likelier, however, that e is a Gmc. innovation, borrowed from the interrogative pronoun (§8.13; but see below on Go. þei), which, as assumed below, exerted other kinds of influence on this paradigm. After PIE acc. sg. masc. *tom had developed to PGmc. *þan, to this was added a particle, the reflex of PIE *-ō or *-ōm, producing *þanō or *þanō.² Although the vowel is reduced finally in all the Gmc. languages, it can still be seen in Go. indef. acc. þanōh ‘each, every’, formed from interrogt. *hʷ-anō (> Go. hana ‘whom?’ parallel to þana) plus -uh (as in nom. hauh). Although a masc./neut. gen. sg. containing PIE *i is well attested in the IE languages (cf. masc. *-o-sio in the IE o-stems, as in Skt. aśvasya, Homeric Gk. ἰπποιο < PIE *eky-ō-sio ‘horse’), the Gmc. forms lack it (cf. Old Prussian deiwas < *deiü-o-so ‘of a god’); yet most of the Gmc. languages reflect *-e-so rather than *-o-so, again probably by analogy to the corresponding interrogative pronoun (PIE kʷ-ė-so > OCS česo, Ionic Gk. τέο ‘whose?’). The Gmc. dat. sg. is generally assumed to reflect the PIE instr., which is not securely reconstructible for PIE *so; for the etymon of the Gmc. masc./neut. dat. is usually reconstructed *tosmē, on the basis of forms like Go. indef. huanōh ‘each, every’ (cf. acc. huanō, above, and on *-zm- > -mm- see §6.8) beside unsuffixed hamma, and the neut. instr. þē (in the phrase ni þē haldis ‘none the more’ (also OE þē mā ‘the more’) and some compound conjunctions, e.g. biþē ‘while’). This þē is probably old (cf. OCS instr. té-mu, also Gk. (Thera) τη-με ‘in this way’), in which event þamma may be explained as formed by the addition of instr. *-ē to the dat. sg. stem inherited from PIE (so, e.g., Krause 1968: §180; cf. the discussion under dat. sg. in §7.8). Likewise, PIE loc. sg. *tosmi appears to have borrowed the dat./abl. stem; Go. complementizer þei ‘that’ is formally a locative, and it is perhaps more plausible that it should be original.
§8.10 The inherited demonstrative pronoun in Germanic

With these general Gmc. conditions taken into account, the forms given in the Gmc. paradigms above may be regarded as regular developments of the PGmc. pronouns, with the exception of the forms in individual languages remarked in the following paragraphs.

**Gothic.** Nom./acc. sg. neut. *þata* shows extension of final -*a* from the acc. sg. masc. The alternation between PIE masc. neut. *-ōt-* and fem. *-ār-* in the plural has led to some paradigm regularization: Go. gen. pl. fem. *þizō* has borrowed the vowel of the corresponding singular form, and the stem *þiz-* is then extended to the masc. and neuter. In their turn, fem. gen. and dat. sg. *þizōs, þizái* appear to be analogical to the corresponding interrogative pronouns (§8.13). On the alternation between -*ē* and -*ō* in the gen. pl., see §7.8.

**Old Icelandic.** There is lengthening in nom. sg. masc. *sá* under Prokosch’s law (§2.5). The fem. nom. sg. either reflects *sō > *su* under unstressed conditions, with lengthening when the latter was extended to stressed positions (the usual assumption) or reflects unstressed *sō > *sū*, in which the vowel was never shortened (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 16). PGmc. acc. sg. masc. *þan* was altered to *þann* under the influence of *hann* (Prokosch 1939: §93). PGmc. acc. sg. fem. *þō* was shortened to *þa* when unstressed (presumably before *o* arose as an allophone of *u*, so that the shortening of *ō* was *a*; OE shows the same development) with lengthening to *þá* when re-stressed. Dat. sg. *þeim* (like OE *þēm*) shows extension of the dat. pl. form to the singular, by analogy to the a-stem adjectives, in which the two forms are identical. Dat. sg. fem. *þeiri* reflects *þaizjōi, perhaps with extension of *ai* from the corresponding plural form (assuming the diphthong of the masc. and neut. pl. had earlier replaced the PIE monophthong of the fem.), as does OE *þēre* (with umlaut). But given the agreement of ON and OE on this point, perhaps *þaizjōi* or *þaizōi* was the PGmc. form. The alternative form *þeirri* shows analogical addition of the adj. inflection -*ri* (orig. pronominal) to the stem *þeir-*; gen. pl. *þeirra* beside *þeira* is to be explained similarly. Gen. sg. masc./neut. *þess* agrees with Go. *þis < *þes*, except that -*s*, probably from nominal declension, has been added. Gen. sg. fem. *þeirar* reflects *þaiz(j)ōz* (as does OE *þēre*), which shows extension of the diphthong from the pl. to the singular. Neut. dat./instr. *þi* is well attested (also in the compound *þiðilíkr* ‘such’) but is uncommon relative to *því*. The former probably reflects the same locative *þei* underlying Go. *þei*; the latter shows the analogical influence of interrogative *hvi*. Nom. pl. masc. *þeir* shows the addition of -*r* from nominal inflection, as in *steinar* ‘stones’. There is no consensus about the derivation of nom./acc. pl. neut. *þau*: whereas some derive it directly from a PIE masc. dual *tōy* (beside *tō*: cf. Skt. *tāu* beside *tā*; so, e.g. Ross & Berns 1992: 563–4), others regard it as a Norse innovation, formed by the addition of -*u* from neuter nominal inflection (as in *bōrn* ‘children’ < *barmu*) to the reflex of PIE neut. pl. *tā*. Nom./acc. pl. fem. *þær* derives from PGmc. *þōz*, with shortening to *þaz* under low stress (cf. the acc. sg., as above), a form reflected in OE, as well; when this form was extended to stressed positions there was lengthening to *þār* (reflected as OEN *þār*), which underwent *r*-mutation (§4.7) to *þær*. In PGmc. acc. pl. masc. *þans* the final two consonants were lost when the word was unstressed, as in the a-stem inflection; extension of the resulting *þa* to stressed positions induced lengthening to *þā*, and the same explanation will account for OE *þā*, if this is not simply analogical to the nom.
West Germanic. Despite the claim of some handbooks (e.g. Prokosch 1939: §93), OE nom. sg. masc. *sē cannot be derived from PIE *sê with lengthening of the vowel, since the development of unstressed *sê to *se would have taken place too late (on the date, see Fulk 1992: §§415–17) for *sê rather than *sē to have been the regular result of re-stressing; rather, it is best regarded as a reformation of the reflex of PGmc. *sa by analogy to *hê < *h-iz (§8.7; so, tentatively, Girvan 1931: 279). Nom. sg. fem. *sēo (as well as OS *siou, OHG diu, but with substitution of the usual onset found in the rest of the paradigm) is often said to be derived from a by-form of PIE *sā of the form *sjā (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §93, Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §37), an adjectival derivative of the nom. uter stem (see Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 2, §322 for reflexes). Perhaps more plausible is that, like hēo (§8.7), it should be based on the masc. stem, in this instance *sī (in *siz) with the addition of the WGmc. nom. inflection of ō-stems, *-u < PGmc. *-ā < PIE *-ā (Girvan 1931: 279). As noted above, quite a few OE forms parallel those of Olc., but not of Go., OS, or OHG; OFris. agrees for the most part with OE in this respect. Acc. sg. fem. *pā (< *paz < *hōz; cf. OFris. thā), dat. sg. masc./acc. *pēm (later also pām, with the vowel found in all other pl. forms transferred to the dat. pl. and thence to the sg.; cf. OFris. thā(m)), dat. sg. fem. *pēre (< *paizjōi; cf. OFris. thēre), dat. sg. fem. *pēre (< *baizjōi; cf. OFris. thēre), nom./acc. pl. fem. *pā (like acc. sg. fem. *pā), and acc. pl. masc. *pā (< *pā < *pans; cf. OFris. thā) all developed like the corresponding Olc. forms, as discussed above. Also parallel to Olc. instr. (orig. loc.) sg. neut. *þāvi appears to be OE þē. There is no consensual explanation for this form; perhaps the best rationale is that it is analogical to interrog. hwī (just as Olc. *þāvi is analogical to hwī), if the explanation offered in §8.13 for the equally perplexing hwī is reliable. The alternative instr. þē is comparable to Go. þē. There is also an instr. þon which, in addition to its usual functions, is used in comparative constructions (e.g. þon mā ‘the more’) and in adverbial phrases, e.g. for þon þē ‘because’ and síðan ‘after(ward)’ < *sīþ þon. It is of uncertain derivation, but it is usually compared to Go. þan, used as a rel. particle, a demonstrative, and a conj.; and for the semantics cf. Go. þana-māis ‘still, further’ (= OE þon mā, OS than mēr, OHG dane mēr; so Girvan 1931: 279); cf. also Go. hwān (= OE hwōn) with the meaning ‘how much’ when used with comparatives. Unlike the gen. sg. elsewhere in Gmc., OE þes derives not from PIE *teso but the ablaut variant *toso (cf. Gk. τῶ < *tōs(<jō); OFris. thes is ambiguous.

OS þē and thiú are constructed the same way as OE sē, sēo, but initial th- has been generalized in the paradigm; OHG nom. sg. masc. der is analogical to er (§8.7) and hr(we) (§8.13), either directly or as an unstressed shortening of *þēr (see §9.2 on the origin of the adj. inflection -ēr), whereas fem. diu is formed as in OS. Acc. sg. masc. OS thena and OHG dein (: Go. þana, Olc. þanm, OE þone) have imported e from the rest of the masc. paradigm; likewise dat. sg. masc./neut. OS themu, OHG demu (Go. þamma), perhaps with degemination of -mm- under low stress, though Prokosch (1939: §93) suggests alternatively that these may be compared to inherited forms without -s-, e.g. Lith. dat. tamūi, OCS romus, OCS instr. temus. Perhaps it is likelier still that *þemu was reduced analogically to *þemu because in *þemmu it would appear, by comparison to, e.g., dat. sg. imu (to OHG er), that the stem was *þem- rather than *þem-, which would have been anomalous within the paradigm. Instr. sg. neut. OS thiū, OHG diu are sometimes derived from a by-form PIE *i̯soc (Krahe & Meid compare Skt. nom. sg. neut. tva-t, 1969: II, §37; similarly Ross & Berns 1992: 563 for the pl.), but it is perhaps likelier that these are constructed by analogy to i-stem instrumentals (§7.20), or, even
§8.10 The inherited demonstrative pronoun in Germanic

likelier, that the commonest a-stem instr. ending -u was added to the masc./neut. stem OS the-, OHG de-, and while the form remained disyllabic, e was raised to i before u in the next syllable (§4.4). For masc. nom./acc. pl. OS thea are also found thia, thie, and thē, the last equivalent to OHG deē (also diphthongized to die, dea, dia), both apparently representing unstressed developments of PGmc. *pai. Unless PIE *tio- is to be invoked, the other OS forms can be explained as formed by the addition of the adj. endings -e, -a to the stem the-, with i in thia introduced from neut. nom./acc. pl. thiu (to which compare the instr. sg. above). There occurs an OHG nom./acc. pl. neut. dei, found only in the earliest UG texts, perhaps analogical to zweii ‘2’; cf. Ross & Berns 1992: 564. The gen. and dat. pl. forms of OS and OHG correspond to the Go. ones. There is much variation in the spelling of these pronouns, especially in OS, with the forms of one gender extended to another on an occasional basis.

1. For discussion of the pl. of this pronoun in Gmc., see Ross & Berns 1992: 562–5.
2. The source of this *-ō or *-ō- is disputed. For example, Wright (1954: §261) compares it to the Skt. prep. dā ‘up to’, which takes the acc., whereas Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §37) analyze it as lengthened grade of the suffix seen in Skt. id-am, Lat. id-em ‘it’. There is discussion in Boutkan 1995b: 297–300 (with conclusions largely agreeing with those of A.W. Jones 1979), deriving the added ending from the fem. acc. sg. of PGmc. *is (§8.7).
3. Thus, e.g., Ringe (2017: 232) assumes PGmc. gen. *paizōs as a refashioning of the reflex of PIE *tōsjehs by metathesis of *-sj- under the influence of the diphthong of the masc. neut. plural.
4. Without this change, *hes would have been anomalous, as gen. -s otherwise never occurs after a stressed short vowel, and the alternative solution of lengthening the vowel would have increased paradigm allomorphy. The alternative form *hes does occur, but it is generally regarded as a reduction of *hes, like han for hann (Noreen 1970: §469 Anm. 3). Prokosch (1939: §93) suggests instead that *hes was formed by analogy to hann. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §37) regard *hes as analogical to *essa (§8.12 infra)
5. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §37) distinguish dat. þvi from instr. þvē, the latter comparable to Go. instr. þē. This may be etymologically correct: Olc. þvē does occasionally mean ‘why’, as normally does hvi, but it usually means ‘how’. Paul (1879: 215) proposes that þē should be derived from *þē (= Go. instr. þē); for further references, see Boutkan 1995b: 303, where it is proposed that þē is analogical to hvi.
6. For discussion, with references, see Hiersche 1963. If the ON pronoun is dual in origin, so also may be Go. þō (as advocated by Hiersche). Cowgill (1985: 14–15) rejects both analyses, regarding þau as analogical to tvau.
7. For alternative analyses, see Schrijver 2004: 204–6.
8. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §37; similarly Euler 2013: 114) derive *þē from PIE *so plus a deictic particle i seen in Gk. oίθον-ι (beside oίθος ‘this’). This seems conjectural.
9. As frequently in tracing the development of Gmc. pronouns, in choosing between alternatives like these it is necessary to weigh the probability of the preservation of archaisms of limited attestation elsewhere in IE the degree of transparency of morphological structure viz-à-viz the posited analogical model, as well as the degree of relatedness of the model.
10. OE nom. pl. þā may be etymological, or it may be analogical to the acc. Neuter nom./acc. pl. þā is by analogy to this, since PGmc. *þō would have developed to *þū in NWGmc. and become indistinguishable from the second person pronoun (Cowgill 1985: 15).
11. This is perhaps what Lass (1994: 144) means when he says that there is probably some relation between the two. His idea that the alternative form hwē is somehow “legitimate,” however (a view shared with Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §42), is improbable, as hwē appears to represent an unrounding of hwī (so, e.g., A. Campbell 1977: §316), appearing rarely in Alfredian texts, and none earlier. A possible (but speculative) alternative explanation is that þē is developed from *þē (parallel to hā) with the addition of the masc./neut. instr. adj. ending *-i (§9.2); so Givran 1931: 279. More plausibly, þē could be analogical to hwē formed of hā + i, though this would render the resemblance to Olcel. hwī entirely happenstance.
12. The fullest study is Dal 1932, concluding that the form originates in a pronominal ‘prosecutive’ in PIE *-no which assumed ablative function in PGmc., taking on other functions in time.

8.11 Distal demonstrative pronouns in Germanic

Already in PGmc. there was formed a distal deictic ‘that, yon’, reflected as Go. jáins (declined like an a/ô-stem adj.), OE *geon (attested just once, EWS dat. sg. fem. geonre), OFris. iena, MLG jene, OHG jenēr. The etymology is difficult to establish because these forms show notable disagreement: Go jáins would appear to reflect PGmc. *jainaz; OE geon appears to reflect PGmc. *jainaz, or possibly PGmc. *jainaz > *jän with subsequent shortening to o under low stress;2 the remainder would appear to reflect PGmc. *jenaz, but possibly they, too, could reflect *jainaz under low stress (with the addition of the usual adj. endings in MLG and OHG).3 Neither is there a consensus about how *jainaz (assuming this is the correct reconstruction) was formed: the chiefly credited possibilities are that it represents a PIE demonstrative particle *iê- plus the pronominal stem *eno- (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §93d, assuming an ablaut difference between Go. and WGmc.) and that it represents PIE *iê- (reduced form of *iê-) plus *ojno- ‘one’ (so, e.g. Orel 2003: 205 for Go., but favoring the former explanation for WGmc.). The competing explanations thus parallel those for Olcel. hann (§8.7). The rarity of this pronoun in OE probably indicates that OE þæt, when it did not develop into an article, had acquired a distal dimension, as in PDE.

A consideration in favor of the assumption of PGmc. *jainaz is that with the loss of initial j in PNorse, the word would have become indistinguishable from the word for ‘one’, and this explains why there arose a replacement in ON, a new distal pronoun nom. masc. hinn, neut. hit, fem. hin, inflected with all the same desinences as the possessive pronouns minn, pinn (§8.5, but with nom. acc. sg. neut. hit rather than hitt, a rare form) added to the particle hi- < PIE *ke (§8.7). As a pronoun it means ‘that’ (emphatic) or ‘the other’; otherwise it is a def. article, in the earliest texts not yet postposed (as in all the modern NGmc. languages) with loss of initial h.

1. There is, however, an OE adverb, either (depending on an editorial decision) geon or geonofor ‘(over) yonder’, which appears in the legal text Dunsæte.

2. On unstressed i > OE o, see §5.6. Under such an explanation it is unnecessary to assume that the form shows EWS -on- for -an-, as unstressed status is sufficient to explain o for a; no matter what the source of the vowel, PDE yon would be difficult to explain if the OE vowel were stressed.

3. Ingeniously, Pokorny (1959–69: I, 320) explains the WGmc. forms as derived from PIE *iô-noj- (with initial *ô- derived from the rel. pron., though the lack of umlaut in OE geon would be anomalous, and the lack of any gemination of n in WGmc.), and Go. jāins as derived from PGmc. *jainj- with metathesis under the influence of ánns ‘one’.

8.12 Proximal demonstrative pronouns

In Gothic there is a pronoun meaning ‘this’ which is found only in a few set expressions: himma daga ‘on this day, today’, und hina dag ‘to this day’, und hita (nu) ‘till now, hitherto’, fram himma ‘from now, henceforth’. These forms are transparently composed of hi-, reflecting the PIE particle *ke, originally with hic et nunc reference (as above, §8.7), and the same endings found on the demonstrative sa. It is often supposed
that these are relics of a once complete PGmc. paradigm (so, e.g., Euler 2013: 116), but if that were the case it would be difficult to understand both why so few forms are attested in Gothic and why outside of Gothic there arose new pronouns meaning ‘this’, especially on the assumption that the paradigm of this supposed pronoun paralleled closely that of PGmc. *sa. It seems likelier, then, that these developments are the result of an imbalance of deictics in PGmc., on the assumption that there was no pronoun to contrast specifically with *jainaz ‘that’, and forms like himma are an innovation specific to East Germanic. The commonest forms of ‘this’ outside of Gothic are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>nom.</strong></td>
<td><strong>acc.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel. m.</td>
<td>sjá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>þetta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>sjá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE m.</td>
<td>þës</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>þís</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>þěös</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS m.</td>
<td>*these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>thit(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>thius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG m.</td>
<td>dese, -ër</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>diz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>desiu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The differences between the OE forms and those of OS and OHG are remarkable, and those between NGmc. and WGmc. are so stark as to suggest polygenesis; nonetheless, almost certainly these forms all have a common origin. Runic inscriptions in the Younger Futhark (i.e., after ca. 750) frequently evince demonstratives from the paradigm of *sát (§8.10) with what is usually regarded as a following emphatic particle -si (-se, -s) or -a attached, e.g. nom. sg. sasi, fem. susi, neut. þatsi or þita (see Noreen 1970: §470 Anm. 1). This pattern of original inflection of the first component of the compound is observable also in OHG nom. sg. masc. de-se, gen. des-se, the latter an older form (Muspilli 103) to which a final inflection was added later (desses: Braune 2004a: §288 Anm. 3d). The earlier form of the deictic s-suffix is difficult to determine, in part because of the alternation between -si (WGmc. -se) and -s. Probably the most plausible explanation is that originally this pronoun was formed by iteration.¹ That is to say, nom. sg. masc. *sa (§8.10) was iterated as *sa-sa, perhaps with the later addition of the hic et nunc particle *-i (cf. Lat. quī, quae < *kʷ-o-i, *kʷā-i). A significant advantage of the idea of iteration is thus that it explains the otherwise mysterious rise in NWGmc. of a new s-particle of which there is no trace in Gothic.² It also explains admirably the origin of the geminate t in the neuter forms OIcel. petta, OS thitt (cf. OHG diz, where -z = -tz < *-tt: Braune 2004a: §289 Anm. 3b), assuming original *pat-*pat > *patta, with later change of root vowel by intraparadigmatic analogy. A similar course of development will also account for ON acc. sg. masc. pennu, assuming original *pan-*pan, since PGmc. *-np> - ON -nn- (§6.14). With the reduction of final vowels, reanalysis of -s- in the nom. sg. masc. and fem. resulted in its extension as a suffix through most of the paradigm. This explanation may also account for the origin of the alternative particle -a in ON. Noreen (loc. cit.) compares it to Go. -uh (§8.10 supra), though more commonly it is related to the particle PIE *-ōm added to Go. pana, ðata (§8.10; so, e.g., Krahe &
Meid 1969: II, §38). Rather, if iteration is assumed, final -a in a form like *penna may be regarded as etymological, starting from NWGmc. *pan-pan.

The subsequent development of these forms is governed by thoroughgoing analogical restructuring, prompted in large part by the lexicalization of suffixed forms, so that non-final inflection in a form like acc. sg. masc. *pan-si was no longer recognizable as such, and new inflections were, to a great extent, added to the end of the relevant forms, especially in WGmc. Given the assumption of these early changes, most of the forms given above are transparent refashionings, though a few require further comment.

**Old Norse.** Masc. and fem. nom. sg. sjá is most commonly explained as analogically induced, with -a borrowed from forms like *penna and *petta and lengthened under stress. This makes good sense, since the result is -a in the nom. and acc. of all genders (or perhaps all sg. forms before the addition of new endings, e.g. to gen. sg. fem. *pessar, and later yet *pessar(r)ar). Later there arose *pessi and similar forms alongside sjá, thus reducing stem variation within the paradigm. Dat. sg. neut. *pvísa and *pessu both appear in early texts, though both are plainly analogical formations, the former by the addition of -sa to the corresponding form of *pat, the latter by the addition of the usual dat. sg. neut. ending -u to the stem *pess- that prevails in the paradigm.

**West Germanic.** The stems with initial s have exchanged it for p, regularizing the paradigm. In OE, most forms have the stem *piss- (reduced to *pis- when a vowel does not follow), with the same endings found on adjectives; gen. dat. sg. fem. *pisre and gen. pl. *pissa show assimilation of -*sr- to -*ss-, as in lēssa ‘less’ < *lēsra. The exceptions are all plainly composed of the corresponding form of sē plus a suffix -s (though again with p- for s- in the nom.). These exceptions resisted replacement by new analogical forms based on the stem *piss- probably because such replacement forms would have eliminated grammatical contrasts within the paradigm, reducing most forms to *pisse or *pissa. There are many analogical by-forms in OE, e.g. gen./dat. sg. fem. *pisre, *pissere, dat. pl. *pisum. Old Frisian generally agrees with OE, with a stem *thiss- in most case forms, but it also shows a notable agreement with OS and OHG in regard to nom./acc. sg. neut. *thit.

The OS and OHG forms mostly represent the WGmc. stem *pes- (as in ON) with the endings of adjectives or of the demonstrative OS *ðē, OHG *der attached. Forms that depart from this pattern are older. Such is nom. sg. masc. OS *thesar (to be assumed on the basis of MLG *dese) and OHG *dese, on which final -e, as a reflex of the vowel or diphthong of the iterated form posited above (*sa-sa-t?), can hardly be explained as analogical. Likewise, neut. OS *thi(t) and OHG *diz reflect a geminate, due to original iteration (as explained above) comparable to that in ON *petta, and OS instr. *thius is comparable in structure to OE *þīs, whereas OHG *desiu has substituted the stem in WGmc. *pes-. OHG gen. sg. masc. neut. *desses for earlier *dese was explained above. As always in OHG and (esp.) OS, there is considerable spelling variation, e.g. dat. sg. fem. OS *thesaru, *aro, *oro, *ero, *ara.

The reason for the discrepancy between Anglo-Frisian *piss- and, elsewhere in WGmc., *pes- is not plain. The geminate in *piss- can be accounted for as resulting from -*sr- (as explained above), but the reason for the raised vowel in *piss- and *pitt- is not obvious, especially if WGmc. *pitt- is to be derived (ultimately) from *pat-pat. This could be a case of simple dissimilation to *pitt-pat (see §12.33 n. 6). Or it may be that *pitt- is by analogy to the corresponding anaphoric pronoun, with subsequent spread of the vowel to *piss-. Cf. Klingenschmitt 1987: 184, Ringe & Taylor 2014: 102, with other proposals.
1. This is the proposal of Klingenschmitt (1987: 185–9), though the version of the idea presented here differs in some respects from his.

2. This is a weighty reason to prefer the idea of iteration to the otherwise attractive idea that the s-suffix should be compared to -se in Lat. *ipse* (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §93b).

3. Probably to be reconstructed is *se-a > sjâ. The stem *se- is not paralleled in the paradigm of sjâ; perhaps e is introduced analogically, since it is the vowel that prevails in the paradigm of sjâ.

**IV. Remaining Types of Pronouns**

**8.13 Interrogative pronouns**

In PIE there was an interrogative pronoun *kwis ‘who?’*, neuter *kwid ‘what?’*, with the same inflections (masc. and neut.) as *is* (§8.7), reflected as Lat. *quis, quid*, Hitt. *kwis, kwid*, Gk. τίς, τί. Beside this there was an adjective stem inflected in three genders in the nom. and acc. (otherwise undifferentiated for gender), masc. *kw-o*, fem. *kw-eh₂*, with the same inflections as *so* (§8.10), reflected as Skt. masc. ká-h, fem. kā. Lat. masc. quī (< k워-‘i), fem. quaе (< kwá-‘i), neut. quod. Although these were inflected in the sg. and pl., only sg. forms are reflected in Germanic. Accordingly, the PIE sg. forms were these (see Stihler 1995: 397, Szemerényi 1996: §8.3.1, Beekes 2011: 230):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pronoun</th>
<th>adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mim.</td>
<td><em>kw-o</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td><em>kw-is</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td><em>kw-id</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td><em>kw-esjm</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td><em>kw-esm</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The reflexes of these are often intermixed, as they are in Gmc., and in the various languages they serve different functions, which may include interrogative, indefinite, and relative use. The Gmc. interrogative pronouns are generally derived from the PIE adjective stem, the gen. sg. masc./neut. being the most notable exception:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nom.</th>
<th>acc.</th>
<th>dat.</th>
<th>gen.</th>
<th>instr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>m.</td>
<td>huas</td>
<td>huana</td>
<td>huama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n.</td>
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Thus, only Gothic has separate fem. forms,3 which are probably not a Gothic innovation (as is often supposed, e.g. by Prokosch 1939: §97a and Euler 2013: 118), as the vowel of dat. hizāi appears to derive from the pronominal rather than the adjectival stem, serving as a model for the spread of the vowel to the paradigm of *so (§8.10) and to the ő-stem inflection in adjectives (§9.2).4 The archaic nature of Go. with respect to these pronouns is also suggested by a relic of the plural preserved in a compound of this pronoun, hauzuh ‘each’ (§8.15): insandida ins twans hauzuh ‘he sent them forth two and two’ (Luke 10:1, also Mark 6:7; cf. PIE acc. pl. masc. *kwons). The PIE gen. sg. was probably not *kʷesō but *kʷeso (cf. OCS česo), and this seems the likeliest source of the gen. sg. inflection Go. -is, OS OHG -es of a-stem nouns and adjectives (§§7.8, 9.2). In Go. and WGmc. these forms are also used as indefinite pronouns meaning ‘someone, anyone; something, anything’, whereas ON hvør can mean ‘any’ only when used as an adjective. A few forms in the individual languages invite comment:

**Gothic.** Endlessing nom./acc. neut. hva is possibly an archaisch: final -d in the corresponding demonstrative PIE *tød is probably from earlier t, assuming that *tød reflects an iterated form *t-o-to (Szemerényi 1996: §8.2.1; note that final *-t developed to *-d in PIE itself: Szemerényi 1996: §5.4.5), and if that is the case, the interrogative pronoun could have *-d (as in Lat. quod = OIcel. hvat) only by analogy to *tød. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §42), suggest, alternatively, that hva reflects *x-am, with substitution of the usual nom./acc. ending on neuter a-stem nouns (cf. Skt. neut. kim beside masc. kāh, fem. kā); but a final nasal in a monosyllable was not generally lost except after a long vowel (§6.11).5 Otherwise, the Go. forms developed the same way as sa (§8.10), except with final -s in the nom. sg. masc. (probably not present in PIE, as explained above).

**Old Norse.** The nom. and acc. masc. forms fell out of use, perhaps due to coalescence with hva ‘where?’ and *hvan ‘when?’, with replacements supplied from the paradigm of the corresponding adj. hvør ‘which’ (§8.13). Dat. sg. hvœim (= OE hwæm) is parallel to peim (explained in §8.10) There also occurs hvé, formally an instr., with the meaning ‘how?’.

**West Germanic.** OE hwā (OFris. hwā) can reflect PGmc. *xʷaz, with loss of *-z and lengthening before a could be fronted in Anglo-Frisian.6 The OE forms are otherwise parallel to those of sē (§8.10). There is no consensus as to how OE hwē is to be explained. Perhaps the likeliest explanation is that it developed early from *hwē (attested as such only in later texts, and so probably representing there an unrounding of hwē; cf. OS hwē, ON hvē), formally a locative with PIE *eī. Such a change is to be contemplated under low stress only (which is why there is no early *hwīl, a LWS form only, for hwīl ‘while’ et sim.): cf. the change of *ni willan to nyllan ‘will not’ in prehistoric times. Krahe & Meid (1969: §42) suggest instead a contamination of hwē and (formally instr.) hū ‘how’ < *hwē.

OS hwē shows the influence of hē, and OHG (h)wer of er (§8.7). The influence of the anaphoric pronoun is in fact exerted throughout the paradigm, with substitution of the stem hwe- (: hē-) in most forms, along with other parallels, e.g. OHG instr. (h)wiu. OHG acc. sg. masc. wenan (for earlier (h)wem) shows the analogical influence of anaphoric inan. On OS OHG -mu, see the discussion of the anaphoric pronoun (§8.7), and cf. the demonstratives OS themu, OHG demu. For alternative spellings, the handbooks should be consulted.

**Further interrogatives.** Common to all the Gmc. languages is an interrogative ‘which (of two)?’, Go. haþar, OIcel. hvārr, OE hwæðer, OS hwedar, OHG (h)wedar,
derived from *xʷaž ‘who’ by the addition of the same suffix seen in, e.g., Go. anþar ‘other’, Lat. noster ‘our’. This derives from PIE: cf. Skt. katarāh, Gk. nōreōç, Lith. katrās. Apparently PGmc. in origin, but without a parallel in WGmc., is Go. huarjís (inflected like a ja-stem adj., but always with nom. sg. neut. -atā), Olcel. hvarr ‘which (of more than two)?’, probably a compound of *xʷar (Go. huar, Olcel. hvar, but with lengthening in OE hwār, OS hwār, OHG (h)wār) and the reflex of the PIE rel. pron. *þiós (§8.14; J. Schmidt 1889: 43). Go. hiþ-leiks, Olcel. hviliks, OE hwelec, hwilc, OFris. hwelk, hwe-liðk, OS hwí-liðk, OHG (h)we-liðh ‘of what sort?’, ‘which?’ is a compound of the reflex of PIE *kʷi- ‘who, what?’ (above) and PGmc. *líka ‘similar’ (Go. ga-leiks, Olcel. likr, etc.);? on variation in the vowel of the first syllable, see the discussion of Go. swa-leiks (§8.15 and n. 3).

1. Although most reflexes point to *kʷos, the parallel to *so suggests mase. *kʷo, as does Lat. quī < *kʷo-i, with the hīc et nunc particle -i added, as in quae < *kʷa-i (cf. also quoque ‘also’).

2. Probably already in PIE, clitic forms of these were used as indefinites (Ringe 2017: 69).

3. In LWS there occur indef. gen. dat. fem. gehwēre, gehwēre ‘each (one)’, which disrupts the meter of poetry at various places, showing that it is a late scribal substitution for (the equivalent of WS) gehwām.

4. On syntactic constraints on the use of the fem. forms in Gothic, see Matzel 1982–3, favoring inheritance of the fem. from PIE.

5. Prokosch (1939: §97a; so also Orel 2003: 199, Euler 2013: 119) assumes, rather, that Go. hua reflects an unaccented form with final *-i in PGmc. But the assumption that final consonants were lost in Go. in unstressed monosyllables after a short vowel is dubitable: see §6.11. Ringe (2017: 168) argues rather that hua is analogical to the neut. acc. sg. of the strong adj.

6. There is a parallel in OE swā < PGmc. *swa (§2.5); cf. the objections of Hollifield (1985). That there can be lengthening in OE swā is shown by the alternative forms swē, swē, with lengthening after the fronting of a in re-stressed *swa. This seems to be the only likely explanation, as the alternatives (see A. Campbell 1977: §125 n. 1) cannot account for Northumbrian swǣ. Cf. Stiles 2004: 390 n. 7, and see further Ringe & Taylor 2014: 152.

7. More commonly it is said that *-likaz here is a derivative of PGmc. *líka ‘body’, itself a derivative of *léiks (cf. Lith. līk, līgus ‘like’); so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: III, §168. That is, *líka takes the meaning ‘shape, form’ → ‘kind’ and serves as the second constituent of exocentric compounds; hence, *xʷi-likaz originally meant ‘(of) what kind?’. The assumed formal and semantic development is simpler if it is supposed that *-lik- was an adj. all along, and the original meaning of *xʷi-likaz was ‘like what?’. This also lends more transparent sense to forms like Go. waira-leikō ‘like a man, in manly fashion’ and OE ġeondlice ‘hostile’, with semantic bleaching as the second constituent became widely productive, e.g. in Olcel. hleligige ‘laughable’, harōliga ‘forcibly’. See further §11.2 infra.

8.14 Relative pronouns

Although there was a relative pronoun in PIE, formed to the stem *i-e- ~ *i– and declined like an a/ō-stem adj. (cf. Homeric Gk. ὁς, ἦς, ὦ, Skt. ydh, yā, yad), it is not reflected in Gmc., except probably as the initial of PGmc. distal *jainaz (§8.11) and as the second constituent of PGmc. *xʷar-jaz ‘which (of more than two)?’ (§8.13). The Gmc. languages individually developed new relative constructions. In ON, uninflected er (early also es, variants under Verner’s law)1 and sem were used as relatives, also at ‘that’ in a limited number of constructions, e.g. pā at = pā er ‘when’. Of these, es, er is perhaps identical to Go. iz-ei (see below); sem probably derives from samr ‘same’2 and acquired independent status as a relative from reanalysis of constructions like svā sem ‘so as, just as’ and slikt sem ‘such as’; and at is a reduction of pat, identical to Go. þat-ei (see below), having lost initial þ- in constructions like *þeir vissu þat, þat . . . ‘they
knew it that’ (cf. OE þætte ‘that’ < þat pe). In OE, indeclinable pe was used as a relative particle; it is perhaps identical to Go. þei (§8.10), in origin a loc. of sa. More commonly, however, it follows a form of sē, the two words being treated metrically as a single, unstressed word. The demonstrative sē is also used alone as a fully declined relative pronoun, unless such constructions are simply paratactic. OS and OHG are like OE, with rel. particles OS the, OHG de used alone, or in combination with a demonstrative, or by use of a demonstrative alone.

Go. ei (cf. Gk. ei ‘if’, ei-þa ‘then’), originally a loc. of anaphoric is, could be used alone as an indeclinable rel. particle, but usually it was combined with a preceding pronoun. For relatives of the first and second persons it was attached to the corresponding personal pronoun, e.g. ikei ‘(I) who’, þuei ‘(you sg.) who’, þukei ‘(you whom), izwizæi ‘(to you pl.) whom’. For the rel. of the third person it was attached to the corresponding form of sa, with elision from the end of the demonstrative of a final short unstressed vowel, but not a long vowel or an original diphthong (e.g. þana + ei > þanæi, þamma + ei > þammei, but saet, þizæi, þizæiei). There is also voicing of s when it becomes nonfinal, hence þis + ei > þizæi. There is as well a form þeæi, neut. instr. in origin, used only as a conj. (because, for) that’, and a form þatei, neut. acc. in origin, used as a complementizer ‘that’ (= ON at, OE þæt, OS that, OHG daz).

1. Cf. Runic stole (= Olcel. só er) on the Björketorp stone (Sweden, 1st half of the 7th cent.).
2. So, e.g., Ásgeir Blöndal Magnússon (1989: 804), who cites the corresponding forms Faroese sum, Old Danish sem, sam, sum, som, Old Swedish sum, som.
3. Most handbooks regard the vowel of OE pe as short, but it is sometimes thought to have had an alternative form þe (so, e.g., Brunner 1965: §340) on the assumption that it could be stressed when its antecedent did not stand immediately before it.
4. For example, in feorcþþoe bōoð / sēlran gesōhte þǣm þe him selfa dēah (Beowulf 1838b–9), þėm is not clause-initial and so would be stressed, spoiling the meter, if it were not joined to the unstressed particle. Of course, that þėm and þe are separate words, rather than a compound þėm þe, is merely the assumption of editors.
5. Cf. WGmc. unstressed rel. *þe = Go. þei.

8.15 Indefinite pronouns

Common to all the Gmc. languages are certain indefinite adjectives that may be used as pronouns and are inflected as adjectives. One is Go. sums, Olcel. sumr, OE OS OHG sum ‘some, a certain (one)’, inflected as a strong adj. The word for ‘one’ (Go. ains, Olcel. einn, OE ān, OS ēn, OHG ein) may also be a pronoun ‘one, a certain one’. Similar are ‘other’ (Go. anþar, Olcel. annarr, OE ōðer, OS ōðar, OHG ander = Skt. ántara- ‘other’; likewise Go. alþis ‘other’; cf. Lat. alius ‘other’; ‘all’ (Go. alls, Olcel. allr, OE all, OS OHG al < *al-n-az), ‘many’ (Go. manags, OE manig, OS OHG manag; but ON mangr is late), ‘few’ (Go. *fæus, masc. pl. fawái, Olcel. fär, OE fēa, OS fæo, OHG fō(h), fæo), and ‘self’ (non-reflexive: Go. slība, Olcel. sjálfr, OE self(a), OS self, selfb-, OHG selb). Parallel to Go. hi-leiks (etc., §8.13) is Go. swa-leiks, Olcel. slikr, OE swelc, swilc, OFris. sulih, sulik, selik, OS sulik, OHG sulīh ‘such’, based on *swa ‘so, thus’ (Go. swu, Olcel. svü, etc.). Compare also Olcel. þviliks ‘such’ (with dat./instr. of þat as first constituent), OE þyslic (cf. instr. þys to þēs) beside þuslic (cf. þus ‘thus’), also þyllic, þullic ‘such’. On Go. has, hā and cognates as indefinite pronouns, see §8.13. On ‘both’ (Go. bái, bajōþs, Olcel. bádir, etc.), see §10.1. Further
Gmc. indefinites, like some of the foregoing, are generally compounds of pronouns examined above, their morphology almost without exception varying by branch or language.

‘Each, every, any’. There is in Go. a particle -uh, cognate with Lat. -que ‘and’, though the source of -uh is disputed (see Lehmann 1986: 374, and cf. Mottausch 2001). It was added to the pronouns has (§8.13), hurjís (above), and hapar (above) to form the distributives huzuh ‘each, every’, hurjizuh ‘each, every’, and haparuh ‘each of two’. In declination, the vowel of -uh is elided after a vowel or a diphthong, and s becomes ð between vowels; and it may be seen from the datives hvammēh, hurjammēh (vs. unsuffixed hvamma, hurjammana) that suffixation took place early enough to prevent reduction of originally final ð to a. These pronouns are declined only in the sg., with the sole exception of acc. pl. hvanzuh (§8.13). To hurjizuh could be prefixed āin- ‘one’ to form āinhurjizuh ‘each one, everyone’.

In NWGmc. the collective prefix *ʒar-, *ʒi- (as in OE gebrōðor ‘brethren’) was added to some pronouns to form indefinites; subsequently all pretonic syllables were lost in NGmc. (§5.7), with the result that some pronouns became indistinguishable from their derivatives. Thus, Olcsl. hvarr ‘each’ < *ʒi-x*arjaz also means ‘which?’ (PGmc. *x*arjaz), though occasionally poetic meter seems to demand the prefixed form.4 So also hvār ‘each (of two)’ < *ʒi-x*aperaz also means ‘which (of two)?’ (PGmc. *x*aperaz). Comparable WGmc. formations are OE ge-hwā, OS gi-hwē ‘each (one), every (one)’; OE ge-hwelec, OS gi-hwilik, OHG gi-(h)welīh ‘each (one), every (one)’; OE ge-hwēder, OS gi-hwedar, OHG gi-(h)wedar ‘each (of two)’. For ge-, OE frequently has āg- (< *ʒi-ʒi-) in these pronouns, āghwā, āghwilc, āghwedar (and cf. OS io-gi-hwē, io-gi-hwilc, io-hwedar); also (ge)welhwilc ‘everyone’; cf. also samhwilc ‘some’.5 This same prefix appears in PGmc. *aiw-ʒi-lik-az ‘each’, reflected as OE eíc,6 OFris. ellik, e(l)k, OHG eo-gi-līh. OE ānig, OFris. ēnich, OS ēnig ‘any’ (< PGmc. *ainizaz) derive from *ainaz ‘one’?

‘Either, one of two’. Olcsl. uses the compound hvār(r)tveggja to mean ‘either’ and annarr hvār to mean ‘one of two’ (with hvār < *hvaðarr). OE uses prefixed ge-hwēder and āg-hwēder8 indifferently to mean ‘either, one of two, each, both’; cf. OFris. āhweđer ‘one of two, someone’, āhweđer (and āider) ‘each (of two)’ < Anglo-Frisian *ʒi-ʒi-hweđer-; OS ēn-di-hwedar (cf. ēn ‘one’ and MHG eintwedar; -di- is of uncertain derivation) and āðarhweđar ‘one of two’.

**Privative pronouns.** Various strategies were devised to negate pronouns. In Gothic, the usual negative particle attached to pronouns is -hun, suffixed to has ‘who’, māna ‘person’, and āins ‘one’, always with the neg. particle ni preceding, to produce ni huashun ‘no one’ (nom. sg. masc. only), ni mānahun ‘no one’ (sg. only), ni āinhun, ni āinhun ‘no one, nothing’ (inflexed for three genders, in sg. only). Go. -hun appears to be cognate with Skt. cana ‘anyone, anything’, as in the closely comparable construction nā kaś-canā ‘no one’ (where kaś- = Go. has). Cognate with -hun, but with a different ablaut grade and voicing under Verner’s law, is -ʒi-n, a suffix that plays an important role in ON and is also observable in WGmc.9 It is detectable in Olcsl. engi ‘no (one), none’ < PNorse *xein-gi(n), neut. ekki < *xeint-gi(n), a word that developed like the proximal demonstrative pronoun (§8.12), i.e. with the suffix originally added to the inflected pronoun, and then later with final inflections added, e.g. dat. pl. engum; cf. gen. sg. e(i)nnskis with double inflection. The suffix is also used to form hvār(r)gi ‘neither (of two)’ and hve(r)gi ‘each, every one’ (rarely ‘none’; neut. hvatki),10 with either internal or final inflection, e.g. dat. pl. hvārungi, hve(r)jungi beside hvār(i)gum,
hverigum, as well as man(n)gi ‘no one’ (cf. Go. ni manannahun) and vættki ‘nothing’ (from vætt ‘wight, being’ < *wext-; cf. Go. ni waihts, OE nāwiht, nāht, nāht, OS OHG neo-wiht, ni-wiht ‘nothing’). The suffix is used in WGmc. to form an adverb OE hwergen ‘elsewhere’, OS hwergin, OHG io-wergin (> NHG irgend) ‘somewhere, anywhere’ (cf. io ‘ever’). As the example of OE nāwiht (< *ne ā-wiht) shows, privative pronouns were also formed by prefixation of the neg. particle ne, as in Oldel. neinn, OE nān, OS nēn ‘no, none’, derived from ‘one’. Similar are OE (non-WS) nānig ‘not any’; OE nāwþer ‘neither’, derived from æghwæðer ‘either, both’ (as above, and cf. OS newedær); OS OHG neo-, nio-man ‘no one’ < *ne-aiw-mann-. To Go. nī ‘and not, not even’ (= Lat. neque) there corresponds the OHG prefix nih- in nih(h)ein ‘no, none’, also noh(h)ein with an ablaut variant of the prefix, and the derivative adjectives nihheinig, nohheinig; OS nīgen, nēgēn probably does not contain the same prefix with voicing under Verner’s law (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §47) but reflects *ni zi-aín- (so Holthausen 1921: §347).

Varia. Gothic uses the expressions (sa)huazuh saei and sahuazuh izei (nom. sg. masc. only) to mean ‘who(so)ever’, and patahah pei (acc. sg. neut. only) to mean ‘what(so)ever’; the same idea is conveyed by prefixing bis to huazuh saei (masc. þiþhuazuh seai, neut. þiþhuah pei or þiþhuah peati), declined only in the singular.

North and West Gmc. use a negated form of the verb *wait ‘know’ to form an indefinite pronoun: the Oldel. adj. nekkverr, nokkverr ‘some, a certain’ (also nekkvarr, nokkvarr), inflected early like hwerr, derives from *net-k hwerr < PNorse (West Norse) *ne waēt ek hwerr; and the pronoun and adj. nekkvat, nōkkvāt ‘something’ (also early nākkat), inflected like hvat, from *ne waēt ek hvat, with mixture of the two from early times. Similar are OE pron. nāthwlec ‘someone’ < *ne wāt ic hwelac and nāthwā, nāthwet ‘someone, something’; also MHG neizwēr ‘someone’.

In addition to sumr and nekkverr, ON uses the expression einn hverr (fem. ein hvær, neut. eitt hvert) to mean ‘someone, each one’, already in the oldest manuscripts sometimes given as a compound with invariant ein-; there is also a pronoun eittvat ‘something’. Oldel. hvat-vetna ‘anything whatever, everything’ has an inflected first constituent and an invariant second, an irregular gen. pl. to vætt ‘wight, being’.

Throughout WGmc., man (from mann ‘person’) is used as an impersonal pronoun (as subject only) comparable to French on, forming clauses equivalent to agentless passive constructions. Another WGmc. construction is *aiw-wihtiz ‘aught, anything’ in OE ãwht, ãuht, ãht, OS OHG io-wiht (cf. Oldel. vættki, hvat-vetna, above); but OE OS OHG wiht could also be used alone to mean ‘anything’. Also WGmc. is the construction with so...so’ and an intervening indefinite pronoun, e.g. OE swā hwā swā ‘whosoever, swā hwile swā ‘whoever’, swā hwæðer swā ‘whichever’ (of two; not infrequently simply swā hwæðer or contracted swæðer), OS sō hwē sō, sō hwedar sō, OHG sō welīh sō (= OE swā hwile swā).

OE adds invariant -hwugu (-hwegu, -hwigu) to inflected hwæt (hwæðhwugu ‘something’) and hwile (hwilchhwugu ‘someone’) to form indefinite pronouns. OE (se) ilca ‘(the) same’ derives from *iz-līk-az (where iz- = Go. is, Lat. is). This *iz- produces ī- ‘same’, as in OE īdæges, OFris. īdïges ‘on the same day’, OE īsðes ‘immediately’. Possibly ī- was not shortened in ilca before the end of the OE period (so, e.g., Holthausen 1974: 187), though it may have been shortened earlier under low stress.

To Go. aíþþáu ‘or, else’ there corresponds the OHG prefix eddes-, ettes- (later et(t)es-), used to form pron. eddeswer ‘someone, anyone’, adj. eddeswēlēh ‘some, any’, as well as adj. eddeslēth (NHG etlich); probably late OE ōðerhwīle ‘sometimes’
§8.15 Indefinite pronouns

represents a folk etymologization of the same prefix (cf. the confusion of the reflexes of OE oppe ‘or’ and ððer ‘other’ in ME). There is also an OHG prefix theh-, deh- of unknown provenance from which is constructed a compound of ein: deh(h)ein, theh(h)ein, thihhein, dohein, thohhein ‘someone’, with derivative adj. thihheinīg, doheinīg, apparently formed as a complement to nih(h)ein, noh(h)ein (above). The strong adj. gilīh ‘like’ is sometimes used with the gen. pl. of a substantive to mean ‘any, some’, as in manno gilīh ‘someone’.

1. Also in compounds: Runic alja-, OE el-, OS OHG eli-.

2. On the etymology, see Euler 2013: 118; on ‘self’ and reflexivity, see Markey 1982.

3. The variation e ~ i in OE hwilec and swelic may be due to the mutual influence of the two words upon each other, but hwilec can also be explained as etymological, since forms like OHG walih beside welih suggest a reconstruction parallel to Go. *haleiks, with substitution of adjectival hau- for pronominal hoi- and umlaut (Braune 2004a: §292 Anm. 1).

4. A probable example is er mér i heðin hvern (Hávamál 73/3).

5. Perhaps sam- is a full-grade ablaut variant of sum; Holthausen (1974: 269), comparing PDE somewhat, thinks sum- is what is intended, which seems unlikely, but cf. OHG sumilih ‘some’.

6. Cf. Mercian ylc, with obscure vocalism. The phrase āfre ālc (> PDE every) comes into use late in the period.

7. Etymologically distinct from Go. āinaha ‘only, sole’ (pace Orel 2003: 8), to which corresponds OE ānga.


9. Because of the back mutation in, e.g., gen. sg. fem. ongrar beside engrar ‘no, none’, the suffix must have contained PGmc. xʷ ~ ʒʷ, and so it is probably related to Lat. -que ‘and’.

10. The suffix did not originally have negative meaning but indefinite, as shown by Skt. cana and by the necessity of using ni with it in Gothic. But it was used in so many privative constructions that negative sense could be transferred to it, especially with the loss of pretonic *ni in ON.
CHAPTER 9

Adjectives

9.1 Adjective inflection in Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Germanic

PIE adjectives had stems corresponding to those of the classes of nouns, i.e. o-, io-, yo-
ā-, iār, yār, ūr, and a limited variety of consonant-stems. To these were attached the
same inflections taken by the corresponding noun stems. Most adjectives were inflected
like o-stems when masc. or neut. and like ā-stems when fem.; other stem classes did not
distinguish masc. from fem. inflections, though these uters were distinguished from
neuters in some case forms. PIE adjectives took on suffixes to form the comparative and
superlative degrees, and these are reflected in the Gmc. comparison of adjectives, along
with some other suffixes expressing properties of degree whose original function is
more difficult to ascertain (§§9.11, 10.7).

Four significant changes in PGmc. disrupted the regularity of this system of ad-
jective inflection: (1) Just as in the nouns, in late PIE the distinction between stem and
inflection was beginning to undergo obscurerment, and in PGmc. this process was
greatly accelerated, with the result that many stem-final segments came to be analyzed
as inflectional. Thus, for example, as illustrated by the paradigm in §9.2, PGmc. a-
stems no longer recognizably had stems ending in ā, which segment instead had become
part of the inflection; more radically, the suffix used to form n-stems was re-analyzed as
part of the inflection, or as the sole inflection in some cases (§9.8), as with Go. acc. sg.
masc. -an < PIE suffix *-on- plus inflection *-əm, the reflex of the latter of which
(PGmc. *-um) was lost. (2) In all the Gmc. languages (and presumably already in
PGmc.) there is a tendency for adj. stems other than a-, ō-, and n-stems to lose their
distinctiveness and acquire the inflections of a- and ō-stems, so that even in Go., though
a few case-forms may remain distinctive, most of the idiosyncratic inflections have
been replaced analogically. (3) In a number of case forms, the nominal inflections em-
ployed by a- and ō-stems were replaced by pronominal inflections, as discussed in §9.2.
(4) Adjectives inflected as n-stems came to be associated with definite constructions (as
defined in §9.7), and as a result, nearly any adjective could be inflected as an n-stem.
The remaining stem classes were thus associated with indefinite constructions. This is
the origin of the distinction between the so-called strong and weak adjectives of Gmc.

1. Aside from the n-stem (weak) adjectives, the only significant consonant-stem adjectives in Gmc. are
present participles (§9.9, not inflected identically to root-stem nouns). Other types were infrequent in PIE:
Beekes (2011: 219) finds only rare instances of PIE adj. suffixes ending in k, t, s, ḫ, and n, never r, l, m. But
possessive adjective compounds (bahusvṛhi, exocentric) were very commonly formed of adj. or noun plus
root-stem noun, e.g. Skt. cātuspad ‘four-footed’ (cf. Gk. τετράπος, neut. τετράπον, OE fīderfōt), inflected
like a root-stem noun. For an etymological dictionary of inherited Gmc. adjectives, see Heidermanns 1993.
I. Indefinite (strong) adjectives

9.2 The unmarked strong declension of monosyllabic heavy stems

Just as in PIE, in which masc. and neut. adjectives were most commonly inflected as o-stems and fem. as ā-stems, the PGmc. reflexes of these remained the norm in indefinite constructions (as defined in §9.7), except that inflections of pronominal origin came to replace some of the original nominal inflections. It should be plain from the discussion below that the influence of pronominal inflection on the paradigms of strong adjectives was not solely a PGmc. phenomenon, but it continued in force in the individual languages. The usual patterns of inflection may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. *laggs ‘long’ and its cognates in the oldest Gmc. languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m. sg. nom.</td>
<td>laggs</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lagr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>laggana</td>
<td>langan</td>
<td>langne</td>
<td>langan</td>
<td>langan</td>
<td>-ānō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>laggis</td>
<td>langs</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>-as(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>laggamma</td>
<td>lōngum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langamu</td>
<td>-em</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>lingu</td>
<td>langu</td>
<td>*-ē (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. sg. nom.</td>
<td>lagg, laggata</td>
<td>langt</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>langaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>lagg, laggata</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>langaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>laggis</td>
<td>langs</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>langes</td>
<td>*-as(a), *-es(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>laggamma</td>
<td>lōngu</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langamu</td>
<td>-em</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>lingu</td>
<td>langu</td>
<td>*-ē (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. sg. nom.</td>
<td>lagga</td>
<td>lōng</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>langiu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>lagga</td>
<td>langa</td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>langa</td>
<td>*-ō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>laggázōs</td>
<td>langra</td>
<td>langre</td>
<td>langera</td>
<td>langera</td>
<td>*-(a)izōz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>laggái</td>
<td>langri</td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>langri</td>
<td>langera</td>
<td>*-(a)izai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. pl. nom.</td>
<td>laggái</td>
<td>langir</td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>laggangs</td>
<td>langa</td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>lange</td>
<td>*-anz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>langáizē</td>
<td>langra</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td><em>-az(j)ō</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>laggáim</td>
<td>lōngum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langēm</td>
<td>*-aimiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. pl. nom.</td>
<td>lagga</td>
<td>lōng</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>langiu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>lagga</td>
<td>lōng</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>langu</td>
<td>langiu</td>
<td>*-ō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>laggáizē</td>
<td>langra</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td><em>-az(j)ō</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>laggáim</td>
<td>lōngum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langēm</td>
<td>*-aimiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. pl. nom.</td>
<td>langōs</td>
<td>langar</td>
<td>langa</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>lang</td>
<td>lango</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>langōs</td>
<td>langar</td>
<td>langa</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>lango</td>
<td>*-ōz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>langáizō</td>
<td>langra</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td>langaro</td>
<td><em>-az(j)ō</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>langáim</td>
<td>lōngum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langum</td>
<td>langēm</td>
<td>*-aimiz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PGmc. forms in boldface are borrowed from pronominal forms: compare especially the paradigm of Go. *sa* and cognates (§8.10). The remainder reflect PIE a- and o-stem endings. In Go., nom./acc. sg. neut. -ata (pronominal in origin: cf. *pata* §8.10, and see Ratkus 2015) is less frequent than the zero-inflection, and the form is almost always attributive. Likewise, in OHG, the alternative endings nom. sg. masc. -ēr, pl. -e, nom./acc. sg. neut. -az, pl. -iu (Franconian -(i)u), nom. sg. fem. -iu (Franconian -(i)u), pl. -o, are pronominal in origin, and in attributive use the sg. pronominal endings alternate indiscriminately with nominal inflections, whereas in the pl., nominal forms...
are rare; in predicative use the nominal forms are commoner.² The OE inflections are those generally found in EWS, whereas in LWS the nom./acc. plural inflection is usually -e for all genders. PGmc. *-ō became *-u in North and WGmc., and this is preserved as such (or lowered to -o) in OE after light stems in the nom. sg. fem. and the nom./acc. pl. neuter, e.g. light-stemmed hwatu ‘active’ (nom. sg. masc. hwæt), beside heavy lang, with u-mutation of roots in a in the corresponding forms of Old Icelandic. OS and OHG show the usual, expected spelling alternants, e.g. OS acc. sg. masc. -an, -on, -en and OHG dat. sg. fem. -eru, -ero, but also OS dat. sg. masc. -umu, -omu, -emu, -emo, etc., beside -um, -un, etc.

Since the origin and development of the nominal and pronominal inflections are discussed elsewhere (§§7.8, 7.15, 8.10), just a few adjectival forms require comment:

**Nom. sg. masc.** Although OHG -ēr (like neut. -az) is plainly pronominal (cf. der, das, §8.10), there is no consensus as to why -ēr has a long vowel. Comparison can be drawn to the possessive pronouns (Franconian) unsēr, iuvēr (§8.5), which Johansson (1890, with a summary of prior scholarship) argues have -ēr by analogy to the identical gen. forms of the corresponding personal pronouns (§8.2); but -ēr in the latter can be explained as etymological only on a speculative basis. The most commonly accepted explanation is that of Sievers (1875: 122; so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §50), that der is a weakened form of earlier *pēr, to the latter of which the ending -ēr is analogical. Comparison to OS thē (and OE sē) renders it plausible that *pēr and *pē-r (with -r extended from er ‘he’) should once have co-occurred in OHG, the latter eventually driven out by the continued analogical influence of er. Boutkan (1995b: 296–7) tentatively proposes that ē in -ēr is analogical to the dat. plural.

**Dat. sg. masc.** Besides OS -um there are many variants, e.g. -u(n), -emu, -omo, and similar endings with different vocalism; likewise OHG -emu, -emo, -amu, -omo, the forms with e no doubt by analogy to pronouns. The ending -um in Olcel. and OE (and in part in OS) is probably analogical to the corresponding plural noun inflection (note that dat. sg. and pl. of pronominal Olcel. sā, OE sē also agree in these languages, §8.10); so Prokosch 1939: §95, but cf. Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §37, and see further Stiles 2013: 22–3. OHG -emu (for more original -amu, -amo) is by analogy to dat. sg. demu (§8.10).

**Dat. sg. neut.** Olcel. -u is usually assumed to be instr. in origin, like OS OHG instr. sg. -u, though it is not plain why -u was not apocopated: cf., e.g., nom. sg. grōf ‘pit’ < PGmc. *grabō. Boutkan (1995b: 302–3) argues that -u may be analogical to the vowel in *hū (Old Swedish hū ‘how’).

**Instr. sg. masc. & neut.** Certainly OS OHG -u is the same desinence found in a-stem nouns. OE -e appears to be the reflex of the ending -i of a-stem nouns found in some early texts in instr. function and reflecting PGmc. *-i < PIE loc. *-ei (§7.8; A. Campbell 1977: §640). If so, the umlaut that it should have caused must have been leveled out of the paradigm.

**Nom. pl. masc.** Go. retains -āi (which should have changed to -a) by analogy to the pronoun hāi. ON -ir reflects *-eir by analogy to þeir ‘they’, tveir ‘two’, which in turn have -r by analogy to the corresponding nominal inflection (Sievers 1875: 114; on alternative explanations, see Syrett 1994: 92–3). In WGmc., the acc. pl. inflection has been replaced by the nom. pl., as in nouns (outside of OHG: §7.8).

**Nom./acc. pl. neut.** OHG -iu is analogical to the corresponding ending of pronoun der (§8.10), dese (§8.12), etc.

**Nom. sg. fem.** OHG -iu is entirely parallel in origin to the identical neuter inflection (supra).
Acc. sg. fem. Olcel. -a reflects the original inflection *-ōr", whereas in the ō-stem nouns (§7.15) the corresponding inflection has been made identical to that of the nom. sg. Rather, Kortlandt (2005: 2) regards -a as pronominal in origin.

Gen. sg. fem. According to Sievers (1875: 111–14), Go. -áizōs has borrowed -ái- from the gen. & dat. pl., with similar developments in OS and OHG, and i in PGmc. *-izōs was syncopated in ON and OE. It is notable, however, that there is no trace of umlaut in the gen. or dat. sg. fem. in NWGmc.; it is usually assumed to have been leveled out (e.g. by Prokosch 1939: §90). Rather, it has been argued that the ending was already *-aizōz in PGmc., and that ai in this and other endings in *-aiz- (dat. sg. fem., gen. pl. all genders) was replaced by e by analogy to the anaphoric pronoun and others similarly inflected. See Stiles 2013: 31–2, Ringe & Taylor 2014: 22–3. In addition to explaining the lack of umlaut, the latter hypothesis obviates the need to assume early shortening of ai > ē > e in OS and OHG.

Dat. sg. fem. According to Sievers (1875: 111), Go. -ái is by analogy to the nominal inflection, and again ON and OE may be assumed to have lost i from PGmc. *-izai, with analogical removal of umlaut, though OS and OHG have e < *-ai- leveled from the plural. But see under gen. sg. fem. above. In OS OHG -eru the final diphthong of PGmc. has been replaced by the dat. ending of the substantive ō-stems.

Gen. pl. The PGmc. diphthong *ai is etymological in the corresponding masc. and neut. pronouns, with analogical extension to the fem. form. In the view of Sievers (see above), ON and OE i, later lost, has been taken over from the fem. sg. and extended to the masc. and neut. inflections, though once again analogy must be assumed to have eliminated umlaut. These contrary analogical changes are not simple and obvious, and so the view that ai has been replaced by e (see above under gen. sg. fem.) is to be preferred.

Dat. pl. The original inflection *-aimiz is reflected in Go. and OHG, whereas the other Gmc. languages have substituted the ending -um found in a-stem nouns.

The distinction in Gmc. between strong and weak adjective inflection is paralleled in Balto-Slavic (see §9.7), where adjectives in indefinite constructions are inflected like nouns, and those in definite constructions are compounds of the adjective plus a pronominal element. The earliest approaches to explaining the Gmc. development of adjectives relied on comparison to Balto-Slavic, and hence the influx of pronominal endings into Gmc. strong inflection was likewise most commonly understood to be a matter of compounding of the thematic adj. stem with a pronominal stem PGmc. *ja- plus its normal pronominal inflections. Yet the Balto-Slavic compounds are definite, whereas the Gmc. adjectives with pronominal inflections are indefinite, and it is not plain why the attachment of pronouns to indefinite adjectives should have occurred at all. Ever since the critique of the compounding theory by Sievers (1875), preference has been accorded his alternative view, that Gmc. has simply borrowed many of the indefinite inflections from pronouns. Sievers (1875: 107–9) points out that in Skt. quite a few words that are adjectival in origin sometimes take pronominal inflections, since they may be used in pronominal function (i.e., they are substantivized), e.g. nēma- ‘another’ and pūrva- ‘foremost’. It is in fact common in IE languages for words of this sort to acquire pronominal inflections, e.g. nom./acc. sg. neut. Gk. ἄλλο = Lat. aliud ‘other’, reflecting pronominal *-od (cf. Skt. tād ‘it’, and compare the nominal inflections Gk. -ov, Lat. -um, Skt. -am), in comparison to nom. sg. masc. Gk. ἄλλος, Lat. alius, with non-pronominal *-os, though Sievers himself argues that such mixture of inflections was to be found already in PIE. It is natural enough to assume, then, that the Gmc. strong adjectives that first acquired pronominal inflections were adjectives like
indefinites and numerals (i.e., pronominal adjectives), such as ‘some’, ‘any’, ‘such’, and ‘one’, which were normally inflected as adjectives but which could be used in pronominal function. Explaining the precise distribution of nominal and pronominal endings in Gmc. strong adjectives thus becomes a matter of lesser import, seeing as the competing forces of analogical influence in the direction of both pronominal and adjectival use remained in effect throughout the history of the Gmc. languages, with the result that new pronominal inflections were added to adjectival paradigms after the PGmc. period, e.g. OHG nom. sg. masc. -ēr and nom./acc. sg. neut. -az.

1. Ringe (2017: 314–15) observes that although Go. -ata, ON -t, and OHG -az have the same pronominal source, they must have been borrowed independently in the three languages, given that Go. -ata is borrowed from the specifically Go. form of the pronominal ending. This is probably correct, though of course it is possible that the pronominal ending was extended to adjectives in PGmc. and subsequently reformed in Go. in tandem with the addition of -a to the pronoun.

2. The endingless forms in the plural are not etymological but arose in predicative use.

3. The reflex of PGmc. medial *-ai- is not normally syncopated in ON and OE: cf., e.g., Olcel. erþiði, OE earþe þe ‘labor’ < *arþaiþ-. The circumstance that *ai was preceded by *e in a form like *anþeraizô ‘other’ should have rendered it less, not more, susceptible to syncope.


5. Compare the analysis of Prokosch (1939: §89b): “It is not impossible that this transfer of pronominal endings to the ‘strong’ adjective declension was at least part due to the fact that ‘weak’ adjectives are usually preceded by pronominal forms: on the pattern of þana blindan guman there may have been formed blindana guman; þata blindō barn may have been the starting point for blindata barn.”

6. Sievers (1875: 111, 114) in fact argues that PGmc. pronominal inflections could be replaced in the individual languages by nominal ones. See further McFadden 2003.

### 9.3 Variant stem types in the unmarked strong declension

Certain stem alternations are to be observed in indefinite adjectives.

**Gothic.** Voiced fricatives are usually devoiced finally and before final -s, as in frōþs ‘wise’, göþs ‘good’, liufs ‘dear’, saþs ‘full’ (gen. frōdis, gödis, liubis, sadis), but láus ‘empty’, gen. lāuis.

**Old Norse.** In Olcel., r at the start of an inflection was dropped when added to a stem ending in postconsonantal r, e.g. nom. sg. masc vitr ‘wise’, fagr ‘beautiful’, gen. sg. fem. vitrar, fagrær; cf. nom. sg. masc. sūrr ‘sour’, gen. sg. fem. súrrar. Such an r was assimilated to a preceding l or nongeminate n, as in nom. sg. masc. heill ‘hale’, kœnn ‘wise’, gen. sg. fem. heillar, kœnnar (acc. sg. masc. heilan, kœnan), but sannr, sannrar ‘true’. Disyllabic stems ending in a single consonant generally show syncope in the stem-final syllable before inflections beginning with a vowel, as illustrated by the paradigm of gamall ‘old’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>neut.</th>
<th>fem.</th>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>plural</th>
<th>neut.</th>
<th>fem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nom.</td>
<td>gamall</td>
<td>gamalt</td>
<td>gǫmul</td>
<td>gamal</td>
<td>gamlir</td>
<td>gǫmul</td>
<td>gamlar</td>
<td>gamlar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>gamlan</td>
<td>gamalt</td>
<td>gamla</td>
<td>gamallar</td>
<td>gamalla</td>
<td>gǫmul</td>
<td>gamllum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>gamals</td>
<td>gamals</td>
<td>gamall</td>
<td>gamalli</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlu</td>
<td>gamalli</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
<td>gǫmlum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exceptions to the rule are stems in -ligr and weak second participles in -aðr, which show no syncope. In accordance with the change that produced forms like batt ‘bound’
§9.3 Variant stem types in the unmarked strong declension

< *band* (§6.14), *sannr* has nom./acc. sg. neut. *satt*. Stems ending in a vowel likewise have -*ti* in the nom./acc. sg. neut., e.g. *fatt* to *fār* ‘few’, and *a* or *u* at the start of an inflection is elided after such stems, hence acc. sg. masc. *fān*, fem. *fā*, but nom. pl. masc. *fār*. Possessive adjectives and adjectives in -*inn*, including strong second participles, have -*n* rather than -*an* in the acc. sg. masc., and to this -*n* is assimilated a preceding *l*, hence acc. *fundinn* ‘found’, *þinn* ‘your’, *einn* ‘one’, *vārn* ‘our’, *mikinn* ‘large’ (nom. *mikill*), *lītinn* ‘small’ (nom. *litill*).

Old English. Disyllabic stems with a heavy initial syllable followed by a light regularly show syncope before a vocalic inflection other than -*u*, as illustrated by the paradigm of *hālig* ‘holy’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>masc.</th>
<th>neut.</th>
<th>fem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>nom.</strong></td>
<td><em>hālig</em></td>
<td><em>hālig</em></td>
<td><em>hāligu</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>acc.</strong></td>
<td><em>hāligne</em></td>
<td><em>hālige</em></td>
<td><em>hālge</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gen.</strong></td>
<td><em>hālges</em></td>
<td><em>hālges</em></td>
<td><em>hāligrē</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>dat.</strong></td>
<td><em>hālgum</em></td>
<td><em>hālgum</em></td>
<td><em>hāligrē</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>instr.</strong></td>
<td><em>hālge</em></td>
<td><em>hālge</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>plur.</strong></td>
<td>masc.</td>
<td>neut.</td>
<td>fem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>hālge</em></td>
<td><em>hāligu</em></td>
<td><em>hālige</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The syncopated vowel is usually restored by analogy in LWS, but the meter in poetry often indicates the earlier value (e.g. *Beowulf* 336b: *Ne seah ic elþēodige*). Syncope of original non-high vowels is also regular after a light syllable (e.g. *manges* < *managas* beside nom. *manig* < *managaz*), whereas the change less regularly affects high vowels (§5.6). Disyllabic stems with a light initial syllable originally apocopated the inflection -*u*, but it is frequently restored, e.g. *yfelu* beside *yfel* ‘wicked’. Syncope and the alternation of front and back vowels resulted in consonantal alternations within paradigms, e.g. *j* (vel sim., §§6.17–18) in *hālige* but [ɣ] in *hālgum*, and *ʃ* (vel sim., *ibid.*) in *mīcēl* ‘large’ but [k] in *mīcles*, the latter due to anteconsonantal deaffrication (§6.18). Alternation between *æ* and *a* was originally regulated by whether or not a back vowel followed, but in the historical period *a* appears in open syllables, otherwise *æ*, e.g. *blæc* ‘black’, gen. *blæces*. Stems with final *h* lose this before vowels, resulting in either contraction or compensatory lengthening (§4.13), e.g. *hēah* ‘high’, *þweorh* ‘crooked’, gen. *hēas*, *þweorēs*. These regularities are much altered by analogical developments, especially in the later period.

Old Saxon. There should in Old Saxon have been patterns of apocope (but not syncope) like those in OE, but they have been eliminated: heavy and light stems are alike inflectionless in the nom. sg. fem. and nom./acc. pl. neut., e.g. *ald* ‘old’, *hol* ‘hollow’, though the neuters may also have -*e* -*a* by analogy to the uters. The only regular paradigm variation in regard to syncope is that disyllabic adjectives like *hēlag* ‘holy’, with a heavy initial syllable and a light second, have acc. sg. masc. -*na*, whereas all others have -*an*. There is no comparable alternation in OHG.

9.4 The *ja*- and *jō*-stems

For the most part, in Go. these adjectives add the same inflections found on *a*- and *ō*-stem adjectives to a stem ending in *j*, hence, e.g., acc. sg. masc. *midj-ana* ‘middle’, gen. *midj-īs*, dat. *midj-amna*. In the nom./acc. sg. neut., where the *a*-stems may be endingless, *j* in the *ja*-stems is vocalized to *i*, hence *midi*, *wilpi* ‘wild’ beside *midjata*, *wilpjata*. An exception is nom. sg. *midjis*, parallel to the noun *harjis* (§7.10, q.v. in regard to the
The few stems of this class that are preserved in Go. have the same inflections as the a- and ō-stems, but with -i wherever the latter are endingless. In addition, OS retains -i- elsewhere in the paradigm, though it may be spelt -e-.

1. David Fertig has kindly supplied the information that the gen. sg. neut. of heavy ja-stem adjectives appears to be unattested in Gothic. The wilpeis cited as gen. sg. neut. by Kiparsky (2000: 21–2) seems to be due to a misunderstanding of an example given by W. Streitberg. The syntactic context (Romans 11:17) demands a weak adj., in which event the form is presumably a scribal error for wilpeins, and at all events it must be masc. rather than neut.

9.5 The wa- and ōw-stems

The few stems of this class that are preserved in Go. have the same inflections as the a- and ō-stem adjectives attached to stems ending in w. Aside from forms of triggws ‘true’, the only surviving forms are lasiws ‘weak’ (for expected *lasius, stem lasiw-), nom. pl. qiwái (to *qius ‘alive’), favái (to *fáus ‘little’), and usskawái (to *usskáus ‘vigilant’).

In ON these bear the usual adjective inflections, with stem-final -v- (< *-w-) preserved only before non-rounded vowels. When a root vowel is subject to back mutation, it is mutated throughout the paradigm. Examples: nom. sg. masc. folr ‘pale’, tryggr ‘true’, gen. fols, tryggs, acc. fjolvan, tryggvan.

Only light stems remain distinctive in OE, where the usual adjective inflections are added to stems in -w-, which becomes u (> o) finally or before a consonantal inflection, e.g. nom. sg. masc. gearu, acc. gearone, gen. gearwes. Such stems without a consonant before -w- usually have -w- throughout the paradigm, e.g. nom. sg. masc. glēaw ‘wise’ (for etymological *glēa < *glēau < *glauwaz), acc. glēawne; but exceptional is dat. pl. fēam ‘few’ (< *faum < *fawum(i)z, beside analogical fēawum), also
nom./acc. pl. neut. fēa < *fau < *fawu < *fawō. The situation is similar in OS and OHG: cf. OS nom. sg. masc. gara, -u, gen. garowes, OHG garo, gar(a)wes; but unlike in OE, w is not extended throughout the paradigm in stems like OS OHG glau ‘wise’, acc. glauwan. Throughout WGmc., stems like *prangwaz ‘narrow’ (cf. ON prōngr), with -w- after a heavy consonantal stem, lose -w- entirely, hence MLG dranc.

9.6 The i- and u-stems

These remain distinctive in Gothic only, and even there the number of forms peculiar to this category has been curtailed. Most case forms have adopted ja- and jō-stem inflection, including nearly all those forms in which the light and heavy ja- and jō-stems are inflected identically, and so all plural forms. The remaining distinctive forms are the nom. sg. of all genders (e.g. i-stem masc. and fem. hráins ‘clean’, neut. hráin, never *hráinjata; u-stem masc. and fem. hardus ‘hard’, neut. hardu beside analogical hardjata), the acc. sg. neut. (hráin; hardu and analogical hardjata), and the i-stem gen. sg. masc. and neut. (hráinis; the case is unattested among u-stem adjectives). The remaining distinctive inflections are thus identical to the corresponding inflections of i- and u-stem nouns, except that there are no neuter i-stem nouns attested in Gothic.

In ON the i- and u-stem adjectives have generally lost their distinctiveness. The former are mostly indistinguishable from a- and ō-stems; only the Finnish loanword tiuris (Olcel. dýrr ‘beast’) and the name element NWGmc. -marík (Thorsberg chape, ca. 200; OE mēre, Olcel. mær ‘renowned’), as well as the lingering effect of front umlaut, attest to retention of i in the prehistoric period. But some ja- and jō-stem adjectives with a stem ending in a velar consonant were originally i-stems, e.g. fleygr ‘able to fly’ and adjectives in -fengr, such as Olcel. bráðfengr ‘hot, hasty’. The u-stems have almost entirely fallen together with the a- and ō-stems, e.g. harðr ‘hard’ (Go. hardus), with loss of u early enough to prevent back mutation. But u-stems ending in a velar consonant have become wa- and wō-stems, from which they differ only in that they evince by-forms with and without front mutation, e.g. ongr beside ongr ‘narrow’ (cf. Go. aggwus, acc. aggwjana).

In WGmc., i-stem adjectives are inflected identically to ja- and jō-stems, with only non-gradation in a few OE light stems indicating the original distinction, hence OE bryce ‘brittle’, freme ‘excellent’, gemyne ‘mindful’, swice ‘deceitful’. The WGmc. u-stem adjectives are mostly inflected as a- and ō-stems (e.g. OE OS hard, OHG hart), with just a few relic forms otherwise surviving, including OE nom. sg. (all genders) cwicu, cucu ‘alive’ (beside cwic), acc. sg. masc. cucone, cucune, etc. (beside cwicne, cucne), nom. sg. (all genders) wlacu ‘tepid’ (beside wlaec), and indeclinable noun and adj. OE (Northumbrian) feolu, OS OHG filu ‘many, much’. Some u-stems are inflected as ja- and jō-stems (cf. Go. aggw-, aggwj- above), including OE egle ‘troublesome’, enge ‘narrow’ (OS engi), myrge ‘pleasant’, smylte ‘tranquil’ (beside smoltt), strenge ‘strong’ (beside strang; OHG strengi beside strang), swær(e) ‘heavy’ (OHG swári beside swær, swěte ‘sweet’ (beside swoř), fyrrre ‘dry’, and compounds in -wintre ‘years old’; also OHG herti ‘hard’ (beside hart). Compare also OE adv. tulge ‘strongly’ (OS tulgo) to Go. adj. tulgus ‘firm’.

1. Snædal (2002) argues that Go. i-stem adjectives are ja-stems in origin.
2. It may be that origin as i-stem adjectives is indicated by the endless forms adv. (ge)fyrm ‘formerly’ noun and adv., and (rarely) indeclinable adj. iфр ‘little’: so A. Campbell 1977: §654.
II. Definite (weak) adjectives

9.7 Definitions, distribution, derivation

Definite or ‘weak’ adjectives bear a PIE n-suffix and are for the most part identical to the corresponding forms of n-stem nouns, with the exceptions noted below (§9.8). They are used in constructions in which the noun that they modify is definite, i.e. contextually specified, non-hypothetical, or otherwise not introduced as a new entity in terms of information structure. Thus, definite adjectives accompany nouns modified by a definite specifier, i.e. a definite determiner (demonstrative or possessive) or a definite quantifier, or (often: see Stiles 1984: 23–6) those used in direct address. They are used also in the comparative degree, even though, for example, “a higher purpose” (as opposed to “the higher purpose”) would appear to be indefinite. The definite declension is also common in the superlative degree, and it is the rule with ordinal numerals above ‘second’ and, with exceptions in WGmc., active participles. In WGmc. poetry the definite form may appear even without a specifier, especially when the adj. is used as a substantive, as is the rule in Gothic. Most pronominal adjectives are declined only strong, but a few are only weak, including Go. sama ‘same’ and silba ‘self’, though ON sjálfr is always strong. Usage is thus not identical in all the Gmc. languages; the handbooks should be consulted for details.

In the classical languages there is a pattern of forming proper names as epithets derived from adjectives (or nouns) by the addition of *-ōn-, hence, e.g., Lat. Catō, -ōnis ‘the sly one’ to catus ‘sly’, Rufō, -ōnis ‘the redhead’ to rufus ‘red’, Gk. Στράβων to στραβός ‘squinting’, and Σίμων to σιμός ‘snub-nosed’ (see Schwizer 1977: 487, 637; Jasanoff 2002: 40). Certainly, there are Gmc. weak nouns derived the same way, e.g. Go. weihā ‘priest’ beside weihō ‘holy’, OE þearfa ‘pauper’ beside þearf ‘in need’, gefā ‘foe’ < *-fāha beside fāh ‘hostile’ The individualizing nature of the n-suffix thus parallels the particularizing function of the Gmc. definite declension, and it is generally thought that the class of weak adjectives arose in some such model. The distinction between strong and weak inflection, though not inherited from PIE, is paralleled in some other IE languages, most notably in Balto-Slavic, where indefinite adjectives are inflected like nouns of the same class, whereas definite forms have attached an ending equivalent to a pronoun. The Balto-Slavic distinction is thus roughly opposite that of Gmc., where it is the indefinite declension that has acquired pronominal inflections, whereas the definite corresponds in its inflection to a class of nouns (n-stems).

1. On the historical use of the terms ‘strong’ and ‘weak’, see §7.29 and n. 1.
2. Perhaps not incompatible with this explanation is the idea of Hirt (1931–4; II, §81) that the weak n-suffix reflects a postpositive pronoun en (comparing OCS onъ ‘he’) attached to the nom. sg. masc. of definite adjectives in use as an article. Shields (1979) proposes a particularizing nasal suffix in PIE.
3. Examples (from Prokosch 1939: §89a) are Lith. gėras Žmogus ‘a good husband’, gerą žmoną ‘a good wife’; gerasis Žmogus, geriųjį žmoną ‘the good husband, the good wife’; OCS dobře rabu ‘a good servant’, dobrą ženą ‘a good woman’; dobrýjо ražu, dobrąjа ženа ‘the good servant, the good woman’.

9.8 Inflectional patterns

The declension of definite adjectives is for the most part congruent with that of an- and ōn-stem nouns (§7.30, 7.32):
The Go. endings are identical to those of n-stem nouns. Aside from minor variations in OS, the WGmc. inflections are also the same as for the nouns, except that OE gen. pl. -ra, adopted from strong inflection, is commoner than etymological -ena. In ON, too, the sg. has the same inflections as n-stem nouns, whereas in the plural the ending -u, originating in the nom./acc. fem. and neut., has spread to the masc. nouns and to all cases but the dative.

When ja/jö-stems, wa/wō-stems, and i- and u-stems are given definite declension in Go., the weak ending is added to the formative element of the stem, for which -j serves in the i- and u-stems, for example nom. sg. masc. niuja ‘new’ (ja-stem), wilþja ‘wild’ (ja-stem), tryggwa ‘true’ (wa-stem), hrainja ‘clean’ (i-stem), hardja (u-stem). In ON, ja/jö-stems have stem-final j before back vowels (a, u) after a light syllable or a velar consonant (e.g. nom. sg. masc. midjan ‘middle’, ríkja ‘powerful’, gen. midja, ríkja), and wa/wō-stems have v before non-rounded vowels (a, i; e.g. nom. sg. masc. folvi ‘pale’, tryggvi ‘true’, pl. folu, tryggu); otherwise, just as in the strong declension, original ja/jö-stems have become indistinguishable inflectionally from a/ō-stems. Those i- and u-stems that are inflected like ja/jö- and wa/wō-stems when strong (i.e., those ending in a velar consonant) pattern like ja/jö- and wa/wō-stems when weak, otherwise like a/ō-stems. In WGmc., j of the ja/jö-stems is preserved in OS and (written e, i) in the earliest OHG; otherwise it is lost, and the weak stem is indistinguishable from the strong, hence, e.g., nom. sg. masc. ja-stem OE mēra, OS mário, OHG már(e) ‘renowned’. As in the strong declension, stem-final w in the WGmc. wa-stems is preserved after a light syllable or a vocalic stem, hence, e.g., OE gearwa, OS garwo, OHG gar(a)wo ‘ready’. As with the corresponding n-stem nouns (§7.31), OHG -in should have caused umlaut, with restoration of a outside of the earliest texts.
9.9   The declension of participles

Second (past, passive) participles to all verbs are inflected the same way as adjectives, with both indefinite and definite endings. First (present, active) participles were nstems in PIE, as with Gk. φέρον-, Lat. ferent-, Skt. bharant- ‘bearing’, and so masc. and fem. forms were not originally distinguished. Subsequently, however, a fem. declension was formed, not with nom. *-ā but with *-ī or *-īā (see, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §7.8.1), as with jā-stem (Gmc. jō-stem) nouns (§7.17). This situation was altered considerably in Gmc. In Gothic, masc. and neut. first participles take only weak inflections—that is, they are inflected like masc. lagga, neut. laggō (§9.8), except that beside weak masc. nom. sg. -and-a there is preserved a strong form in -and-s, an analogical formation, as PIE nom. sg. *-ent-s, *-ont-s can hardly have remained as such in PGmc. (cf. nom. sg. Gk. -ων, Lat. -ēns, Skt. -an, and see §7.28 on the nom. sg. of root-stem nouns). The Go. fem. declension, however, is like that of īn-stems (e.g. manageī, §7.34), a change that must have started in the nom. sg. fem. *-and-ī, prompted by the use of n-stem inflections in the other genders. In ON, too, first participles are inflected only weak, but instead of -u they take -i in the nom./acc./gen. pl. of all genders, a pattern which must have spread from the fem. forms, assuming īn-stem inflection, as in Gothic. In WGmc. these participles may be declined either strong or weak, and when strong they take the inflections of ja/jō-stem adjectives, a pattern again originating in the fem. forms.

1. Skt. also demonstrates that the nt-suffix originally showed quantitative ablaut alternations in addition to the qualitative one evident in Lat., Gk., and Gmc.

III. Comparison of adjectives

9.10   The comparative degree

The comparative of adjectives was formed with a suffix PIE *-iōs- in the nom. and acc. (lengthened to *-iōs in the nom. sg. uter under Szemerényi’s law, §1.6 n. 1) in alternation with *-iōs- and, presumably in the weak cases (§7.4), reduced-grade *-is-: see Szemerényi 1996: §7.8.4. It is the last of these that was generalized in PGmc.,1 yielding *-iz- under Verner’s law (§6.6). Uninflected, it was used to form adverbs, e.g. Lat. magis ‘more’ (cf. magnus), Go. máis ‘more’ < *ma-iz, mins ‘less’ < *minn-iz. Beside this there arose another comparative suffix *-ōz- peculiar to Gmc. and of uncertain origin. By far the most widely credited explanation is that *-iz was added to Gmc. adverbs in *-ō to form comparatives, with subsequent development of *-ō-iz to *-ōz and later extension of this adverbial *-ōz to adjectives.2 In Gothic, either *-iz- or *-ōz- may be added to a/ō-stem adjectives (but consistently one or the other), whereas the other stem classes take *-iz- only. In the other Gmc. languages, i.e. the languages with front umlaut, *-iz- became unproductive, replaced exclusively by *-ōz-, which posed no umlaut complexities, and forms derived from *-iz- remain only as relics: see the examples below (§9.12). Note that Go. stems in ja/jō-, i-, and u- lose the stem formative before the comparative (and superlative) suffix, e.g. alþiza ‘elder’, reikists ‘most powerful’ (ja/ō-stems), spēdiz-, spēdists (to i-stem *spēþs ‘late’), hardiz- ‘harder’ (u-stem).
Adjectives in the comparative degree take only weak endings, in the case of ON the same set of endings used with first participles (§9.9). Exclusive inflection of Gmc. comparative adjectives in the definite declension has an intriguing parallel in Greek, where to the likewise reduced-grade suffix *-is- is added an n-stem suffix to form comparative adjectives, as in ἥδιστος ‘sweeter’ < *syād-is-ōn, to ἥδις.

1. Prokosch (1939: §91a) regards PGmc. *-is- as a Gmc. reduction of *-ōis-, but it is difficult to see how this could be. Cf. Szemerényi loc. cit.

2. Such is the explanation of Brugmann (in Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 1.560–1, with refs.), who does not claim *-ō₁-iz > *-ōz as a phonological development, rather *-ō₁-iz > *-aiz, the diphthong of the latter then being replaced by analogy to the positive degree in *-ō. Compare Cowgill’s explanation of weak verbs of the second class (§12.43). See further Kuryłowicz 1954: 252–4 and 1964: 233, also postulating an adverbial origin.

§9.11 The superlative degree

In PIE, one method of forming the superlative was by the addition of a suffix *-to- to the comparative suffix, a method particularly common with u-stem adjectives, as with Gk. ὕδιστος ‘sweeter’ (pos. ἥδις; cf. OE sweētest < *swētistaz), Skt. nāvistha- ‘newest’. The same construction characterizes Gmc., e.g. Go. háuhtists < *xaux-is-ta-z. With the rise of the new comparative suffix *-ōz- in PGmc., this, too, added -t- to form the superlative of adjectives that took *-ōz- in the comparative degree, e.g. Go. armöst- ‘poorest’.

In PIE, some adverbs formed the superlative by the addition of a suffix *-ηHoro, e.g. PIE *hēdo-thēHo- in Skt. adhamā- (to prep. adhāh ‘below’) and Lat. infimus ‘lowest’, or with an extended form of the suffix *-tηHoro, as in Skt. ut-tama ‘uppermost’, Lat. ex-timus ‘outermost’. A few such adverbial stems formed adjectives in Gmc., and thus there survive some superlatives in -m- in Go. and OE, the Go. forms conveying either comparative or superlative sense:1 Go. aúhumats ‘higher’, frumats ‘the former, prior, first’ (= OE OS forma ‘first’), innuma ‘inner(most)’, aftuma ‘the following, next’, iftuma ‘the following, next’, hleiduma ‘left(hand)’, OE hindema ‘last’. These are declined weak, the Go. fem. forms taking in-stem inflections (§7.34). In Go. and, more extensively, OE the superlative sense could be reinforced by the addition of the adj. suffix *-ist-, hence Go. aúhumats ‘highest’, aftumists ‘last’ (OE æfelest), frumists ‘first’ (OE fyrmest, fornest, Angleā forgōmest), hindumists ‘hindmost’, spēdumists ‘last’, OE innemest ‘innermost’, yēmest, üemest ‘outermost’, norfōmest ‘northernmost’, and so forth.

Aside from the superlatives in PGmc. *-um- (without added *-ist-), superlative adjectives may be declined strong or weak except in OHG, where they are always weak.

1. The mixture of comparative and superlative senses probably resulted from a combination of two influences, the growing opacity of -m- as a superlative marker, esp. on adjectives, and the tendency not to distinguish carefully between comparative and superlative use in dyadic comparisons, which are especially relevant to locational adverbs (e.g. ‘the nearest’ vs. ‘the nearer’ of two). Although OE forma retains its superlative sense, cf. OE medemest ‘most moderate’, with the superlative stem medem- extended to positive medeme and comparative medemra (cf. also OS Medema-hém in the Vita S. Willihadi).

§9.12 Distribution of suffixes

As noted above, Go. -iz- and -ist- may be attached to adjectives of any stem class, including a/ō-stems, whereas -ōz- and -ōst- are used with a/ō-stems only. Elsewhere in
Gmc., where they had caused umlaut, *-iz- and *-ist- ceased to be productive in the early period, leaving a few comparatives and superlatives with these suffixes as relics, along with a tendency to substitute for them forms containing the suffixes in ō. Thus, in Olc. the normal endings (i.e., derived from *-ōiz-, *-ōist-) in the nom. sg. masc. are comp. -ari (but simply -ri after the adj. suffix -lig-, as in fāligri ‘more reserved’) and superl. -astr (or weak -asistr).1 The corresponding endings in WGmc. are OE -ra and -ost/-ast,2 OS -ora/-ara/era and -ost (or weak -osto), OHG -ōro and -ōsto (weak only).3

In addition to adjectives with suppletive comparison (§9.13), some forms typical for the comparison of Olc. adjectives reflecting stems in *-iz- and *-ist- are the following: diujpr ‘deep’ (dypr, dyprstr), fagr ‘beautiful’ (fegri, fegrstr), fjar ‘few’ (færi, fæstr), lang ‘long’ (lengri, lengstr), seinn ‘slow’ (seinni < *seinri, seinstr), stórr ‘large’ (stærri, stærstr). For a fuller accounting, see Noreen 1970: §§438–9, with a list of adjectives compared in both manners, i.e. with and without umlaut. The only very common OE adjectives of this sort are compared in both manners, i.e. with and without umlaut. The only very common OE adjectives with umlaut of eald ‘old’ (ielandra, ieldest), geong ‘young’ (gingra, gingest),4 hēah ‘high’ (hier(r)a, hīehst, §5.6), lang (lengra, lengest), sce(e)ort ‘short’ (scyrtra, scyrtest), all of which may lack umlaut and/or have superl. in -ost. In OS and OHG the irregularities caused by the umlauting suffixes are less apparent, since only the umlaut of a is indicated in the orthography, and it may be leveled out in such forms. Examples in OS reflecting *-iz- are infrequent: they occur to ald ‘old’, engi ‘narrow’, lang ‘long’, mildi ‘mild, generous’, spāhi ‘wise’; also in furðir ‘greater’.5 OHG -ir-, -ist- are much more widely attested, and although there is no regular pattern to their distribution, they are almost always the rule in ja-stems and infrequent with stems of more than one syllable (Braune 2004a: §261). One and the same a/ō-stem adj. may take either these or -år-, -ōst-.

1. Rarely is j or v preserved in the comp. or superl. of ON ja/ja  §9.12 Distribution of suffixes 221
2. OE -ost- reflects -ast- < PGmc. *-ōast- with raising (and shortening) before u in the next syllable (§5.5), whereas OE -ast- reflects *-ōist- without raising, in cases without a following u (Hogg 1992: §3.34).
3. The assertion of Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §56) that the WGmc. superl. is declined weak only is mistaken.
4. Compare Go. juggs, comp. jūhiza, showing that the PIE root was accentuated in the comparative.
5. OS -er- may also reflect -ir-, but the examples of -er- alternating with -or-, -ar- within paradigms cited by Gallée (1993: §353) probably reflect weakened forms of -or-.

9.13 Suppletive comparison

In PGmc. a few very common adjectives used a stem in the comp. and superl. degrees different from that in the positive. The attested forms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pos. comp.</th>
<th>pos. superl.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>Olc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gōd ‘good’</td>
<td>góðr</td>
<td>betri</td>
<td>bete, -ara</td>
<td>guot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>batiza</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>bezziro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leitils ‘little’</td>
<td>leitill</td>
<td>lītel</td>
<td>luttill</td>
<td>luzzil</td>
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<tr>
<td>minniza</td>
<td>minni</td>
<td>læssa</td>
<td>minnera, -ara</td>
<td>minniro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>minnists</td>
<td>minztr</td>
<td>læst</td>
<td>minnista</td>
<td>minnisto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### §9.13 Suppletive comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pos.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>mikils ‘large’</td>
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<td>micel</td>
<td>mikil</td>
<td>mihhil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>máiça</td>
<td>meiri</td>
<td>māra</td>
<td>mēro</td>
<td>mēr(ir)o, mērōro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>máists</td>
<td>mestr</td>
<td>māest</td>
<td>mēst(o)</td>
<td>meisto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sineigs ‘old’</td>
<td>gamall</td>
<td>eald</td>
<td>ald</td>
<td>alt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ellri</td>
<td>ieldra</td>
<td>elldest</td>
<td>eldist</td>
<td>altiro, eltiro, altisto, eltisto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sinista</td>
<td>elztr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ubils ‘bad’</td>
<td>illr, vándr</td>
<td>yfel</td>
<td>ubil</td>
<td>util</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wairsiza</td>
<td>verri</td>
<td>wiersa</td>
<td>wirsimo, wirsisto</td>
<td>wirsisto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ve(r)str</td>
<td>wierrest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>margr ‘many’</td>
<td>fleiri</td>
<td>flestr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare also the ἀπαξ λεγόμενον Go. iusīza ‘better’ (or possibly ‘different’: Galatians 4:1). Grammars of the individual languages should be consulted for the development of these forms, but a few general observations may be offered. Suppletive comparison is found very commonly in the IE languages for the same basic concepts expressed by these Gmc. adjectives, e.g. Lat. bonus, melior, optimus and Gk. ἀγαθός, ἀμείνων, ἀριστος. The positive stems may vary widely across the IE group: to Lat. bonus, Gk. ἀγαθός cf. Skt. vasu-, OIr. maith, dag-, Go. göhs. Rather, it is the comparative and superlative forms that have the securest cognates: to Go. batiza cf. Skt. bhad-rāḥ ‘excellent’; to Go. minniza, minnists cf. Lat. minor, minimus; to Go. máiça, máists cf. Oscan mais ‘more’, Umbrian fem. mestru ‘larger’; to OE wierrest cf. Skt. vārṣīṭhah ‘highest’. Even when the positive forms do have obvious cognates, they tend to be formed differently: to Go. mikils cf. Lat. magnus, Skt. maha- (but also Gk. fem. μεγάλη). This pattern suggests that the positive forms are generally younger than the others, and that is what might be expected, since it is likelier that a new positive form should have replaced the original, given the way that new manners of expressing basic concepts like these are some of the commonest lexical innovations in modern languages, than that suppletive stems should have been chosen for the comp. and superl. of preëxisting positives. The same development can be observed in Gmc. itself, with the substitution of ON gamall for the positive degree of ‘old’ (where comp. elli = Go. alþiza, OE ialdra; the WGmc. forms show no such suppletion) and the use of vándr beside illr.¹ There is, however, no scholarly consensus about these matters.²

1. OE læssa, læst would appear to contradict the pattern, but plainly these are not innovative forms but old formations, as shown by their irregular form. They would originally have been close in meaning to ‘smaller’, ‘smallest’, to judge by the cognates Crimean Go. lista ‘little’, OHG liso ‘mildly’ (see also Pokorny 1959–69: I, 662), and if they were perceived as meaning the same as *minniz-, *minnist-, there would have been no reason not to regard them as suppletive forms of lýtel, esp. since the initial consonants agree.

2. For example, in explanation of suppletive comparison Krahe & Meid remark, “Der Grund für dieses Verhalten ist darin zu suchen, daß die durch solche Adjektiva ausgedrückten Begriffe gegenüber den durch die Steigerungsformen bezeichneten Bedeutungsdiębrenz besonders empfiändig sind, so daß sie nicht durch den gleichen Wortstamm wiedergegeben können.” Cf. also Hirt (1931–4: II, §84): “Ze erklären ist die Erscheinung dadurch, daß gewisse Adjektive zunächst nicht steigerungsfähig waren, und daß anderseits zu Komparativen und Superlativen der Positiv verloren ging.”
CHAPTER 10

Numerals

I. Cardinals

10.1 The numerals 1–4

In PIE the first four cardinal numbers were fully declined as adjectives which could be used as substantives, and they continued to be declined in PGmc., though, as in most IE languages, no gender distinctions are observed outside of the nom. and acc. ('1' aside), and ‘4’ is inflected consistently only in ON.1

1. The PIE o-stem *oinos ‘1’ (Gk. οἶνος, Lat. ūnus) by regular development yields Go. äins, Olcel. eĩn, OE ān, OS ēn, OHG ēin, declined as a Gmc. ą/ō-stem adj., but OE has acc. masc. ērne, also shortened to enne (beside analogical ūnne), from *aininōa, an i-stem case form.2 Inflection as an i-stem is a Gmc. innovation, but an old one, as Go. ‘11’ probably requires *aini- (§10.3). Despite the singular meaning, ‘1’ could be inflected in the plural, in constructions like Go. þans frijondans izwis ēinans ‘only those loving you’ (acc.) and OE ānra gehwilc ‘each one’, literally ‘each of ones’. In NWGmc. it may take weak inflections, usually with the meaning ‘alone’,3 always with that meaning in ON, though in OHG it is inflected weak in definite constructions.

2. PIE had for ‘2’ the form masc. *d(u)yoḥ, neut. (and fem.?)4 *d(u)yọj, initial *dọ- appearing after a short vowel in sandhi, otherwise *duŋ-; cf. Lat. duo, Gk. δύο (Homeric δύω), Vedic Skt. d(u)yáu, d(u)vá.5,6 It was given the dual inflections of o-stems (masc., neut.) and ā-stems (fem.), which are imperfectly known: see, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §7.6.7. The early Gmc. paradigms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m. nom.</td>
<td>twái</td>
<td>tveir</td>
<td>twēgen</td>
<td>twēne, -a</td>
<td>zwēne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. acc.</td>
<td>twans</td>
<td>tvá</td>
<td>twēgen</td>
<td>twēne, -a</td>
<td>zwēne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. nom./acc.</td>
<td>twa</td>
<td>tvau</td>
<td>twā, tū</td>
<td>twē</td>
<td>zwei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. nom./acc.</td>
<td>twōs</td>
<td>tvēr</td>
<td>twā</td>
<td>twā, twō</td>
<td>zwä, zwō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>twadjē</td>
<td>tveggja</td>
<td>twēg(e)a, twēg(e)ra</td>
<td>tweeio</td>
<td>zweio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>twāim</td>
<td>tveim(r)</td>
<td>twēm, twām</td>
<td>twēm</td>
<td>zweim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Go. endings are identical to those of plural a/ō-stem adjectives attached to a stem tv-, except that the gen. pl. has the stem twaddj- < *twajj-, due to the Verschärfung (§6.10), the same PGmc. stem that underlies the case-form elsewhere in Gmc.7 With that one exception, the Olcel. forms are made up of a stem tv- plus the same endings found in the plural of the pronoun hann (§8.7: þeir, þau, þær, etc.); the by-form dat. tveimr is analagous to þrīmr ‘3’. In WGMc., where the nom. and acc. are identical, the vowel ē has not been satisfactorily accounted for. The usual explanation, developed from a suggestion by Sievers (1885b: 495–6 n. 1; so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §61, Euler 2013: 124) is that OE twēgen is analagous to bēgen ‘both’, which may be
The numerals 1–4.

1. PIE ‘3’ was an i-stem *tréj- ~ *tri-, reflected as Skt. tráyah, Gk. τρεῖς, Lat. trēs. The usual Gmc. forms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>m. nom.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bābīr</td>
<td>bāge</td>
<td>bēde, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>bēde, beide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. acc.</td>
<td>bāa</td>
<td>bēg(e)a, bēgra</td>
<td>bēde, beide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. nom./acc.</td>
<td>bābi</td>
<td>bā, bū</td>
<td>bēdu</td>
<td>bēdiu, beidiu, CG -(i)u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. nom./acc.</td>
<td>bābar</td>
<td>bā</td>
<td>bēdā, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>bēdo, beido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>bēggja</td>
<td>bēg(e)a, bēgra</td>
<td>bēdero, beidero</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>bādum</td>
<td>bām</td>
<td>bēdiu</td>
<td>bēdēm, beidēm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Olcel. stems contain bā- < acc. pl. *bans; to this was added a pronominal stem in *p-, and thus perhaps masc. acc. bāda reflects, in effect, *bans-pans (so Prokosch 1939: §99a). The stem bādo- is then inflected like the plural of sjā (§8.12: þessir, þessi, þessar, etc.). The umlaut in bādi resists explanation, but the discussion in §8.12 of sjā and its development suggests some possibilities. Gen. bēggja could be etymological, depending on how the Verschärfung is to be explained (§6.10), and on what the shape of this stem might have been before bādo- was extended through the rest of the paradigm, but more likely it is analogical to tveggja ‘2’. It was remarked above that ē in the WGmc. forms of ‘2’ presents difficulties; the same may be said in regard to ‘both’. As noted above, OE bēgen is usually explained as a compound of *bō- and pronominal *jen-; Seebold (1968: 418–21, with references) objects on a variety of grounds, among them that ‘both’ should combine not with the pronoun *jen- but the ‘article’ in *p- (as in ON, OS, and OHG).

2. PIE ‘3’ was an i-stem *tréj- ~ *tri-, as in Skt. tráyah, Gk. τρεῖς, Lat. trēs. The usual Gmc. forms are these:
The Go. masc. and fem. nom. (both *preis) and fem. gen. (*priē) and dat. (*prim) are unattested. The Go. word is declined like an i-stem noun, of which there are no neut. examples in Go.; neut. prija precisely reflects PIE *trījā (cf. Gk. τρία, Lat. tria), as do the corresponding forms in the other Gmc. languages. PIE nom. masc. *treis should have produced PGmc. *pri(j)iz > *priz, which yields the OICel. and OHG forms; the OE and OS equivalents show analogical addition of gen. endings to *prī- . The Cognates of OICel. priggja do not show gemination of PGmc. j; probably, then, it is analogical to tvēgja, though some regard it as etymologically correct (e.g. Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §61; see §6.10 above on the Verschärfung). Certainly, OICel. prim is analogical, whereas *primr < *primiz is original (cf. Gk. τέσσαρες, Lat. quattuor) was declined as a consonant-stem. The Gmc. forms (Go. fidwōr, OICel. fjōrīr, OE féower, OS fīuwar, fior, OHG fiur, with PIE *kʷ- > *p- > ō- , §6.5 ad fin.) for the most part show limited inflection. Go. fidwōr, with /ō/ < PIE ō under Verner’s law, is usually uninflected, though once there is a dat. fidwōrim. OICel. fjōrīr is inflected thus:

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m. nom.</td>
<td>þrīr</td>
<td>þrīe</td>
<td>thria, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. acc.</td>
<td>þrīs</td>
<td>þrī ĕ</td>
<td>thria, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. nom./acc.</td>
<td>þrīja</td>
<td>þrū</td>
<td>þrō</td>
<td>þriu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. nom.</td>
<td>þrjār</td>
<td>þrō</td>
<td>þthia, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drīo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. acc.</td>
<td>þrjār</td>
<td>þrō</td>
<td>þthia, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drīo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>þrījē</td>
<td>þrīgja</td>
<td>þrōra</td>
<td>drīo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>þrīm</td>
<td>þrīm(r)</td>
<td>þrīm</td>
<td>drīm</td>
<td>drīn</td>
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<td>drī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. acc.</td>
<td>þrīs</td>
<td>þrī ĕ</td>
<td>thria, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. nom./acc.</td>
<td>þrīja</td>
<td>þrū</td>
<td>þrō</td>
<td>þriu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>þrō</td>
<td>þthia, -ie, -ea</td>
<td>drīo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
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<td>þrīgja</td>
<td>þrōra</td>
<td>drīo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>þrīm</td>
<td>þrīm(r)</td>
<td>þrīm</td>
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<td>drīn</td>
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</table>

That is to say, fjōrīr is declined the same way as the plural of gamall (§9.3), with the same inflections and the same distribution of mono- and disyllabic stems, the remarkable difference being that the distinction between the stems fjōr- and fjōgur- is more pronounced than that between gaml- and gamal-. The development is masc. *feðurēk > *feðurek > *fjōdridār > fjōrīr but neut. *feðurū < *feður > fjōgur (§6.14). The WGMc. forms are usually derived from a stem altered before the application of Grimm’s and Verner’s laws, *kʷetyores ‘4’ (Skt. catvār, Gk. τέσσαρες, Lat. quattuor) was declined as a consonant-stem. The Gmc. forms (Go. fidwōr, OICel. fjōrīr, OE féower, OS fīuwar, fior, OHG fiur, with PIE *kʷ- > *p- > ō-, §6.5 ad fin.) for the most part show limited inflection. Go. fidwōr, with /ō/ < PIE ō under Verner’s law, is usually uninflected, though once there is a dat. fidwōrim. OICel. fjōrīr is inflected thus:

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<tbody>
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<td>fjōgur</td>
<td>fjōrar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>fjōrā</td>
<td>fjōgur</td>
<td>fjōrar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>m. nom.</td>
<td>fjōrīr</td>
<td>fjōgur</td>
<td>fjōrar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acc.</td>
<td>fjōrā</td>
<td>fjōgur</td>
<td>fjōrar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gen.</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td>fjōgurra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dat.</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td>fjōrum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WGmc. ‘4’ is usually uninflected when attributive; when predicative or substantive, in OS and OHG it is inflected as an i-stem, in OE as follows: nom./acc. féow(e)re (with forms in -o in late Northumbrian), gen. féow(e)ra, dat. féow(e)rum. On Go. fidur-, OE fīber-, see below (§10.10).

1. The numerals 1–4 225 ... explaining the loss of PIE t as analogical to the ordinal Pre-PGmc. *péturto-, by dissimilation (cf. Skt. caturthá-).


3. Rarely can OE weak ānān not be explained as a late form of ānānum.

4. Cf. the nom. dual neut. fem. pronoun *tōj (§8.9).

5. The PIE alternation of syllabic and nonsyllabic glides after an initial consonant in sandhi is confined to monosyllables and is commonly referred to as Lindeman’s law: see Lindeman 1965.

6. For extensive references to the literature on Gmc. ‘2’, see Strunk 1992: 194–200.,

7. The unattested Go. fem. gen. probably would have been *twaddjō. Cogwill (1985) argues that Go. neut. twa reflects an uninflected numeral corresponding to Gk. δύο (also reflected in Olc. twan, with analogical addition of the neut. pl. inflection -o of a-stems), and this is possible, though the near-perfect conformity of the paradigm to that of Go. a-/o-stem adjectives is striking.

8. See Ross & Berns 1992: 568–9 for discussion and references, though their solution, deriving tvēgen from *tvai inae, requires some unlikely phonological developments. For another view, see Bammesberger 2010.

9. Girvan (1931: 41–2) asserts that the texts with tvēgen are all Kentish, and in Kentish ā and ē have fallen together, resulting in hypercorrection. It must be said that the texts are not all Kentish, but nearly all the examples outside of Kentish charters occur in just two texts, Ælfric’s Lives of Saints and the Mercian portion of the gloss on the Rushworth Gospels. Girvan is thus surely right that ā cannot be original, pace Ross & Berns 1992: 568.

10. It is true that ē is commonly rounded to ə after w in Northumbrian, but this will not account for Mercian tvēge.

11. So, e.g., Holthausen 1921: §380 Anm. 2. Cf. Prokosch (1939: §99a; so earlier Meringer 1887: 235), assuming the OS and OHG forms were originally like the OE one: “OS [for which he must mean OHG] ē was monophthongized from ai at a time, when the word was still felt as a compound, and ai therefore was in final position; cf. wēnce (by the side of weince), from *wai- ‘woe’.” Krahe & Meid (1969: §61) instead reconstruct for OS tvēne and OHG zwēne an archaic adjectival distributive numeral PIE *dyo-noi comparable to Lat. bīnī ‘twofold’, ternī ‘three at a time’; so earlier Hirt 1931–4: II, §93; see further Seebold 1968: 417. As for Seebold’s own argument, despite the impressive orthographic evidence he presents to show that OE tvēgen originally had a short root vowel, such an interpretation is forbidden by the counterevidence of poetic meter, which he fails to explain convincingly. His argument also demands some questionable assumptions, e.g. the change of WGmc. *-aj- to *-ej- at an early date.

12. To the suffix -īp- Torp & Falk (1909: 255) compare Lat. -āt- in nostrātes ‘ours, of our country’. Krause (1971: 33–4) argues that the perplexing Runic baijōr (Kärstad cliff inscription, ca. 450; ə is uncertain) is a form of ‘both’.

13. To OS bēðia there also occurs a gen. sg. neut. bēdies.

14. Ross & Berns (1992: 573) reconstruct a stem with the pronoun *piuj attached, but whereas this is plainly attached to the stem in OS and OHG, there is no plausible source for it in ON.


17. So the handbooks of ON, as well as Stiles 1985–6: 6.97–104 (with references) and (probably) Voyles 1987: 489; Hirt (1931–4: II, §91) and Pokorny (1959–69: I, 643) instead derive the form from *kʷetwōr, assimilated to *kʷekwōr in Pre-PGmc.

10.2 The numerals 5–10

Numerals above ‘4’ were indeclinable adjectives in PIE, but this changed in Gmc. In general, these numerals are undeclined when they stand before a substantive that they qualify; otherwise (i.e., when modifying a preceding noun or when substantive) they may be inflected as i-stem nouns, ultimately by analogy to ‘3’, though exceptions occur. Contradicting the rule are ON, in which they are categorically indeclinable, and OE, where the inflected forms are like those of ‘4’, except that the nom./acc. of ‘5’ may end in -e, or (chiefly Northumbrian) -o. In Gothic they take inflections only in the gen. and dat., not in the nom. or acc.

5. PIE *pénkʷe (Skt. pāṇca, Gk. πέντε, Lat. quinque) develops to Go. finf, OE OS fíf (§4.11), OHG fiṃf, finf. On the change of kʷ to Gmc. f, see §6.5 ad fin. OIcel. fimm (for expected *fíf: §4.9) is usually explained as analogical to related forms (e.g. fímtán ‘15’, fímti ‘fifth’), though it has also been claimed to be a phonological development: see §6.14 n. 5.

6. PIE *sēks (Skt. sās, Gk. ἕξ, Lat. sex) regularly yields Go. sailhs, Olcel. sex, OE siекс (from seox by palatal umlaut, §4.13), OS OHG sehs. Boutkan (1995b: 376) reconstructs PGmc. *sexse, by analogy to PIE *pénkʷe, in order to explain why the word does not yield PNorse *sēx, but his assumption is that PGmc. final *-s was always voiced.

7. PIE septji (Skt. saptá, Gk. ἕκτα, Lat. septem) lost t in Gmc. before the onset of Grimm’s law, giving (by Verner’s law) *sebun > Go. sibun, OE seofon, and, with raising of i before u in OS and OHG (if not earlier, §4.4), OS sibun, OHG sibun. OIcel. sjau represents -au (borrowed from *āttau ‘8’) attached to the stem *se-. The reason for the loss of t in PGmc. *sibun is probably the analogical influence of the ordinal *sep(t)þi- ‘seventh’, in which haplogy (§12.33 n. 6) may be assumed to have induced its loss, though Sievers (1877–8: 519; likewise Ross & Berns 1992: 586) argues for phonological loss of r between p and m; cf. van Helten 1905–6: 84, and, for an alternative explanation, Voyles 1987: 492–3. The retention of the final nasal consonant (with PGmc. change of final m to n, §6.11) is also attributable to the influence of the ordinal, although other explanations are possible.1

8. PIE *oktō(a) (Skt. aṣṭau, Gk. ὀκτώ, Lat. octō) develops regularly to Go. ahtāu, Olcel. āṭa (§4.9), OE eahta (§4.12), OS OHG ahto. The PIE word is formally a dual (referring to the fingers on two hands, thumbs aside): see Szemerényi 1996: §8.5.2 n. 14 for refs.

9. PIE *néyṇ (Skt. nāvā, Gk. ἐννέα (on which see Sihler 1995: 415–16), Lat. novem (with -m for -n by analogy to decem, but cf. Szemerényi 1960: 171–3)) corresponds to Go. niun (disyllabic, with PGmc. loss of w before u, §6.11), Olcel. niu, OE nigon, OS nigun, OHG niun. These show several peculiarities. Olcel. niu should have become monosyllabic ŉju (cf. sjā ‘see’ < se-a); the reason for the retention of disyllabicity is not known for certain, but perhaps ni- was retained by analogy to forms like ni-tjān ‘19’, ni-tjur ‘ninety years old’.2 PGmc. *niwun- should have lost w (§6.11), with raising of e before u and subsequent vowel contraction in WGmc.3 OHG niun thus appears to be etymological, whereas an inorganic z replaced the lost w in NSGmc., probably to maintain parallelism with disyllabic NSGmc. *texan ‘ten’; cf. OHG niwan ‘9’ (1×), likewise in agreement with OHG zehan (Braune 2004a: §271 Anm. 2). At all events, it is inadvisable to reconstruct Proto-WGmc. *newun (Euler 2013: 126).

10. PIE *dēkŋ (Skt. dāṣa, Gk. δέκα, Lat. decem) is probably less archaic than PIE *dēkŋ (Old Prussian des̄impts, Lith. dėšimt, OCS des̄et, Gk. -kovta).4 It appears to be the latter that corresponds to Go. tainhun, Olcel. tíu (to be explained the same way
as *niu above), OE *tiēn, OS tehān, OHG zehan, since it accounts for the retention of the final nasal consonant (§5.2). The WGmc. forms correspond not to PIE *dēkmo̞t̞ but *dēkom(t), which is unparalleled as such in IE; but cf. PIE *kētim ‘hundred’ < *dēkom(t) and Gk. τριά-κοντα ‘30’, τετρα-κοντα ‘40’, and so forth.\(^5\) OE *tiēn must show umlaut originating in the inflected forms (with i-stem inflections, as elsewhere in Gmc.; so Brunner 1965: §129 Annm. 6); the Mercian equivalent is thus correctly *tēn. The uninflected form without umlaut is reflected in hund-tēon-tīg ‘100’ (§10.5).

1. Final -un could, e.g., be analogical to the ending on ‘10’, which is phonological. Hirt (1931–4: II, §91) actually reconstructs a pre-Gmc. *saŋt, the approach of Ringe 2017: 105 is similar. If these numerals were inflected in PGmc., as they are in Go. and WGmc. under the conditions mentioned above, that would also explain preservation of the final nasal consonant, with analogical extension to uninflcited forms; but the cogent account of the PGmc. numerals and their inflection offered by Stiles (1985–6) renders it much likelier that inflection of the numerals above ‘4’ is a post-PGmc. development.

2. Noreen (1970: §133b, 2) ascribes the noncontraction to a retained degree of stress on the final vowel, Prokosch (1939: §99a) to rhythmical patterns in counting. It is unnecessary to invoke analogy, as Prokosch does, to explain the long vowel, as a stressed antevocalic long vowel would be lengthened (Prokosch’s law, §2.5). The development in nīfān is *ni-u- > *nī-u- (Prokosch’s law) > nī-. The same questions pertain to tiū ‘ten’.

3. On *niwan- rather than *newun-, see §4.4 & n. 2.

4. The problem of which is older is complex and much contested: see Szemerényi 1960: 67–114 for an overview, arguing that the form with -i is older.


10.3 The numerals 11–19

In terms of inflection these are treated the same way as the numerals 5–10, except that no inflected forms of 13–19 appear in OS, probably due simply to lack of attestation (Stiles 1985–6: 7.3). The majority of these are unattested in Go., where numerals are commonly expressed by alphabetic characters, as in Greek (§1.11). The relevant attested forms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>*āinlif</td>
<td>ellifu</td>
<td>enlefan</td>
<td>el(l)evan, -en</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>twalif</td>
<td>tölφ</td>
<td>twelf</td>
<td>tewe-, twi-, twu-lif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ḫrettān</td>
<td>ḫröfīne</td>
<td>thru-, thrū-tein</td>
<td>drīzehan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>fidwōrtaihun</td>
<td>fjórtān</td>
<td>fėowertiēne</td>
<td>fiertein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>fimfaihun</td>
<td>fintān</td>
<td>fiftiēne</td>
<td>fiftēin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>sextān</td>
<td>sextiēne</td>
<td>se(h)tein</td>
<td>sehszehan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>sjaut(j)ān</td>
<td>seofontiēne</td>
<td>sivontein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>āt(t)jān</td>
<td>eahtatiēne</td>
<td>ahto-, ahte-tein</td>
<td>ahtozehan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>nītjān</td>
<td>nīgontiēne</td>
<td>nigentein</td>
<td>niuntzehan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘11’ and ‘12’ stand apart, being formed of ‘1’ and ‘2’ with a suffix *-lib- < *-lib- (by Verner’s law) < PIE *likʷ- (< cf. Gk. λείπω, Lat. linquō ‘leave’), i.e. ‘one, two left’ (after counting on ten fingers). They are thus parallel to Lith. ventiu-lika, dvý-lika, with -lika as the reduced grade of liėkas ‘left over’.\(^1\) Go. *āinlif is attested only as dat. āinlibim, probably reflecting *aini- rather than *aina- (cf. OE xenne < *aïn-, §10.1 supra), as -a- is more often retained (72×) than lost (21×) as a composition vowel in Gothic (Krause 1968: §68), whereas the loss of -i-, though irregular, is more frequent. OE enlefan also
requires *aini-, but either *aini- or *aina- will explain the remaining forms, as those with i-umlaut may have it because of i in the second constituent. In ON there is the development *aina-lib- > *ān-lib- > *ālib- > *ēlib- > *ēlib-... -. 

The numerals ‘13’ to ‘19’ are self-evidently compounds of ‘3’ to ‘9’ plus ‘10’, as Go. Plainly shows. This transparency is maintained in OE (where a plural suffix -e is added, with umlaut from a lost i-stem inflection; cf. Ross & Berns 1992: 591–2) and OHG, whereas OS tein is a rare spelling of OS ‘ten’, showing loss of h and weakening of a to i (Holthausen 1921: §§125, 380 Anm.), probably by analogy to the suffix, bearing less stress. The Olc. forms present a number of difficulties. Various explanations have been offered for the alternation between -tán and -tján, none of them palmary.³ The latter, at least, can certainly be derived from *texan- (note the retention of final -n), the form known from West Germanic. Olc. prettán reflects *prim-tán (§6.14) < *prinz- (cf. Go. prins, §10.1). On fjo(g)urtán beside fjörtán, see Noreen 1970: §160 Anm. The interchange of -tán and -tján in sjaut(j)án is due to dissimilation (ibid., §295 Anm. 1); the reverse dissimilation (sautján) occurs rarely.

1. But see Bednarczuk 1999: 44 on problems with the comparison. Ringe (2017: 229–30) proposes instead to connect the second constituent with PIE *leip-, as in OE be-lifan ‘remain, be left’.

2. Voyles (1987: 489–90), rather implausibly, explains the different endings in Go., ON, and WGmc. as reflecting, respectively, zero suffixation, weak participial *-gt, and a-grade *-ant. He assumes that Go. *ainīl is actually attested, and he attributes the non-application of Verner’s law to secondary stress on the second constituent. Rather, see §6.12 on Go. final fortition.

3. The usual view is that there was a variant of PIE ‘10’ with lengthened grade, and that this will account for both ON -tán and Go. -tēhund in the numerals ‘70’ to ‘100’. But there is no other evidence for such a variant, and the Go. decades are probably to be analyzed differently (see below, §10.5). Moreover, if this explanation were correct it would be peculiar that the distribution of -tán vis-à-vis -tján in the teens is the reverse of the distribution of Go. -tēhund vis-à-vis tīgus in the decades. Szemerényi (1960: 102–3 n. 155) discusses some further proposals and their weaknesses; see also Ross & Berns 1992: 592–3.

10.4 The lower decades, 20–60

In PIE, numerals above ‘19’ were indeclinable nouns taking complements in the genitive. The Gmc. decades show a difference in the formation of the lower and the upper series. The difference was identified by J. Schmidt (1891) as a remnant of a PIE sexagesimal system of counting, Babylonian in origin, an idea even now sometimes encountered, though the prevailing view currently is that this is a peculiarity of Germanic: see, e.g., Szemerényi 1960: 2–3, Mańczak 1985a, and see further Justus 1996, Schuppener 1998, von Mengden 2005. The relevant forms of the lower decades are these:

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Go. ‘20’ to ‘60’ are formed by the relevant integer plus *tigius, a plural *u-stem inflected in four cases, with the integer also inflected to the extent allowed in §§10.1–2, e.g. *prins tiguns (on the basis of which nom. *préis tigius is assumed), dat. twáim tigum.

This *tigius reflects PIE *dekwnt, which, when it acquired inflections in PGmc., would have formed the dat. as athematic *tezundnis, with suffixal accent, and this would result in Go. *tigum. This last form is indistinguishable from a *u-stem dat., and on that basis the word developed *u-stem inflections in Gothic.\(^1\) The Go. forms of these five decades are thus semantically and morphologically transparent. They do not, however, resemble the forms to be reconstructed for PIE, on which see §10.5, where the problem is discussed.

ON *tigir, an *i-stem, corresponds to Go. *tigius. Olcel. tuttugu (early *tottogo) is in origin an acc. of this same *tigir, hence *twanz *tigunz > *twonz-tigunz > *tottogo (cf. the development of *tolf, above), with replacement of i by o/u, probably due to the surrounding vowels, leading to *tottogo.\(^2\) There occurs an alternative form tvítján, like áttján, nítján but apparently multiplicative rather than additive. Later there arise indeclinables *frjáitigi, *frjúrtigi, etc.

In WGmc. the equivalent of Go. *tigius is reduced to a suffix that is indeclinable in OS and OHG (where these decades are substantives taking a complement in the gen.), whereas indeclinables are a late development in OE. Unlike the adj. suffix -ig (§9.3), OE -tig never suffers syncope but is always a syllable even in early verse. OE OS *twéntig perhaps reflects *twanz *tigunz with analogical replacement of the first vowel by the vowel of *’2’; remarkably, OHG has only zweinzug, never *zwéinzug. Seebold’s derivation of the WGmc. forms from *twajintig- (1968: 430–2), though brilliant, is closely tied to his explanation of *’2’ (see above) and faces some of the same difficulties. The reason for the substitution of u for i in OHG -zug is unknown, but comparison is commonly drawn to Olcel. tuttugu.\(^3\)

These decades are constructed the same way in Baltic: cf. Lith. *dvì-dešimt ‘20’, trís-dešimt ‘30’, etc. On the decades in other IE languages, see below.

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1. Because a single case-form may seem insufficient basis for the construction of a *u-stem paradigm, some have supposed that the acc. pl. would also have resembled a *u-stem form (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §99a), but Szemerényi (1960: 41) is right that the correct form would be *tezundnis, which will not serve. He addsuce parallels to the construction of an entire paradigm on the basis of a single form. Euler (2013: 127 n. 258, with further references) misinterprets Szemerényi’s argument and identifies the acc. as the case of origin for the *u-stem forms, which Szemerényi declares to be impossible. Voyles (1987: 490) regards it as ambiguous whether the second constituent of these lower decades was originally an *i-stem or a *u-stem.

2. The alternative construction of a dual *twō-tugù (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §64) leaves the medial geminate unexplained.

3. Streitberg (1896: §167) derives u here from PIE *a, i.e. *if, and Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §64) seem to have something similar in mind when they call -zug a “Schwundstufenbildung.” But there cannot ever have been a laryngeal consonant in PIE *’10’; see also §5.5 ad fin. on u as the reflex of a laryngeal. On OHG -zug see further Lühr 1977: 67.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>twái tigus</td>
<td>tuttugu</td>
<td>twéntig</td>
<td>twéntig</td>
<td>zweinzug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>*préis tigius</td>
<td>þrítig</td>
<td>þrítig</td>
<td>dríz(z)ug</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>fidvör tigius</td>
<td>fjórir tigir</td>
<td>fñower tig</td>
<td>fiuwartig</td>
<td>fiorzug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>fimf tigius</td>
<td>fimm tigir</td>
<td>fñftig</td>
<td>fñftig</td>
<td>fīnzug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>saihs tigius</td>
<td>sex tigir</td>
<td>siextig</td>
<td>seh(s)zug</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) For further references) misinterprets Szemerényi’s argument and identifies the acc. as the case of origin for the *u-stem forms, which Szemerényi declares to be impossible. Voyles (1987: 490) regards it as ambiguous whether the second constituent of these lower decades was originally an *i-stem or a *u-stem.

\(^2\) The alternative construction of a dual *twō-tugù (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §64) leaves the medial geminate unexplained.

\(^3\) Streitberg (1896: §167) derives u here from PIE *a, i.e. *if, and Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §64) seem to have something similar in mind when they call -zug a “Schwundstufenbildung.” But there cannot ever have been a laryngeal consonant in PIE *’10’; see also §5.5 ad fin. on u as the reflex of a laryngeal. On OHG -zug see further Lühr 1977: 67.
10.5 The upper decades, 70–120

The relevant attested forms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>sibuntēhund</td>
<td>sjau tigir</td>
<td>hundseofontig</td>
<td>antisbunta</td>
<td>sibunzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>ahṭauēhund</td>
<td>ātta tigir</td>
<td>hundeahatig</td>
<td>antahtoda</td>
<td>ahto zo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>niuntēhund</td>
<td>niū tigir</td>
<td>hundnigontig</td>
<td>nichonte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>taihuntēhund</td>
<td>tiū tigir</td>
<td>hundfōntig</td>
<td>hund</td>
<td>zehanzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
<td>ellīfu tigir</td>
<td>hundændlæftig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td>hundrād</td>
<td>hundtwelfig</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ON hundrād refers to the ‘great hundred’, i.e. ‘120’, a meaning in use in Scandinavia and Britain throughout the Middle Ages (see, e.g., Goodare 1993); -rað is related to Go. raþjan ‘count’, Lat. ratiō ‘computation’. Although ‘120’ is not attested in Gothic, that a duodecimal ‘hundred’ was in use must not be doubted.1

Except in ON, where tigir has been extended from the lower decades, the difference between the formation of the upper and lower decades is striking, as well as the differences among the languages represented. The origin and development of this series are still intensely debated. It was once the prevailing view (not yet entirely abandoned) that the Go. words should be divided sibun-tēhund, ahṭau-tēhund, etc., and the second constituent derived from a lengthened-grade variant of PIE dékmt ‘10’.2 The chief alternative view, proposed independently by Wheeler (1885: 38) and Brugmann (Brugmann & Osthoff 1878–1910: V, 11–12) and laid out in detail by Brugmann (Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 2.35–40), is that the division should be sibuntē-hund, and so forth.3 Surely the latter analysis is correct: there is no evidence outside of Gmc. for PIE *dékmt; although OE hund- (reduced in OS to and-) is prefixed rather than suffixed, its very mobility within Gmc. identifies the relevant morpheme; it has close parallels in Gk. -κοντα (e.g. ἕβδομ-κοντα ‘60’), Lat. -gintā (e.g. vīgintī ‘20’ < *(d)wi-ḵnt-), and Lith. -dešimt (e.g. tris-dešimt ‘30’); and Go. taithunte-wes (on which see n. 1) shows that -tē belongs to the first constituent of the Go. decades. There is no scholarly consensus how, precisely, -tē arose in the Go. forms, but suggestive parallels in other IE languages are in evidence. Just as the method of forming the decades in Go. changes strikingly starting with ‘70’, so, too, in Greek and Latin the formation changes starting at ‘70’: in Greek and Latin, the decades to ‘60’ add Gk. -κοντα, Lat. -gintā to the corresponding cardinal digit, with a long connecting vowel, e.g. πεντήκοντα, quīnquāgintā ‘50’; starting with ‘70’, however, the digit changes in nature, resembling an ordinal rather than a cardinal, e.g. ἑβδομήκοντα ‘70’ (cf. ἑβδομος ‘seventh’) nōnāgintā ‘90’ (cf. νόνus ‘ninth’). Sommer (1951) showed that the morphological change is an illusion, since initial constituents like ἑβδομ- are not ordinals but phonological variants of cardinals (cf. ἕπτα ‘7’), and Szemerényi (1960) showed that the apparently morphological change has a phonological starting point: the suffix *-kōnt-/-knt- is derived from *dēkmt/dukmnt ‘10’. The initial d of *-dukmnt- (or t, devoiced by k) was lost, with compensatory lengthening of any immediately preceding syllabic segment. The implications of this for Germanic are conveniently summarized in Szemerényi 1996: §8.5.3:

The IE system survives in 70–90, e.g. Goth. sibun-tēhund, ahṭau-tēhund, niuntēhund. These continue the old *septēkōnt, oktōkōnt, neuvōkōnt, from which first arose *seftūnhand, *ahtōhand, *newunhand, preceded in the series by *fimfēhand and *sehskand; this original ending -hand was later adapted to conform with 20 and 100, thus becoming -hund in 30–90 also. Among these tens 60 stood out from the rest and
was modified to *sehsēhund by analogy with 50. The influence of 50 and 60 led to *seftunēhund, but since in 50, 60, and 80 the principle of formation was unmistakably unit + -ēhund, and 7 already had the form *sefin, *seftunēhund became *sefunēhund, *sebuntēhund. The metathesis thus led to a formation which synchronically could only be taken as ‘seven’ + -ēhund, and so led to the series ahtautēhund—niun-tēhund—taihan-tēhund.  

The pattern of changes thus proposed is not simple, but it accounts for the rise of Go. -tē- on a principled basis rather than as a morpheme of arbitrary derivation (cf., e.g., G. Schmidt 1970: 119, Lühr 1977: 64), and it has the particular virtue of explaining why the Go. decads are different starting at ‘70’: -tē- originated in ‘70’ and thus, in counting, was extended only to decads that followed in the course of counting (and see further below).

Although -hund is a suffix in Gothic, it is a prefix in OE and, in the reduced form ant-, in OS, whereas it is missing in OHG. The reason for its loss in OHG is that it was superfluous, the meaning of each upper decad being unambiguous even without hund attached. Explaining the WGmc. upper decads is difficult in part because OE lends no etymological assistance, the suffix -tig of the lower decads having been extended to the upper (see Pijnenburg 1992), with a similar situation in ON. Several hypotheses have been proposed:  

1. Go. *talhunte- is a gen. pl. ‘of decads’, so that talhuntehund means ‘a decad of decads’, and after it were formed sibuntēhund, etc. (Brugmann in Brugmann & Osthoff 1878–1910: V, 16; similarly Voyles 1987: 493–5). Thus, OHG *sibunto (etc.) is also a gen. plural. This hypothesis is objectionable on semantic grounds, in part because -hund cannot mean ‘decad’ (see Szemerényi 1960: 29–31), and at all events the OS forms cannot be genitives.  

2. (2) Go. *sibuntē- is an ordinal, and hence sibuntēhund means ‘seventh decad’ (Holtzmann 1856: 217–18, revived by Rosenfeld 1955c: 385–6). There is again the semantic problem; see further the criticisms of Brugmann (Brugmann & Osthoff 1878–1910: V, 13) and Szemerényi (1960: 31–2, 148–65). (3) WGmc. generalized not the e of PGmc. *fimfēhund, as in Go., but the ô of *ahtōhund, and it is this that is reflected as OS -a, OHG -o (Szemerényi 1960: 33–8). This last is the only very plausible analysis. The OS and OHG endings could be explained instead as borrowed from weak masc. nouns, but such an analysis would leave unexplained the motive for the borrowing, and why these words are invariant rather than inflected like weak nouns. The OS and OHG forms did not remain stable: already in poetry OS sibuntig appears beside antshunta, and the forms given above for OHG are those found in the earliest texts, with replacement of -zo by -zug completed before the end of the 13th century.

As for why the lower decads of Gmc. do not resemble those reconstructed for PIE, once again the explanation of Szemerényi (1960: 39–44) is particularly cogent. After the upper decads were refashioned in the manner described, they appeared to be transparent formations, made up of digit + *-tē- + *-hund-. The lower decads, however, had grown morphologically opaque: the PIE forms may have been *yīkāti ‘20’, *trīkont- ‘30’, *kwetwīkont- ‘40’, *penkʷēkont- ‘50’, *sw(e)skont- ‘60’, which would correspond to PGmc. *wīxand-, *prixfand-, *feðurxand-, *fimfand-, *sexskand-, the last replaced by *sexskand-, as above. The pressure to align the lower with the upper decads, especially starting with ‘20’, would thus have been considerable. The Go. morpheme -tē- that arose in ‘70’ could not be extended to the lower decads because *sexstēhund-, *fimfēhund- would have appeared to represent the ordinals *sexst-, *fimf-, making them confusing constructions, whereas there was no possibility of such confusion in the upper decads (to Go. ahtautēhund cf. ahtuda ‘eighth’). Moreover, there
came into being the requirement that numerals above ‘4’ be inflected, rendering it natural enough that there should arise a transparent combination of an inflected digit and an inflected form of ‘10’.

1. This is evident from the use of *taibhundǣhund* rather than *hund* for ‘100’ and from the rendering *fínf hund*um *taibhundǣweis* brōpré ‘five hundred (decimally) brothers’ for Gk. πέντεκοσίων ἄδελφοις, where *taibhundǣweis*, literally ‘ten-ty-wise’, is the explanatory addition of a glossator. Note that beside *taibhundǣhund* there occurs *taibhunțaibhund*, probably by attraction to the vowel of the initial syllable.

2. This view was defended most substantially by J. Schmidt 1891. For concise discussion and bibliography, see Jellinek 1926: 139–40.

3. For discussion and extensive bibliography, see Szemerényi 1960: 27–44, and for subsequent studies, see Szemerényi 1996: §8.5.3 n. 4, with brief summaries. See now also von Mengden 2010.

4. This last remark is dubitable, for the reasons given above. It is unnecessary to assume a unitary morpheme *tēhund* to explain why -tē- was extended past ‘70’. For support for Szemerényi’s analysis, see H.F. Nielsen 1990. Instead of metathesis in *seƀunēhund*, Ringe (2017: 230–1) assumes that ‘7’ bore a final *-j* in PGmc. (see §10.2 n. 1 above), and when this consonant was lost in ‘7’, *seƀunē-hund-* was reanalyzed as *seƀun-tēhund-* and -tēhund- extended upward in the decads. This is an appealing idea.

5. Szemerényi (1960: 38) argues that -hund was moved because, e.g., WGmc. *sibunței-hund-* (= Go. *sibunțeihund*) was in danger of being interpreted as ‘70 hundreds’.


7. The reponse of Voyles (1987: 494) to this latter objection of Szemerényi’s (“word-final and unstressed OS /i/ could, particularly if the immediately preceding syllable was unstressed as in a form like *sibunto*, often be realized as [a]”) does not persuade, since -a in the OS decads plainly is not an occasional form.

8. It is not plain to the present writer why Szemerényi regards the constructions ‘sixth, fifth decad’ as “impossible!” (1960: 39), but it is certainly the case that if the upper decads exerted pressure to make the first constituents in the lower decads transparent digits, constructing what would look like ordinals would run counter to that purpose. At all events, as remarked above, since -tē- originated in ‘70’, it would be natural enough on the basis of counting for it to be extended to following but not preceding decads.

10.6 The higher cardinals

Gmc. inherited from PIE a word for ‘100’, *kemptóm*, doubtless from earlier *tkm-tkóm < *tkm-dkóm*, i.e. ‘ten tens’. As discussed in §10.5, this was replaced by a compound belonging to the upper series of decads within a sexagesimal system of counting, but PGmc. *xunda* remained as an a-stem neuter noun in two uses:

1. It is used in the pl. to form multiplicatives of ‘100’, e.g. Go. *twā hunda*, OE twā hund (but also twā hundred), OS twē hund (also 'hundred') in the Freckenhorst tax roll), OHG *zwei hund* ‘200’. Compare, however, Olcel. *tvau hundrað* ‘240’.

2. Outside of OHG it may be used per se in WGmc. to mean ‘100’.

PIE had no word for ‘1000’, though the Indo-Iranian and Hellenic words (Skt. sahásram, Avestan hāzāyram, Gk. χίλια) have in common an element PIE *ghéslo-*. The PGmc. word is reconstructed as *þūsund-*, a compound of *þūs- < PIE *tū-s*- (cf. Skt. *tāvās* ‘strong’, Lat. tōtus ‘all’, OE ge-pāf ‘thriving’) and *xund- ‘100’, hence with the meaning ‘strong hundred’. The construction is closely paralleled in Balto-Slavic: cf. Lith. tūkštantis, OCS tyxaštā, on which see Pijnenburg 1989. As ‘100’ was originally uninflected, and PGmc. *-und-* must have lost its connection to *xund*-early, it is perhaps unsurprising that ‘1000’ is inflected differently across the Gmc. languages: it is a jō-stem in Gothic, an i-stem in ON, a neuter a-stem in OE, an indeclinable in OS, and either an ō-stem or a neut. a-stem in OHG.
II. Ordinals and varia

10.7 ‘First’, ‘second’, and ‘third’

Except for the first three, the ordinals are all much alike, and all but ‘second’ and some forms of ‘third’ are declined weak.

‘First’ had no single means of expression in PIE, and so it takes a variety of forms in Gmc. The most archaic is a derivative of the PIE prepositional-adverbial stem *per- (cf. Skt. pāri, Gk. περί ‘around’, Lat. per ‘through’) in weak grade with the suffix *-m-, usually regarded as superlative (§9.11; cf. Gk. πρῶτος ‘leader’, i.e. ‘the foremost’; also OPruss. pirmas, Lith. pirmas ‘first’ < *pf-m-): hence Go. fruma, OE forma, OS formo. In Gmc., at least, the original meaning of this formation was ‘first’ only in the sense ‘the former of two’, as in Gothic. To this a superlative meaning ‘first’ was formed by the addition of the suffix *-ist-, hence Go. frumists, OE fyremst. The same root, without the suffix *-m-, could be used with the superlative suffix *-isto-: hence, OIcel. fyrstr, OE fyrest, OS furist may be either strong or weak, whereas OHG furisto, like other superlatives in that language, is always weak. There is also an OE (Anglian) forðmest, formally a superlative to forþ ‘forth’, on the formation of which see §9.11. A WGmc. form is the superlative to PGmc. *aírī ‘early’, OE ð ērest, OS ð ērist, OHG ð ēristo, the last declined only weak.

‘Second’ is Go. anþar, OIcel. annarr, OE ð ēder, OS ð ēdar, ð ēdar, andar, OHG ander, taking only strong inflections. It is identical to Skt. ántara-, OPruss. antars, Lith. aðt(a)ras ‘other’, formed to the root *an- (cf. Skt. anyá- ‘other’) by the addition of a comparative suffix *-ter-, as in Lat. alter ‘second’ (formally a comp. to alius ‘other’), Gk. ἄετερος ‘second’. In OE the comparative æfterra is also used in this sense.

‘Third’ is the weak Go. þridja, OIcel. þriði, OE þridda, OS thriddio, OHG dritt(i)o, reflecting PIE *trī-tī-, reflected also in Avestan ǝrītya-., Lat. tertius.

10.8 ‘Fourth’ to ‘twelfth’

These bear weak inflections and are formed by the addition of PIE *-t- to the equivalent cardinal, as in Skt. ǝśṭhá-, Gk. ἕκτος, Lat. sextus ‘sixth’. This t-suffix originated in *dekkt-ös, reanalyzed as *dekht-tós, and in the decades containing this morpheme as a suffix, whence it could spread to the lower ordinals in some IE languages, and in ‘fifth’ and (probably) ‘sixth’ already in PIE: see Sihler 1995: 425–33. In Gmc. the suffix was extended to all ordinals above ‘third’, being added to the normal full-grade form of the cardinal. These ordinals are not well attested in Gothic, and in fact not all the Go. forms given below are attested in precisely this form. The relevant forms are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>fjórði</td>
<td>fiordi</td>
<td>fiordo</td>
<td>feordo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>fimfta</td>
<td>fimfta</td>
<td>fifto</td>
<td>fimfto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>saíhsta</td>
<td>fífta</td>
<td>fiordo</td>
<td>fiordo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>sjaundi</td>
<td>sieti</td>
<td>sivondo, sivotho</td>
<td>síbunto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>ahtuda</td>
<td>atíti</td>
<td>sivondo, sivotho</td>
<td>sivondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>niunda</td>
<td>niundi</td>
<td>ahtodo</td>
<td>ahtodo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>tälifu</td>
<td>tiundi</td>
<td>tehando, tegotho, -atho</td>
<td>zehanto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>ellifti</td>
<td>enlefta</td>
<td>elifito, ellefta</td>
<td>einifito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>tölfti</td>
<td>twelfta</td>
<td>zwelifto</td>
<td>zwelifto</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Go. *ahtuda* should perhaps be *ahtūda* (Szemerényi 1960: 89; cf. Stiles 1985–6: 8.12). The Go. forms (except perhaps for *ahtuda*: see §6.12 on Thurneysen’s law) show the effect of Verner’s law except where PIE *t* came into contact with a voiceless stop, whereas it is ambiguous whether OIcel. -dur- reflects PGmc. *d* or *p*. In OE, wherever *d* (< PGmc. *d*) might have been expected on the basis of comparison to Gothic, instead is found the reflex of PGmc. *p*. Originally (already in in PIE?) the suffix vowel bore the accent and all other syllables were in the reduced grade, e.g. *kʷtūr-ó-* ‘fourth’ (cf. *kʷtwor- ‘four’), so that Verner’s law should be expected to have produced *d* from suffixal PIE *t*, as in Gothic. However, when the reduced-grade stems were replaced by the cardinals in their normal form, two possibilities may have arisen: (1) there may have existed doublets, alternately with original, suffixal accent and accent as normally placed on the cardinal, or (2) if these ordinals were accepted the same way as the corresponding cardinals, in some instances the vowel preceding the dental suffix would have been accented (e.g. *sępěntúrós-, *oktíó(t)úros-*), in others not (*nēęntúrós-, *děk̩ntúrós-).*1 In either event, in PGmc. there would have resulted alternation between *p* and *d* under Verner’s law, and there may be assumed later generalization of one or the other alternant in the individual languages.2 OS has forms like those of OE, but also alternative forms like those of Gothic. OHG *feordo* and *ahido* agree with the OE forms, but *sibunto, niunto, zehanto* seem to show extension of *-t* from *finfio, sehsto, einfīfo, zweltīfo*. OE *nigda, tēθa, OS niguda, tegotho* (the last with analogical -*g*) show the NSGmc. loss of *n* before an originally voiceless fricative (§4.11).

1. Stiles (1985–6: 8.7–11, with references) would date the refashioning of ‘fourth’ and ‘eighth’ with accent on the syllable before *-tuo- prior to the application of Verner’s law, but he is unable to explain why just these two should have differed in this respect.

2. Compare the explanation of Prokosch (1939: §100), that “the rhythm of counting led to anomalous accent changes.” See also Bammesberger 1986b for another explanation. Possibly OE has extended the suffix of *ahtoda* to the other forms with -*d* (so Euler 2013: 130), but this alone is not sufficient explanation if Go. *ahtuda* has *d* by Verner’s law rather than Thurneysen’s.

### 10.9 The higher ordinals

The only higher ordinal attested in Go. is dat. *finfštaihundin* ‘fifteenth’. That is to say, the word is formed like the cardinal *finfštaihun*, but with ordinals rather than cardinals as constituents, though only the latter varies inflections. Compare Gk. πέμπτος και δέκατος, Lat. quintusdecimus ‘fifteenth’ (cf. pentekaidēka, quindecim ‘15’), in which both constituents are also ordinals. The earliest OHG texts follow this pattern in the teens, as well, with forms like *finfštazehanto* ‘fifteenth’, *sibuntozehanto* ‘seventeenth’; beginning with Notker there appear new formations like *finfžēndo*, agreeing with OIcel. *fimtándi*, OE *ffífēθa*, i.e. compounds comprising a cardinal and an attached ordinal suffix, as in the lower ordinals (and with loss of *n* in OE, as in *tēθa*); no ordinals above ‘eleventh’ are attested in OS.

For the ordinal decades, Olcel. has *tuttugandi* ‘twentieth’, *pritugandi* ‘thirtieth’, and so forth, with -*ug*- extended from ‘20’ and ‘twentieth’, though no ordinal ‘hundredth’ or higher is recorded in ON. These forms coöccur with forms in *onde*, i.e. *-undi*, apparently attesting to the occurrence of, beside normal reflexes of PIE *děk̩nt*, NGmc. reflexes of the variant *děkom* found in WGmc. (§10.2; cf. Szemerényi 1960: 102–3 n. 155). Here -*undi* is cognate with OE *-oda*, as in *tvěntigoda, prtipōdoga*, etc., with variants *-teoda, -teogoda, -tiogoda, -tigpa*. That is, the ending underwent the
10.9 The higher ordinals

NSGmc. development *-anþ- > *-āþ-.

Synthetic ordinals for numbers higher than the decades are unrecorded in OE, for which circumlocutions are used (see Brunner 1965: §328). That there actually is a semantic relation between ordinals and superlatives (cf. Sihler 1995: 427) is demonstrated by OHG zweinzugōsto, dzīrzugōsto, etc., with variants -zug-, -zig-, -zeg-, -zag-; in ON, too, -tugandi later appears as -tugti, and finally -tugasti. OHG ‘hundredth’ is zehanzugōsto; ‘thousandth’ is unrecorded.

1. The analyses of Cowgill (1970: 120) and Bammesberger (1986) are different. It may well be correct that ON -andi is analogous to tiandi, but this leaves -andi unexplained. Bammesberger assumes a word *tegung- with the meaning ‘decad’. It is also possible that *-tug- throughout the decades arose by analogical extension to the following ordinals (in counting) of the desinence of NSGmc. *nīþ- ‘ninth’; such an explanation, at all events, seems necessary to account for OS tegotha beside OE tôoda.

2. On the relation of ordinals to superlatives cf. also the remark of Meier-Brügger (2003: 236): “In Proto-Indo-European, and naturally also later, ordinal numbers had the function of signaling the end of a series, e.g. ‘We traveled for nine days. But on the tenth…’.”

10.10 Varia

Although distributive numerals are usually expressed by analytic forms in the Gothic language, there are some synthetic distributive numerals, fem. acc. tweihnaím ‘two each’. OE has the distributives anlēpig ‘one each’ (cf. ON ein-hleyp ‘single, unmarried’, OS ēnlōpe ‘single, alone’, ON hlaupa ‘leap’) and getwinne ‘two each’. OHG has the distributives einluzze, zviske, driske, feoriske; cf. OS twisk ‘double’.

Multiplicatives are formed by the addition of PGmc. *-falōz to the cardinals, hence, e.g., Go. āinfalbps, Olcsl. einfaldr, OE āneald, OHG einfalt ‘onefold, simple’; note also Go. fidurfalbps ‘fourfold’ (not fidwōr- < *křétw-r-; cf. Skt. cātur), and cf. OE fōer-riče ‘tetrachy’.

An older type of multiplicative is represented by Olcsl. twennr ‘twofold’, OE twinn ‘double’ (cf. be twéonum ‘between’) < *twiznāz (cf. MHG zwirn ‘two-cored thread’), comparable to Lat. bīnī ‘twofold’ < *duīsnō. Cf. further Olcsl. þrennr, OE þrēn ‘threefold’.

A fraction derivable from PGmc. is Go. halba, OE healf, OS half, OHG halb ‘½’; with a fem. suffix, ON uses hált (cf. OFris. helfte, halft) or helming, masc. helmingr < *halbing-. Older and used only in compounds is OE OS sāmi-, OHG sāmi- ‘half’ = Skt. sāmi-, Gk. ịμ-, Latin sēmi-. Smaller fractions are formed in ON with a masc. suffix, as in þríð(j)ungr ‘⅓’, fjórðungr ‘⅔’, sétungr ‘⅗’, and so forth. OE has the fraction twědē, twēdēl ‘⅖’; cf. OS twēdī ‘⅖’.

Most adverbial numerals, answering the question ‘how often?’, are expressed analytically with a cardinal and a reflex of PGmc. *sīþ- ‘time’, but ON has tysvar, tvísvar ‘twice’ < *twis-wōz, also prysvar, prísvar ‘thrice’; to these correspond OE twiwa, priwa, OS tviwa, thwī(w)o, OHG zwiro(r). For ‘thrice’ and upward OHG attaches -stunt (an adverbial form of stunta ‘time’) to cardinals, e.g. driotstunt ‘thrice’. Note also OE ūne ‘once, one time’, rarely gen. ūnes, like OS ūnes, OHG ēnes.

ON forms substantives referring to groups by attaching a fem. suffix -d or -t to a cardinal, thus filt ‘pentad’, sét ‘sextet’ (< *sex(s)t-), sjaund ‘septet’ (with the nasal of PGmc. *sebun preserved), þritug ‘group of thirty’, etc., but also tigr ‘decad(e)’ (sg. equivalent to Go. pl. tīgus, §10.4). Compare the ON abstract nouns eining ‘unity’, freinung ‘duality’, þrenning ‘trinity’.

On ‘both’, see §10.1.
1. Stiles (1985–6: 7.15–16) explains that Gothic has eliminated the variation under Verner’s law by extending the voiced d of fidwōr to fidur-. Euler (2013: 126) takes the cooccurrence of LWS fyþer- and Anglian feofur- to require the reconstruction of WGmc. *feofwari. However, the latter OE form shows back mutation, which fails in WS after non-labial consonants (§4.8), and of course WGmc. eu would produce a long diphthong in OE.
CHAPTER 11

Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions

11.1  Monomorphemic adverbs

Gmc. inherited from PIE a number of adverbs of time and place that are probably to be regarded as monomorphemic in PGmc. Adverbs of this sort in Go. include (for time) áir ‘early’, hwan ‘when’, þan ‘then’, ju ‘already’, nu ‘now’ and (for place, without motion) hér ‘here’, hvar ‘where’, þar ‘there’, faúr ‘in front’. Yet certain morphological components are recognizable. These adverbs of place end in a loc. -r (cf. Lith. kūr ‘where’, Skt. tár-hi ‘at that time, then’), and their initial consonantism is paralleled in related words: h- in hér reflects the I/here deictic particle PIE *e- (PIE > PGmc. *a(j)iri > Lat. tardo ‘day, morning’, as in Avestan ayar ‘day’ and Gk. ἄριστον ‘breakfast’). Go. hvar, þar can then be seen to contain a clitic particle PIE *ne (a form of pronominal *eno-, as in Gk. κεῖνος ‘that (over there)’ < *e-eno-s), as in Gk. (Thessalian) ὅνε, τόνε, τάνε ‘that’, Lat. dēnique ‘at last’, dōnec ‘until’. Go. þaer is generally assumed to be a locative (PIE *ajeri > PGmc. *a(j)iri) of a heteroclitic stem meaning ‘day, morning’, as in Avestan ayaro ‘day’ and Gk. ἀπόστολον ‘breakfast’. Go. naih, NHG noch ‘still, yet’ is a compound of nu ‘now’ and PIE *-kwe > Lat. -que. Monomorphemic adverbs include adverbial particles like Go. interrogative -u, negative ni, affirmative ja, and others, for which the handbooks should be consulted.

In the other Gmc. languages, where preserved, these adverbs have developed regularly for the most part, with lengthening of final vowels when stressed (e.g. OIcel. nú, OE nū, geō ‘formerly’, also spelt iū) and loss of final -n in OIcel. þá ‘then’. But WGmc. gives evidence of some alternative forms, including PGmc. *xwanai, *pânai (OE hwonne, þonne, OHG (h)wanne, wenne, denne) and WGmc. *xeðr, *þér (OE hwær, þær, OS thær, OHG (h)war, dār), with WGmc. lengthening.

11.2  The composition of adverbial stems

Most early Gmc. adverbs recognizably comprise more than one morpheme. One recurring suffix is PGmc. -ai (cf. *xwanai, *pânai above), indicating location, as in Go. inna, OIcel. inni, OE inne, OS inna, OHG inna- ‘within’; also Go. afa ‘behind’, faíra ‘ahead’, iupa ‘above’, úta ‘outside’, dalafã ‘below’, and cognates. Another is PGmc. -nã (as in Lat. superne ‘(from) above’), indicating motion from a place, as in Go. aífrana ‘from behind’, OIcel. aífran ‘afterward, again’, OE æftan ‘behind’, OE ðæftan ‘behind’, OS ðæftan ‘eventually’, OHG ðæftan ‘(from) behind’; also Go. innana ‘(from) within’, ðættana ‘from
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without’, etc., and cognates. A suffix restricted to Gothic is -b < PIE *-te (as in Gk. πό-
σι ‘whither’ < *πό-τες; ὅλλο-ς ‘elsewhither’), denoting motion to a place, as in Go. aljap ‘in another direction’, dalap ‘down’; elsewhere in Gmc., motion to a place is de-
noted by the bare adverbial stem (perhaps originally acc.: Cercignani 1980b: 181), e.g.
OE pider ‘thither’, út ‘out’, niðor ‘to below, down’. In PGmc., it is generally assumed,
the ablative of adjectives could be used adverbially. The very common adverbial suffix
PGmc. *-ê in alternation with *-ô is commonly said to reflect an o-stem ablative sg.
infection PIE *-êd ~ *-ôd; the former is used in Anglo-Frisian, the latter elsewhere,
e.g. Go. ga-leikō, OIcel. līka, OE gelīce, OFris. līke, OS gi-līko, OHG gi-līhho ‘like-
wise, alike’. This suffix was subsequently used to form adverbs from words other than
adjectives, e.g. Go. aftarō ‘behind’, aûflō ‘perhaps, surely’, sîmlē ‘once’, and so forth. It
was added to the suffix PGmc. *-ôr- (by Verner’s law related to the PIE prepositional
root *ter-, as in OIr. tar, Lat. trans ‘across’, Go. pairh ‘through’) to denote, in Gothic,
motion to a place (-dĕr) or from a place (-dō), as in huadrō ‘whither’, huadró ‘whence’,
jāindrō ‘thither’, jāindrō ‘thence’, a distinction perhaps originating in Gothic (certainly
not a characteristic of PIE), since it cannot be traced elsewhere: cf., e.g. OE pider
‘thither’ but þanon ‘thence’ (with PGmc. *-né, as above).

Of these adverbial endings, certainly PGmc. *-ê ~ *-ô was the most productive: cf., e.g., OIcel. snemma ‘early’, harola ‘very’, OE fægre ‘beautifully’, hearde ‘severely’,
OS lango ‘for long’, hliuttro ‘plainly’, OHG snello ‘quickly’, mahtigo ‘mightily’. But some more distinctive suffixes were also in use to form adverbs of manner or quali-
Bity to major class words. For this purpose Go. attaches to adjectives the suffix -ba, not
subject to Thurneysen’s law (§6.12), of uncertain derivation and unparalleled anywhere
as an adverbial ending.3 In such formations the adjective usually retains the mark of its
original stem class, e.g. bairhtaba ‘brightly’ (a-ô-stem), sunjaba ‘truly’ (ja-ô-stem),
anu-lāugnība ‘secretly’ (i-stem), but hardaba beside hardūba ‘grievously’ (u-stem).Oth-
ewise, adverbs of this sort are commonly formed by compounding, the most pre-
valent added morpheme being the stem of PGmc. *līka ‘body’ (Go. leik, OIcel. lik,
etc.), which is also used to form adjectives. Thus, on the commonest view, the meaning
of Go. adj. samaleiks ‘alike’ may be assumed to have developed from *‘having the
same body’, of liubaleiks ‘near’ from *‘having a dear body’ (thus explaining, in the latter
instance, why the suffix appears to be meaningless: cf. OIcel. ljúfr, OE lēof (etc.)
‘dear’: but see further §§8.13 n. 7). In the only Go. adverbs with PGmc. *līka- it bears a
prefix rather than being compounded with an adjective: ana-leikō ‘in like manner’, ga-
leikō ‘like’, and otherwise it is compounded only with adjectives. The suffix is com-
moner in WGmc. (OE -lice, OS -līko, OHG -līhho, with the ablative endings identified
above) and in ON, where the morpheme has been altered to -liga,4 with the alternant
-lEGA. In NWGmc. the suffix may be attached to parts of speech other than adjectives
(e.g. ON höfliga, to höf ‘moderation’, OE werlice to wer ‘man’, OHG gomilīhho
to gomo ‘man’), showing that Gothic reflects an older state of affairs.

It was pointed out above that PIE locative and ablative case-forms could be used
adverbially. The nom./acc. sg. neuter is so used in various IE branches, including Gmc.,
e.g. Go. OS OHG fulu, ON fjól-, OE (Northumbrian) feolu ‘much, very’ (cf., with o-
grade, Gk. neut. πολύ and, with (probably) weak grade, Skt. purú ‘very’), Go. letil
‘little’, OIcel. mikít ‘greatly’. Other case-forms may also serve as adverbs, e.g. Go. gen.
allis ‘wholly’, nauðs ‘by night’, OE dat. pl. wundrum ‘marvellously’: the grammars of
the individual languages should be consulted for other examples and cases.

PGmc. *zôdaz ‘good’ forms its adverb with a different stem, Go. waila, ON vel,
OE wêl, OS OHG wela, wola, which shares its root with the verb Go. wiljan ‘wish,
want”; cf. Skt. vára- ‘wish’. To OE adj. lītel ‘little’ corresponds the unextended stem in adv. līf (beside lītel), from the i-stem adj. līf.

1. To Go. faíra cf. Gk. παρέ; thus, perhaps, PGmc. *-ai reflects *-a with the addition of the deictic particle *-i (identical to the locative ending), as in *upér-i > Skt. upārī, Olcel. yfir ‘over’ (cf. Gk. ἄνω). For a different analysis of such pronouns, deriving them from PIE instruments, see Hollifield 1980: 145–6.

2. This assumption is problematic, since the evidence for a PIE alternant *-ēd is poor. Kieckers (1960: 94) derives Go. -ē from PIE instr. -ē and assumes that the vowel somehow became trisomic in Germanic. Boutkan (1995b: 379–81), in agreement with A.W. Jones (1979: 341–7), instead explains the ending as a Gmc. innovation, with the ablative final dental added to an instr. ending.

3. Krahe & Meid (1969: III, §116) suggest that the suffix originated as a case-form of adjectives in PIE *bhō-, *bhā-, but that there were Gmc. adjectives bearing this suffix remains to be shown. Kluge (1926) identifies none.

4. The change is most likely a folk etymological one, due to the resemblance to adjectives like auðigr ‘wealthy’ (perhaps through reanalysis of some such form as *fā-likr (later fā-likr ‘reserved’) to *fāl-likr), given the especially close resemblance in the nom./acc. sg. neut. (auðikt); see Noreen 1970: §248 Anm. 4.

5. Noreen (1970: §145 Anm. 4) regards the alternant -lega as mysterious, but the influence of adjectives like auðigr on the suffix (see the preceding note) adequately explains the matter, since adjectives like auðigr have the alternant auðegr, due to mixture of the PGmc. suffixes *-īz- and *-az-.

### 11.3 Regular comparison of adverbs

The comparative of adverbs was formed in PIE with the same suffix *-is used with comparative adjectives, but left uninfl icted: IE examples are given in §9.10. Forms in *-is are thus to be regarded as examples of the nom./acc. sg. neuter being used adverbia  lly (cf. Go. filu, etc. above), since these cases were uninfl icted in consonant-stem neuters (see, e.g., §7.38). The suffix *-is (like the identical nom. sg. masc. i-stem noun inflection) is lost altogether in WGmc., leaving (often) only unumlaut of the root vowel to mark comparative forms, though very commonly there is analogical replacement of such forms with forms bearing an overt inflection. Examples are Go. háuhsis ‘higher’ (to háuhaba), Go. nēhuis (to nēhoe), Olcel. nar ‘nearer’, Olcel. lengr, OE OS leng ‘longer’, Olcel. betr (with unumlaut after a light syllable, there being no paradigm for the adverb; cf. §4.7), OE OS bet ‘better’; ŌS hald, OHG halt ‘more’. Surviving comparatives of this sort are few outside of Gothic, esp. in OHG. More commonly the uninfl  ced corresponding adj. suffix *-ōz is used, which, refl ected as -ōr, is added in OHG even to stems that form the comparative adj. with -iro, e.g. adj. reiniro ‘cleaner’, festiro ‘ﬁrmer’, but adv. reinōr, fastōr. Examples are Go. sniumundōs ‘more hastily’, alfāleikōs ‘otherwise’; Olcel. optar, OE oftir ‘more often’; Olcel. vissuligar, OE gewislicor ‘more certainly’; Olcel. djūpar, OE dēopor, OS diopor, OHG tiwfōr ‘deeper’.

Correspondingly, the superlative is formed with uninfl  icted *-ist or *-ōst, depending for the most part on which form of the comparative is used. The former is less frequent. There are just two examples in Gothic (and none of *-ōst): frumist ‘ﬁrst of all’, máist ‘at most’ (to mikilaba). Other examples include Olcel. snimst, snemst ‘soonest’, næst ‘most nearly’, lengst ‘longest’, OE hīhest ‘highest’, ārest ‘at ﬁrst’, tylgest ‘most ﬁrmly’, OS OHG ērist ‘at ﬁrst’. Outside of Gothic, commoner is *-ōst, as in Olcel. viðast ‘most widely’, opast ‘most often’, OE faegrost ‘most beautifully’, gear(w)ost ‘most certainly’, OS wōdost ‘most widely’. In OHG, once again, the comp. of the adj. and adverb may have different sufﬁxes, e.g. hartōst ‘hardest’, langōst ‘longest’ (adj. hertisto, lengisto).
As remarked in connection with adjectives derived from adverbs, some adverbs formed the superlative in PIE with the suffix *-mH₂- (see the examples in §9.11). No such adverbs survive as such in Gmc., though a number of adjectives derived from them do. In addition, in OE some superlatives with double suffixation *-m-ist- may be used both as adjectives and, when endingless, adverbs, e.g. innemest ‘innermost’, ufemest, yfemest ‘uppermost’.

11.4 Suppletive comparison

As with Gmc. adjectives, a few adverbs form the comp. and superl. degrees with a stem different from that of the positive (though no suppletive comp. or superl. forms happen to be preserved in Go., except for haldis ‘rather’, to which no positive or superl. is attested):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>gjarna ‘gladly’</td>
<td>georne</td>
<td>gerno</td>
<td>gerno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>heldr, gjarnara</td>
<td>geornor</td>
<td>hald</td>
<td>halt, gernör</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>heldr, gjarnara</td>
<td>geornost</td>
<td></td>
<td>gernöst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>illa ‘badly’</td>
<td>yfle</td>
<td>ubilo</td>
<td>ubilo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>verr</td>
<td>wiers</td>
<td>wirs</td>
<td>wirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>ve(r)st</td>
<td>wierst, wierrest</td>
<td>wirst</td>
<td>wirst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>litt ‘(a) little’</td>
<td>lýtle, lýt</td>
<td>lēs</td>
<td>luzilo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>minnr, miðr</td>
<td>lēs</td>
<td>min</td>
<td>minnest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>minzt</td>
<td>lǣst, lǣsest</td>
<td>mēst</td>
<td>meist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>mjǫk ‘much’</td>
<td>micle</td>
<td>mikilu</td>
<td>mih(h)il</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>meir(r)</td>
<td>mā</td>
<td>mēr</td>
<td>mēr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>mest</td>
<td>mǣst</td>
<td>mēst</td>
<td>mēst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>upp ‘upward’</td>
<td>ūp, upp</td>
<td>up</td>
<td>uf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>ofar(r), ofarmeir(r)</td>
<td>ufor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>ofa(r)st</td>
<td>ufemest, yfemest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pos.</td>
<td>vel ‘well’</td>
<td>wēl</td>
<td>wel(a), wala, wola</td>
<td>wel(a), wola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comp.</td>
<td>betr</td>
<td>bet, sēl</td>
<td>bet, bat</td>
<td>baz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superl.</td>
<td>bezt, bazt</td>
<td>bet(e)st, best, sēlest</td>
<td>bezt, best</td>
<td>bezist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.5 Prepositions

Most Gmc. prepositions may be regarded as monomorphemic, but a small amount of compositionality can be discerned. Some of the same PIE morphemes identifiable as adverb suffixes in PGmc. can be detected in prepositions, some of which are in fact identical to deictic adverbs. The umlaut in Olcel. yfir ‘over’ demands PGmc. *ubiri < *uberī = Skt. upāri, prompting the assumption of a suffix *-i (identical to a locative inflection, §7.2) missing from OE ofer, Gk. ὑπέρ; cf. OHG ubari, ubiri beside ubar. Moreover, *-er- in PGmc. *uber(i), is suffixal (cf. the remarks about -r in Go. huar, þar, §11.1): compare NWGmc. *upp- (a geminated form of *ub-: §6.9) in ON upp ‘up’, OE æp, upp, and so forth. Olcel. fyr(r), fyrī(r) ‘before’ is perhaps in part formed similarly (cf. OS OHG furī), though the corresponding adverb in the compar. degree (*fur-iz) has...
probably played a role, with confusion on semantic grounds. WGmc. *umbi (OE *ymb(e), OS OHG umbi ‘about, around’ is usually equated with Gk. ἀμφί ‘around’, although retention of the final high vowel after the heavy syllable (cf. ON um(b)) presents a difficulty. It could be that folk etymology of the desinence as equivalent to the prep. *bī led to retention of the vowel, due to the partial overlap in meaning, though Klingenschmitt (1987: 187 n. 59) argues that the cause must be phonological rather than analogical, due to retention anteconsonantally in sandhi, given the similar retention in OS OHG āno ‘without’, OS endi, OHG enti ‘and’ < *andi. See also §5.2 n. 2 on this.

Adverbs of place from which, bearing the PIE suffix *-nē (§§1.4, 6.9), may also be used as prepositions, often with change of meaning, as in Go. ūtana weihsis ‘out of the village’, OIcel. útan frænda ráð ‘without the advice of kin’, OE innan þām hūse ‘inside the house’. Go. adverbs in -þrō may be used the same way, as in ni waihts ist ûtaprō mans ‘there is nothing from outside a person’.

11.6 Conjunctions

Most conjunctions are compounds, at least in origin, and in Gothic their constituency is usually transparent, e.g. þáuhjabái ‘even though’ (cf. þáuh ‘then’, jabái ‘if’), swēþpāh ‘indeed, however’ (cf. swē ‘thus’ and OE seþēah). Even some of the more basic conjunctions, however, can be analyzed morphologically. Several contain a reflex of the PIE pronominal stem *jo- (see §8.14), e.g. Go. jah ‘and, also’ (with -h = Lat. -que), jaþþē ‘whether, or’ (with instr. þē, §8.10), jabái ‘if’ (OIcel. OS ef, OE gif, OHG ibu; cf. Go. nibái ‘if not’). Although the derivation of the first constituent of Go. aíþþáu ‘or’ (OIcel. eða, OE oððe, OS ettho, OHG ed(d)o) is uncertain, it plainly contains Go. þáu, one meaning of which is ‘or’, as in Dāupeins Iohannis uzuh himina was þáu uzuh mannam ‘Was John the Baptist from heaven or from humans?’. The PGmc. adverb *þana ‘then’ (§11.1) forms the basis for a number of conjunctions of varying transparency, including Go. aþþan ‘but, however’, þannu ‘therefore’, þandē ‘inasmuch as, when, as long as, until’, OE þenden ‘while’. The compositional conjunctions of Gothic tend not to have precise parallels elsewhere in Germanic. The number of conjunctions in ON is decidedly curtailed, affording no more than ten, whereas WGmc. shows a number of innovations, e.g. OE sidõan ‘after’ < *sīþ þon, swylce ‘as if’, and oþþær ‘until’ (OS unt(h)at, OHG untaz), though the last was probably not yet univerbated in early OE poetry (see Fulk 2007: 168–71). But the forms taken by conjunctions are, for the most part, more properly the study of etymology and lexicology than of morphology.
CHAPTER 12

Verbs

I. The Proto-Indo-European Background of the Germanic Verb

12.1 Categories and aspects of verbs in Proto-Indo-European

Verbs in late PIE apparently were conjugated in two voices (active, middle), four, or possibly five, moods (indicative, subjunctive, optative, imperative, perhaps injunctive), two tenses (present, preterite), and three aspects (as explained below). Verbs were inflected for three persons (first, second, third) in three numbers (singular, dual, plural).

PIE verbs may be classified as either athematic or thematic. The terms have the same meaning they have in regard to nouns (§7.1): between the verb stem and the inflection there appeared in a great many verbs (though not in all forms of such) a connecting vowel, referred to as the ‘theme vowel’ (or ‘thematic vowel’), which might be either e or its ablaut alternant o. For example, *bher- ‘bear’ takes the theme vowel e in pres. 2 pl. *bher-e-te > Gk. φέρετε but the theme vowel o in pres. 3 pl. *bher-o-nti > Gk. φέροντι. As for athematic verbs, for example, to the stem *hēs- ‘be’ occur the forms pres. 1 sg. *hēs-mi > Skt. ásmi and 3 sg. *hēs-ti > Skt. ásti, Gk. ἔστι, Lat. est, without any theme vowel. The personal inflections in the two types differed only in the first person singular present, where the thematic verbs have *-ō (from theme vowel o plus h₂), as in Gk. φέρω ‘I bear’, whereas the athematic verbs have *-mi, as in Gk. τίθημι. For this reason the athematic verbs are sometimes referred to as mi-verbs. In thematic verbs the stem was invariant in its root vocalism, whereas in athematic verbs the rule was full grade in the singular and weak grade in the dual and plural of the present indicative, with accent on the inflection. Thus, for example, full-grade *hēs- in 3 sg. *hēs-ti ‘is’ (Skt. ásti, Gk. ἔστι) contrasts with zero-grade *hēs- in 2 pl. *hēs-té in Skt. sthá and 3 pl. *hēs-onti in Skt. sánti.

As regards aspect, PIE verbs may be classified as either stative or eventive. When stative, verbs take the form of the perfect, which denotes a state precipitated by past developments of present import. For example, the perfect construction “She has lived in Aarhus ever since” refers to present residence due to a move made formerly, and “I have eaten” refers to an implied present situation (“I am not in need of a meal”) due to past action. When eventive, a verb could take the form either of the imperfective, not indicating completion of the process or quality indicated by the verb’s semantics, or of the perfective, indicating completion. The basic stem of the imperfective form is the present, whereas the basic stem of the perfective is the aorist. It should be noted that although the aorist denotes completion, it leaves unspecified an event’s aspectual qualities (durative, iterative, etc.), whereas event structure is often indicated in present stems by means of affixes (see §12.3). Affixes also characterize the aorist stem, not on an
aspectsal but a historical basis. The oldest and simplest aorist stems are the root-stems, which might alternate between full grade in the active singular, elsewhere reduced grade. Alternatively, *-s- might be added to the ablating, athematic stem to form the so-called sigmatic aorist, with lengthened grade in the active singular (probably: see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.2.1). A third alternative is that a thematized stem, with reduced grade of the root, might be used with or without reduplication to form the aorist stem.

PIE verb morphology and inflection depended to a remarkable extent on semantics (or, more precisely, Aktionsart),\(^6\) correlating to whether a verb was fundamentally imperfective (i.e., not expressing completion of an action, hence atelic; cf. Gk. τέλος ‘end’) or perfective (i.e., indicating an end, hence telic).\(^7\) Atelic verbs are thus those which most commonly express continuous or habitual action, such as go, bear, and enjoy; telic verbs are those which normally express non-continuous action, such as strike, choose, and cast. An atelic verb would appear in its unmarked form as a present stem, whereas a telic verb would appear as an aorist stem—a root-aorist, to be precise, this being the simplest form of the aorist. A fundamentally atelic verb, however, might be used in a punctual sense: for example, go is non-continuous (and thus punctual) in the sentence “At midnight she went home.” Likewise, a fundamentally punctual verb might be used in a durative or habitual sense, as in the sentence “His music strikes the ear as atonal.” In PIE, the verb in its fundamental meaning according to its Aktionsart assumed its morphologically simplest form, and forms of the verb expressing a different aspectual meaning would require greater morphological complexity, which might be manifested in one of a number of ways. For example, atelic *leğʰ- ‘lick’ appears in simple form in athematic pres. Skt. lēḍhi < *leğʰ-ti, whereas the aorist (telic) stem is not a simple root-aorist but the morphologically more complex s-aorist aliksət. Alternatively, the punctual stem might be formed by the use of a reduplicated aorist: to atelic *bhe٪th- in Gk. πείθω ‘persuade’* cf. Homeric aorist πέπιθον. Conversely, to form the durative of a punctual (telic) verb, reduplication (sometimes with the vowel i rather than e)\(^9\) might be employed: to punctual *dhe٪h- ‘set, place’ in aorist Skt. ādham and Gk. ἐθήκα, cf. durative *dhǐ-dhe٪h- in Gk. τίθημι.

Logically, the perfect could have present or preteriter tense, but there probably was no pluperfect in PIE: the pluperfect is formed differently in Gk. and Skt. and thus appears to be a post-PIE innovation. Rather, the perfect forms of PIE must have been used for both perfect and pluperfect meanings. Because the meaning of the aorist excludes any reference to event structure, the aorist stem could make no present formation, given that present reference by definition includes information about event structure. A different present stem, however, could be formed to the same root found in an aorist stem. Thus, of the present, aorist, and perfect stems, only the first was inflected for tense, its preterite being the imperfect.\(^10\)

1. It is debated whether verbs inflected in the middle voice could also convey passive meaning. Fortson (2010: 90), for example, accepts the proposition and refers to the PIE middle voice as the mediopassive, whereas Beekes (2011: 252) categorically rules out passive meaning.

2. The injunctive is represented as such solely in Skt., where it occurs only in prohibitions with the negative particle məd and in series of verbs in which a preceding verb bears mood or tense marking. Thus, the injunctive is an unmarked form of the verb as regards tense and mood, as might be expected from its bearing neither an augment nor primary inflections. Historically, then, it is simply a more basic form of the verb, without the later accretions of present stems (with their primary inflections) or imperfect ones (with the augment). There also occur some augmentless imperfects in early Greek. For a succinct account of the injunctive, see Clackson 2007: 130–2.

3. On the possibility of a future tense in PIE, see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.2.2.
4. The categories listed here are best represented in Sanskrit and Greek, but they must be reconstructed for PIE because of relics found in other languages, e.g. the subjunctive (originally optative) forms sim and velim in Latin (which has no formal optative): see Szemerényi 1996: §9.1.

5. Reconstruction of the PIE verb system, considered fairly settled by the late nineteenth century, was upset by new information derived in the twentieth from Anatolian and Tocharian: see, e.g., Jasanoff 2003. The challenges to the older reconstruction presented by Anatolian and Tocharian are irrelevant to the Gmc. verb system, which, though simplified considerably from that of late PIE, plainly is to be derived from that system, bearing no marked resemblance to, e.g., the Hittite system: see §1.4. The affinity of the Gmc. system to that of the classical languages is of relevance to those versions of the glottalic theory (§6.2) that regard Gmc. as more archaic in its phonology than the classical languages.

6. For present purposes, Aktionsart may be regarded as lexical aspect, i.e. aspectual quality inherent in a verb’s semantics (or the semantics of the predicate as a whole) rather than conferred by morphology or syntax (which is termed simply ‘aspect’). This is the commonest understanding of the distinction between the two, though there is no general agreement about the matter: see, e.g., Bache 1982. At all events, since PIE drew distinctions on the basis of both aspect and Aktionsart, the two terms are not always easy to distinguish in contexts like the present one.

7. Note that the term ‘perfective’ has nothing to do with the IE perfect.

8. Initial π- rather than φ- as the reflex of *bh- is due to Grassmann’s law: see Collinge 1985: 47–61.

9. The vowel i is regular in reduplicated thematic presents, as with Gk. γράφω ‘become’, whence it must have spread to athematic ones. The original distribution of i and e in reduplicated syllables is disputed (Beekes 2011: 253).

10. The imperfect is thus technically the preterite of an atelic verb. In the ‘southeastern’ group of IE languages (Greek, Phrygian, Indo-Iranian, Armenian) the imperfect is formed of the present stem with secondary in reduplicated thematic presents, as with Gk. γράφω ‘write’. It is debated whether the augment is an innovation of the southeastern group only or whether it is a feature lost from all other IE languages. The augment is sometimes invoked in explanation of certain Gmc. forms (see, e.g., §12.14), but there is no very secure evidence for its use in PGmc.

12.2 Verb tenses and stems in Proto-Indo-European

Technically, just two tenses can be reconstructed with assurance for PIE: the present and the preterite.1 The preterite, however, may take the form either of the imperfect or of the aorist.2 The imperfect stem was derived from the present stem by the addition of the augment in those languages in which the augment is found (§12.1 n. 10), with secondary inflections, differentiating the imperfect from the present, which used primary inflections (§12.4). The aorist stem usually took the augment with secondary inflections, as well. Neither the PIE imperfect stem nor the aorist is of indubitable relevance to the Germanic languages, in which the preterite stem derives instead from the PIE perfect, though some aorist inflections were perhaps added to Gmc. preterite stems (§12.25), and the imperfect is sometimes invoked in explanation of some of the peculiarities of OE dón ‘do’ and its WGmc. cognates (§12.61); see further §12.9 n. 1 for references.

The perfect was not in origin a tense but an aspect of the present, originating probably in a stative construction. It nonetheless had a stem distinct from both the present and the aorist. The singular of the perfect stem was normally formed with grade of the root vowel and initial reduplication. Examples are *le-le-jókʷ- in Gk. λέλοιπα ‘I have left’ (cf. *lejikʷ- in pres. λείπω) and *kʷe-kʷor- in Skt. cakāra ‘I have made’ (cf. *kʷer- in Gk. τέρας ‘portent’). In the dual and plural of the perfect, however, the root took weak grade, as in Skt. cakārā ‘we have made’. Cf. also 1 sg. *gʷe-gʷom-h₂e > Skt. jagāma ‘I have gone’, 2 pl. *gʷe-gʷm-e > Skt. jagmā. When the verbal stem began with
s + stop, the entire cluster was reduplicated, as shown by the divergent reflexes of (non-perfect) *sti-ste₂ʰ in Skt. tiṣṭhāmi and Gk. ἵστημι (< *si-stā-mi); Gothic preserves the original situation in forms like ga-sta₁-stald ‘possessed’ (cf. inf. ga-staldan). That reduplication is not original to the formation of the perfect is probably not to be inferred from its absence from what appears to be the oldest perfect type, *yōg₁-h₂e > *woida > Skt. vēda, Gk. oǐda, Go. wii ‘I know’: see §12.54.

The three basic verb stems of PIE, from which the rest were derived, were thus the present, the aorist, and the perfect, of which only the first and last are indubitably preserved in Germanic.

1. Although a variety of IE languages have a synthetic future bearing the tense marker -s-, marking such forms as desideratives in origin, the suffixes are not uniform across the relevant languages, and they are perhaps best explained as innovations in the daughter languages: see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.2.2 for concise discussion and references. The issue is of little import for Germanic linguistics, since no synthetic future is found in the early Germanic languages.

2. In addition, the pluperfect is the preterite of the perfect, but at all events the perfect is an aspect rather than a tense, and the supposition of a formal pluperfect in PIE is based more on logic than on the evidence of the daughter languages: the pluperfect is plainly “a much younger creation, but since the perfect—a present tense—is old, its past tense must be at least as old as the imperfect” (Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.4.1). There is no trace of an inherited pluperfect in Germanic (though cf. Kortlandt 1994b).

3. This peculiarity of reduplication is one of the factors that have prompted discussion of the phonemic status of /st, sp, sk/: see Lubbe 1987, Takahashi 1987, Suzuki 1991a, Minkova 2003: 192–237.

12.3 Primary, secondary, and derived verbs in Proto-Indo-European

Many PIE verbs based their present stem directly upon the root, or upon the root plus theme vowel, and these are referred to as non-derived verbs. The remainder added one or another productive affix to the present stem to express, originally, some aspectual variety. These latter are referred to as derived verbs, and stems created by such affixation were not used outside of the present. Aorist and perfect stems, however, might be derived from the same verb root (rather than stem), and a derived verb might share a non-present stem with a related, non-derived verb, e.g. OS stōd ‘stood’ as preterite to both athematic inf. stān and nasal-infixed standan.

In addition to the distinction drawn between derived and non-derived verbs, there is that between primary and secondary verbs. Primary verbs are created directly from verb roots, and so primary verbs may be either derived or non-derived. By contrast, secondary verbs, which are always derived, are created from forms other than roots, such as nouns, verbs, and even phrases, in the manner of Lat. salutāre ‘greet’, based on salūtem dīcere ‘say a greeting (literally ‘health’)’. Secondary verbs had no stem other than the present stem in PIE (and are thus referred to as presentia tantum), though in the daughter languages, including Gmc., means were devised to providepreterites to such verbs.

One method of affixation in the formation of derived verbs was reduplication with the vowel i in both thematic and athematic verbs, as in Skt. bibharti ‘bears’ < PIE *bhī-bher-ti. In thematic verbs, at least, the original significance of reduplication in the present stem was probably iteration or intensity of meaning. Germanic verbs showing reduplicated present stems are few, probably only OHG bibēn, OE beōan, ON bifa ‘tremble’ (cf. Skt. bi-bhē-ti ‘is afraid’) and OHG zittarōn, OIcel. titra ‘tremble, wink’ (cf. Gk. ἀποδρασκῶ ‘teach not (to do)’). There is also Go. reiran ‘tremble’, with so-called full reduplication, i.e. reduplication of the entire root, used with
intensives and iteratives: cf. Skt. lēlāyāti < *reǰ-rēǰ-ē-ti. As remarked by Prokosch (1939: §§3b), these reduplicated Germanic presents all have the same meaning, suggesting that reduplication is preserved in them by reason of sound symbolism.

A number of verbs took a nasal infix in the present stem in Proto-Indo-European, usually in opposition to a non-infixed root aorist, e.g. Skt. yunākti 'joins' < *iud-nē-g-ti to the root *jug-; cf. the root without the nasal infix in Skt. root aorist yojat (unusually, without augment), as well as in Lat. jugum, Go. OS juk ‘yoke’. Infexion was not productive in any of the IE languages, the only preserved examples still showing alternation in Germanic being Go. OS OE standan, pret. Go. stōp, OS OE stōd, and (with suffixal rather than infixed n) Go. fraihnan, Olcel. fregna, OE frīgnan ‘ask’, pret. sg. Go. frah, Olcel. frá (but OE frægn, with extension of n to the pret.), pl. Go. frēhum, Olcel. frágum. To Go. keinan ‘bud, grow’ (OHG kīnan) cf. pp. us-kijanata. In some other verbs the infix was extended to the preterite in Germanic, e.g. Go. OHG OS fāhan, ON fā, OE fōn ‘take’ < PGmc. *fanxp-aną, pret. Go. fatfāh (reduplicated *fe-fanx), OE fēng (cognate with Latin pāngō ‘fix, settle’, reduplicated non-nasal perf. pe-pig-ī, and probably Go. windan ‘wind’ (cf. Go. ga-widan ‘bind’)). Frequently an n-infix in a verb is detectable only by comparison to related words, in Germanic or elsewhere, from which the infix is missing. An example is OE murnan ‘mourn’, pret. sg. mearn (whereas Go. maïrnan and OHG mornēn are weak), in comparison to PIE *(s)mer- in Skt. smārati ‘remembers’ and Gk. μέμηρος ‘causing anxiety’. When the verb root ended in *y or a laryngeal consonant, the infix plus that segment could be reanalyzed as a suffix, as in the fifth (sunhā) and ninth (kīnā) classes of Sanskrit verbs. Such a suffix was added to the root in OE wæcnan ‘awake’, pret. wēc; cf. weak Go. ga-waknan, Olcel. vakna. But the reanalyzed n-suffix could also be used to form verbs of the fourth weak class in Germanic (§§12.48–50).

The present stem might be formed with reduced grade of the root and corresponding accent on the theme vowel. Such are called tudātī-presents, after the verb (meaning ‘thrusts’) for which the type in Sanskrit is named; cf. full-grade PIE *(s)toyg- in Go. stōautan, OHG stōzan, OS stōtan ‘push, shove’. Germanic examples of the tudātī type are the so-called aorist presents (§12.18), e.g. OE būgan ‘bend’ (cf. the Skt. tudātī-type bhujāti ‘bends’ < *bhug-ē-ti) from *bhugh-ō-. The tudātī type expressed punctual (aorist) aspect, and hence the type might coöccur with the normal thematic type of non-punctual aspect in the present: to punctual *grbh-ō- in Gk. γράφω ‘write’ compare durative *gérbh-ō- in OE ceorfan ‘carve’. When such alternative forms coexisted, one or the other was generalized in Germanic, with elimination of the punctual/durative distinction.

Most commonly, derived verbs were formed by the addition of a suffix. One such suffix frequently reflected in the IE languages is *-skē-ō-, as in Lat. pascō ‘feed’ < *pās-skō- (cf. pastor ‘shepherd’) and *prik-skē- ‘ask’ in Skt. prchāti, Lat. poscit ‘asks’, OHG forsčön ‘investigate’. It forms denomin verbs. Germanic examples include OHG wunscen, OE wýscan ‘wish’ < PGmc. *wun-sk-jan-a < *yn-sk- (cf. OE wān ‘expectation’) and Go. friskan, OHG drescan, OE þerscan ‘thresh’ (cf. OE prāwan ‘twist, rack’). The original meaning of the suffix *-skē-ō- cannot be determined with assurance: in Latin, for example, it lends inceptive aspect to verbs, whereas in Anatolian it indicates iterative or consuetudinal action, as perhaps also in Germanic—the sense that Szemerényi (1996: §9.4.1.4) ascribes to the original suffix.

Among derived verbs, the commonest suffix was *-wōr-, which was used to form denomin and deverbal present stems. Frequently it has no discernible meaning, as with the Gmc. strong verbs with weak presents (§12.19), but with reduced grade of the
root and suffix accent it formed intransitive verbs, as with PIE *mep-idh- in Gk. μαίεται ‘raves’ (cf. *-mon- in Skt. mánvatē ‘thinks’, OIrish do-moinuir ‘I believe’). With suffix accent it could also form denominal verbs, often transitive, with full grade of the root, as with PIE *hnehymn-idh- in Hitite lamn-uya-zzi, Gk. ὀνόματι, Go. namnjan ‘name’. Such verbs could be formed from nouns of all stem classes, e.g. Skt. namas-yāti ‘reverses’ (cf. namas- ‘reverence’, s-stem) and śatru-yāti ‘acts as an enemy’ (cf. śatru- ‘enemy’, u-stem). As the latter example shows, u-stems (and i-stems) show the stem suffix in the weak grade. In Gmc., however, the relation between noun or adj. stem and verb is generally obscured, e.g. Go. kaurjan ‘weigh down’ (not *kāruijan; cf. u-stem kārus ‘heavy’). Note that Go. hrājanjan ‘clean’ < *xrain(i)-j-an- (cf. i-stem hràins ‘clean’) and matjan ‘feed’ < *mat(i)-j-an- (cf. i-stem mats ‘food’) are ambiguous, due to the effects of Sievers’ law (§5.8).

This same suffix *-je/o- could be added to other suffixes to express particular aspectual qualities in the present tense of verbs. From the perspective of Germanic linguistics, the most important such construction was that in which the verb root appeared in o-grade, with accent on suffixal *-e- (in origin the thematic vowel) followed by *-je/o- to form causative or factitive verbs from both noun (adjective) and verb stems. Examples are Gk. δοξομαύ ‘give’ < *dör-éjo- (cf. δοξον ‘gift’) and Lat. moneō ‘remind, warn’ < *mon-éjo- (cf. ON OE man ‘remember’). In Greek such verbs are iterative in meaning, and so the type is commonly referred to as ‘causative-iterative’. Germanic examples are Go. nassjan ‘save’ < PIE *nos-éjo- (cf. OE nesan ‘escape’) and OE cembjan ‘comb’ < PGmc. *kambjan- (cf. camb noun ‘comb’). This is the chief source of verbs of the Germanic first weak class (§§12.34–9). Since PIE *-ej- and *-i- fell together as *-(ij)- in Germanic verb suffixes (§§12.34, 12.38 n. 5), this type coalesced with the namnjan type (above). In NWGmc. such verbs could be formed from parts of speech other than nomina (nominals, i.e. nouns and adjectives) and verbs.

The suffix *-je/o- might also be added to a suffix *-eh₂- which was in turn added to adjectives, in order to form so-called factitive verbs with the meaning ‘cause to have the quality of the adjective’. An example is Hitite new-ah₂-, Lat. renovāre ‘make new’ (cf. PIE *ney-o-s in Gk. νεῶ). The same construction produced primary verbs from verb roots, e.g. Lat. vorāre ‘devour’ < ĕgor-eh₂- (cf. Skt. girāti ‘devours’); probably deverbal also is Lat. domāre ‘OHG zamōn ‘tame’ (cf. OHG zam adj. ‘tame’).10 This is the original source of Germanic verbs of the second weak class (§§12.40–3).

Present stems in which *-je/o- was added to the suffix *-eh₂- (> *-ē-) to form so-called stative verbs are commonest in Balto-Slavic, but the type is well represented also in Latin and Germanic, which show some striking similarities, e.g. Lat. tacēre = Go. þahan, OHG dagēn ‘be silent’ and Lat. silēre = Go. ana-silan ‘be quiet’. This is one source of Germanic verbs of the third weak class (§12.44–7).

Likewise incorporating PIE *-je/o-, the Gmc. suffix *-atja- was used to form denominal verbs, e.g. Go. lauhatjan, OHG lóguzaen ‘lighten’ (cf. OE lēg ‘fire’ and lēget ‘lightening’) and Go. swōgatjan ‘sigh’ (cf. OE swēg ‘sound’). Such verbs are common in Old English and Old High German.11 The same suffix, from PIE *-ad-jo-, serves to form verbs from ā-stem nouns in Greek, e.g. ἀρπάζω ‘bear off’ (cf. ἀρπη ‘sickle, harpy’).12

Some other suffixes forming present stems in PIE were much less productive and show only scattered reflexes in the daughter languages, including Germanic. For example, the suffix *-s- appears in PIE *ten-s-, reflected in Skt. tainšayati ‘draws back and forth’, Go. at-pinsan ‘attract’, OHG dinsan, thinsan ‘drag’; cf. *-ten- without the s in Gk. τινω ‘stretch’ < *ten-ĭo. A present suffix *-t- appears in PIE *plek-t-, reflected in

Although some IE present stems are reflected only in suffixed form, unsuffixed and suffixed forms to the same root could co-occur, as could forms with different suffixes attached to the same root. For example, beside normal thematic Gk. φεβομαι ‘be put to flight’ there is the type with suffix *-ētō in φοβεῖσθαι ‘frighten’, and the double affixation of Gk. γνωστόκος ‘perceive’, with both reduplication and suffix *-sko-, points to an amalgam of two other stems, γνωσμα ‘become’ and *γνώσκω (cf. Old Lat. gnōscō > nōscō ‘become acquainted with’).

1. The present stem, however, was also used to form the imperfect, although the evidence for imperfect formations in Gmc. is disputed (see §12.61). Derived verbs are mistakenly opposed to primary verbs in Fortson 2010: 88, leading to some confusion.

2. As the focus here is chiefly on derived vs. non-derived verbs, it may be useful to summarize separately the derivational patterns of secondary verbs (which, again, have only present stems in PIE). Among the deverbal stems (those derived from pre-existing verbs) are causatives (with o-grade of the root plus *-dh-), as in Go. satjan < PIE *śod-ētō; cf. root *-sd- ‘sit’); itertatives (likewise with o-grade of the root plus *-dh-), as in Gk. φανέρω ‘carry habitually’, hence ‘wear’ < PIE *bhor-ētō-; cf. root *bhor- ‘carry’); and desideratives, which add *-ētō- to the verb stem, with or without reduplication, as in Lat. visō ‘seek’ (orig. ‘wish to see’) < *véj-, and reduplicated Skt. didykti ‘wishes to see’ < *di-dh-. Among the denominal stems (including dejectivizing ones) are true denominals, derived from noun stems, as in Skt. vasanāyati ‘buys’ (earlier *vasanāyati), derived from vásanā ‘price’ (cf. Gk. οἶνομα ‘buy’ beside Homeric óxos ‘price’). De-adjectival stems include stative, in which *-ētō- replaces the adj. suffix *-ro- in the weak grade of stems formed under Caland’s law (on which see Szemerényi 1996: §7.8.2), as in Lat. rubēō ‘be red’ < PIE *hrudh-ehō- (cf. ruber ‘red’ < *hrudh-ro-); factitives in *-ōjētō, as in Skt. priyātē ‘loves’ < *priyājētē (cf. priyā- ‘dear’ < *priyā-); and factitives in unaccented *-ētō- as in Lat. renovāre ‘renew’ (cf. novus ‘new’).

3. Another possible example is Go. weihan ‘fight’, if from PGmc. *wīxanar- (cf. Lat. vincō ‘conquer’, perf. vicī), though this could instead be a normal verb of the first strong class, from PIE *yeik- (Hirt 1931–4: II, 164). The latter is the simpler explanation, since the root was not accented in PIE verbs with nasal infix (though full grade, but also voicing under Verner’s law, is to be found in many exceptional forms in Gmc. is disputed (see §12.61). Derived verbs are mistakenly opposed to primary verbs in Fortson 2010: 88, leading to some confusion.

4. Another likely example is OHG klīmiban, OE clinban ‘climb’; cf. PIE *glēbh- in Lith. glēbu, glēbti ‘embrace’. PGmc. *ī̄ps- in Go. ðēthan, OS ithan, OHG ihtan, OE ēhtan ‘thrive’ perhaps also contains a nasal infix (but without the expected voicing under Verner’s law), though the n is regarded as part of the root by Pokorny (1959–69: 1, 1068; Seebold (1970: 512–14) is uncertain; cf. Bammesberger 1986a: 40–1, who also points out that although the etymon of Go. leihan, ON lýth, OHG līthan, OE lēon ‘lend’ is probably *leio-n- (cf. Lat. linguō ‘leave’ and Gk. λέινω ‘ideum’, with and without infix, respectively), PIE *leik-’ is also possible.

5. Belonging to this group are also verbs in which the infix appears to have been assimilated to a preceding stop consonant, as in OE lecian, OS likkon, OHG lecchōn ‘lick’ (cf. Gk. λεκχέω ‘lick’) and OE hopian ‘hop’ < PGmc. *hup-nō-jan- (so Hirt 1931–4: II, §130; see §6.9 supra on Kluge’s law). Likewise, Germanic verbs containing *-nu- (cf. the Skt. type kṛṇāti < *kṛ́ṇ-ē-n-iti) will show -nu- as the reflex of this (§6.8). Examples are Go. rinnan ‘run’ and related forms (cf. Skt. rṇāti ‘moves’, Gk. ῥόειν ‘stir’) and Go. winnan ‘struggle’ and related forms (cf. Skt. vānāti ‘obtains’).

'begin', and their Germanic cognates, along with a great many other verbs with stems ending in a nasal consonant plus a stop. See further Raith 1931.


9. The last denominat, according to Bammesberger (1986a: 39–40), who also envisages a denominat derivation for PGmc. *aiskōjana > OE āscian ‘ask’; so also Ringe 2017: 186. He furthermore entertains the possibility of derivation of PGmc. *waskana ( > OE wascan ‘wash’) from PIE *gods-kō (presumably he means with *o from schwa secundum, since verbs with *sō → *sā- should have had reduced grade in the root); cf. *h₂god- in Go. wātō, ON vatn, OE wæter ‘water’.

10. On the deverbal status of this form, see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.1.5, with references.


12.4 Personal inflections of verbs in Proto-Indo-European

As noted above, the present-tense active endings of thematic and athematic verbs in PIE were identical except in the 1 sg., where the former had *-ō < *-o- and the latter had *-mi. The reconstruction of the inflections in the singular and in the 3 plural are not in doubt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>athematic</th>
<th>thematic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>*-mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>*-si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>*-ti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>*-nti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These inflections are referred to, somewhat confusingly, as primary endings. By contrast, the secondary endings, which are used in the imperfect and the aorist, as well as the optative, lack the final *-i, hence 1 sg. *-m, 2 sg. *-s, etc.

The daughter languages are in less agreement about how the remaining present inflections should be reconstructed, but a fairly conservative reconstruction of all the present primary and secondary endings in the singular, dual, and plural is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>athematic</th>
<th>thematic</th>
<th>secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>*-mi</td>
<td>*(o-)m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>*-si</td>
<td>*(e-)s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>*-ti</td>
<td>*(e-)t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>*(e-tes)</td>
<td>*(e)-tes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>*(e-tes)</td>
<td>*(e)-tes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 du.</td>
<td>*(e-tes)</td>
<td>*(e)-tes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>*(o-mes)</td>
<td>*(o)-mes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>*(e-te(s))</td>
<td>*(e-te(s))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>*(o-nti)</td>
<td>*(o)-nti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is evident that the present endings in Germanic must reflect the PIE primary rather than the secondary endings. For example, Go. 3 sg. -þ must reflect primary *-ti, as secondary PIE *-i would have been lost altogether (§6.11). The personal endings of the perfect cannot all be reconstructed with assurance, but the endings in the singular, at least, are secure: 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>dual</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>*-h₁,e (&gt; *-a)</td>
<td><em>-</em>⁻</td>
<td><em>-</em>⁻</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>*-t₁,e</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>*-(h₁)⁻ ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>*-e</td>
<td>?</td>
<td><em>-</em>⁻</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The non-singular forms, in particular, have undergone extensive refashioning in the various IE branches, including Germanic.

1. The thematic inflections are here given with the preceding thematic vowel in order to show where they took e-grade and where o-grade.

2. The terminology is confusing because it should be obvious that the secondary endings are more basic, and the primary are derived from them by the addition of the *hic et nunc* particle *-i*, here associated with present tense; the endings without -i are thus associated with non-present functions. The terminology of course is predicated on the idea that the simple present tense is more basic than the imperfect or the aorist, even though the considerable majority of present stems are not basic but are derived by means of the kinds of affixation described in §12.3.

3. See Szemerényi 1996: §§9.2.1.1–2. The 1 sg. secondary ending *-*⁻ is used for both thematic and athe¬matic stems. When the thematic vowel appears before the secondary 1 sg. ending *-*⁻ it is of the o-grade: cf. aorist PIE *h₁,e-i,-lik>-a-m ‘I left’ reflected in Gk. ἔλιπον, Skt. áricam (pres. riṇákt).


12.5 The middle voice in Proto-Indo-European

The usual function of the middle voice in the IE languages is to express reflexive or reciprocal action, e.g. Olcel. verjask ‘defend oneself’ (cf. active verja ‘defend’) and berjask ‘fight (each other)’ (cf. berja ‘strike’). ¹ In accordance with the reflexive function, it may also turn a transitive into an intransitive verb, as with Olcel. sýnask ‘seem’ (cf. sýna ‘show’). The PIE middle voice may in addition have encompassed passive meaning (see §12.1 n. 1), in a manner analogous to Olcel. middle eyðask ‘be depopulated’ (cf. active eyða ‘lay waste’). In some cases, however, IE verbs inflected for middle voice have only active meaning, and the reason for middle inflection is obscure, just as with so many deponent verbs in the classical languages, e.g. Lat. cónor ‘attempt’ and sortior ‘cast lots’.

The oldest middle inflections appear to have resembled those of the perfect, and common origin of the two can be explained on the basis of similar functions, the middle denoting reflexivity, out of which passive meanings commonly develop, and the perfect is probably stative in origin, denoting states of passivity (see Clackson 2007: 149–50). Over the course of time, the corresponding active inflections exerted analogical influence upon the middle ones, restructuring them so that the resemblance to the perfect inflections is difficult to discern in any single IE language, with wide differences among languages in this respect. The Germanic languages group with Indo-Iranian, Greek, and Albanian in showing mostly forms with final *-i, apparently reformed by the addition of this element of the primary active endings to middle secondary endings. The relevant...
§12.5 The middle voice in Proto-Indo-European

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endings for these languages are perhaps to be reconstructed thus (following, for the
most part, Szemerényi 1996: §9.2.2.1):
1 sg.
2 sg.
3 sg.
1 pl.
2 pl.
3 pl.

primary
*-ai/mai
*-soi
*-toi
*-medha
*-dh e
*-ntoi

secondary
*-ā/mā < *-(m)e
*-so
*-to
*-medha
*-dh e
*-nto

The dual forms in this paradigm are too uncertain to be reconstructed. No dual forms of
the middle voice are re₡ected in Germanic.
1. Note, however, that the ON middle voice is a NGmc. innovation (see §12.29) unrelated etymologically to
the PIE middle voice.

12.6

The moods of Proto-Indo-European

The indicative mood was used in PIE for factual statements and, in e₦ect, all modalities
other than commands, wishes, and counterfactuals. All the in₡ections examined so far
have been indicative.
The imperative mood was used to express commands in both the second and
third persons. The most relevant PIE imperative in₡ections are reconstructed as follows,
where *-Ø in the 2 sg. of the athematic type indicates that the bare stem is used with no
in₡ection, and *-e in the 2 sg. thematic type represents the thematic vowel itself (and so,
like the athematic type, this one is technically in₡ectionless):
2 sg.
3 sg.
2 pl.
3 pl.

athematic
*-Ø, *-dhi
*-t(u)
*-te
*-ent(u)

thematic
*-e(-Ø)
*-e-t(u)
*-e-te
*-o-nt(u)

The imperative stem is generally the same as the present stem, with few exceptions. PIE also had middle imperatives (see, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §9.2.5), but they are
of no demonstrable relevance to Germanic. On injunctives, see §12.1 n. 2, and on the
so-called future imperative in *-tōd, see §12.28.
The optative mood is used chie₡y in independent clauses to express wishes and
related volitional modalities. On the standard view, the optative was formed by the addition of the ablauting su₢x *- / i - to each of the three basic verb stems, the
present, the aorist, and the perfect (§12.1). In athematic verbs the root was generally in
the weak grade, whereas the optative su₢x was in the e-grade in the singular, elsewhere
in the weak grade with accent on the in₡ection. By contrast, in thematic stems the root
was the same throughout the paradigm (as usual), the thematic vowel was consistently
*-o-, and the optative su₢x was in zero grade throughout. Both types, athematic and
thematic, added secondary endings to the optative su₢x. The pattern may be illustrated
by reconstructed paradigms of the present active of athematic * es- ‘be’ and thematic
*bhér- ‘bear’ (after Fortson 2010: 107):


The standard view accounts well for the athematic optative. The assumption, however, that the thematic optative was formed of the theme vowel *-o- plus optative suffix -īh-r- plus inflection faces some notable difficulties, as pointed out by Sihler (1995: §539.2). One is that appearance of the theme vowel *o throughout the paradigm is unparalleled. In derived forms, in fact, the theme vowel should be *e throughout, as in Gk. φοβέω ‘frighten’, derived from φόβος ‘terror’. Another is that *-o- should be expected to be realized as *-o- before an obstruent beginning the inflection, and yet there is no evidence for such a realization in the language families where the evidence should be plainest, Hellenic and Indo-Iranian. Yet Streitberg (1896: §221) is right to invoke the acute accent (rather than circumflex) on Greek pres. optatives like 2, 3 sg. λείποις, λείποι as evidence that the suffix was not simply PIE *-o- but must be regarded as, in Gmc. terms, trimoric (*o + ī in his notation).1 Perhaps Clackson (2007: 136–7) is right that the postvocalic laryngeal was lost early, with compensatory lengthening, in forms like athematic 1 pl. *sīmé ‘(we) are’, and ī was then extended analogically to thematic stems, e.g. *bhér-e-i-me. Certainly, PIE *-oijhₐ accounts admirably for Go. 1 sg. pres. -āu (§12.26). It is reflected as well in Skt. bhar-ēy-am ‘I would bear’ (which, however, has ē by analogy to the rest of the paradigm) and Arcadian Gk. εξελαυνοια ‘I would drive out’.

The subjunctive mood, as its name implies, is used in subordinate clauses. In the few daughter languages in which the PIE subjunctive is reflected, it largely has future meaning, but presumably in PIE it also expressed any contrary-to-fact condition, a function assumed by the etymological optative in many IE languages. In PIE the subjunctive was formed by the addition of the ablauting thematic vowel to the present or aorist stem regardless of whether it was already thematic; whether the inflections added to this were primary or secondary, or a combination of the two, is a matter of dispute (see Szemerényi 1996: §9.3.1.1 for references). Thus, to athematic ind. 3 sg. *hēs-e-t(i), yielding Skt. āsti and āsatt(i), respectively, and to thematic ind. 3 sg. *bhēr-e-ti ‘bears’ cf. sj. *bhēr-e-e-t(i), yielding Skt. bhārati and bhārāt(i), respectively.

1. Streitberg’s observation raises a difficulty for the assumption that the laryngeal was lost in PIE in the anteconsonantal sequence *-oijhₐ: see Beekes 1969: 238–42, 254–5 (with references), Ringe 2017: 16–17, 43.

### 12.7 Non-finite verb forms

The non-finite verb forms to be considered are infinitives and participles, the latter either active or passive, corresponding to so-called present and past participles.

Infinitives are verbal nouns, which correspond in meaning to English infinitives (e.g. to swim) and gerunds, i.e. (in English) words in -ing serving as nouns rather than adjectives (e.g. swimming). In PIE there were several different ways to form verbal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>athematic</th>
<th>thematic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg. *h₂s-jehₐ-m</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg. *h₂s-jehₐ-s</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg. *h₂s-jehₐ-t</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl. *h₂s-ihₐ-mé-</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-mé-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl. *h₂s-ihₐ-te-</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-te-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl. *h₂s-ihₐ-ént</td>
<td>*bhēr-o-ijhₐ-ent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Streitberg’s observation raises a difficulty for the assumption that the laryngeal was lost in PIE in the anteconsonantal sequence *-oijhₐ: see Beekes 1969: 238–42, 254–5 (with references), Ringe 2017: 16–17, 43.
§12.7 Non-finite verb forms

nouns from verb stems, and many of these formations are reflected in Germanic as nouns rather than infinitives. PIE verbal nouns could be formed by the addition of a suffix *-ti- to a verb root or stem, as with OCS da-ti ‘to give’, Lith. bū-ti ‘to be’, and PIE *deh₂-ti- > Gmc. *dē-dī- in Go. da-del-s, ON dād, OHG tāt, OS dād, OE dēd > PDE deed; also PIE *gus-ti- in Go. ga-kust-s ‘test’, OE cyst ‘choice’ (cf. OE cēosan ‘choose’ < PIE *geus-). Another suffix was *-tu-, as in Skt. dā-tu-m ‘to give’ and Gmc. *flo-thú- > Go. flodus, Olcel. flōð, OHG fluot, OE flōd ‘flood’ (cf. OE flōwan ‘(over)flow’ and Gk. πλούσιος ‘floation’). Various suffixes in *-n- were also used to form verbal nouns, e.g. *-men/mon- in Skt. vid-mān-ē ‘to find’ (= Homeric Gk. ἰδμεναι) and in Olcel. tīma ‘time’ (< Gmc. *tī-mon-; cf. Skt. ḍyāti ‘separates, divides’, Gk. ὀὖσα ‘divide, allot’) beside tiō, OE tūd NHG Zeit ‘time’ (< Gmc. *tī-du-). True Germanic infinitives are neuters formed with the PIE suffix *-n-o- (added to the thematized stem, unlike in PIE), as in Go. bairan, ON ber, OE OS OHG beran ‘to bear’ < Gmc. *berana = Skt. bharanām. See further §12.30.

First (active, present) participles are deverbal adjectives expressing active voice. PIE originally had separate suffixes of this kind for present and perfect verb stems, as well as a separate middle suffix, but only the suffix *-nt-, attached to present stems, is reflected as a participial suffix in Germanic. It is in fact reflected in all the IE languages, though not always as a productive means of adjectival formation. In both athematic and thematic verbs the suffix alternated between *-ont- and *-nt- within the paradigm by strong and weak case (see §7.4):1 to full grade Skt. acc. sg. masc. adāntam ‘eating’ (< *hēd-ont-ṇ) compare gen. sg. adātāḥ (< *hēd-ṇ-os).

From their semantics it is plain that second (passive or past) participles in *-tō- and *-nō- (with weak grade of the root and no very obvious distinction in meaning)2 are not participial in origin;3 hence, they are commonly said to form verbal adjectives rather than participles. The distinction has been eliminated in most IE languages, though in Greek such verbal adjectives generally maintain their original meaning, e.g. στατός ‘stationary’ : Skt. sthitāḥ, Lat. status ‘having stood’. The two suffixes are differentiated in some IE branches, including Germanic, in which they form passive participles to weak and strong verbs, respectively: see §12.30. Examples are PIE *klū-tō- in Skt. śrutā- ‘heard’, Gk. κλευτός ‘famous’ (cf. Gk. κλεῦω ‘hear’, κλέω ‘extol’ < κλεύō) and Skt. bhinnā- ‘split’ < *bhid-nō- (cf. bhīnādmi ‘split’).

1. Full-grade *ont- must not be analyzed as containing the thematic vowel, as the vowel disappears in the weak cases, which is not a characteristic of the thematic vowel.

2. In Skt. the reflex of *-nō- is used only with a limited set of common verb roots ending in a vowel or a non-labial stop: see Whitney 1889: §957. In Skt. grammar these are called past passive participles, to distinguish them from participles formed to present passive stems.

3. Likewise, true participles were formed by the addition of the participial suffix to a tense stem, whereas the verbal adjectives were formed from the verb root (Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 3.2.968). One semantic indication that they are not participial in origin is that their reflexes are alternately active and passive in meaning, e.g. Skt. sthitā- ‘having stood’ : hātā- ‘having been struck’.

12.8 Particles and the Proto-Indo-European verb

Many PIE verbs bore clitic prefixes, usually derived from prepositions and particles. An example is PIE *prō prep. ‘forward, for, before’ plus *bhēreti ‘bears’ in Skt. prabhārati, Gk. προ-φέρει, Lat. prō-fert ‘produces, offers’. An example of a prefixed particle is *ne ‘not’ in Lat. ne-sciō ‘do not know’ and Lith. ne-sei-nyti ‘fail to attain’.
Some such clitic formations are to be found in Germanic, e.g. PIE *pro- in Go. *fra-itan, OE fretan, OHG frezzan ‘devour’ and *ne in Go. nist < ni ist ‘is not’. However, most Germanic verb prefixes are later innovations without directly parallel uses in the other IE languages, e.g. Go. *faúr-gaggan, OE for-gangan ‘precede’ and Go. faúr-gaggan, OE for-gangan ‘pass by, overlook’. The two types are often difficult to distinguish. See especially Buckso 2011 on developments in Gothic; Schulte (2007: 8–10) offers an inventory of Gmc. preverbs.

II. Germanic Verb Morphology

12.9 The general nature of the restructuring of the Germanic verb system

The rather complex verb system of PIE, with its morphologically distinct aspects, tenses, and moods, was considerably simplified in Proto-Germanic. As in most other IE branches, the distinction between aspect and tense was eliminated; in Germanic, aspect was replaced by tense through the elimination of imperfect and aorist stems, the IE perfect coming to play the role of the preterite. A few Gmc. preterites can plausibly be related to an original, stative perfect meaning, e.g. PGmc. *laih ‘has left behind’ > OE lāh ‘lent’, but most either are resultative perfects with no obvious derivation from stative meaning or are aorist in meaning and are thus innovations, e.g. Go. haihald ‘held, has held’ and laíláik ‘leapt’. The collapse of aorist and perfect meanings is particularly evident in verbs like Go. sat ‘sat down, was sitting’. In the present system, too, aspect to a great extent grew irrelevant with the loss of productiveness in most suffixes used to form present stems. A small number of present suffixes retained their productivity, and although two of them retained their aspectual significance—causative and inchoative, employed in the first and fourth weak classes of Germanic—the more important function of the remaining productive present suffixes continued to be to provide a means of forming new verbs. Thus, a few of the most productive present suffixes of PIE continued in use, resulting in four distinct classes of so-called weak verbs. The suffixes that formed such verbs in PIE were used only to produce present stems, and thus a particular need in Germanic was a means of bringing such new formations into line with older, so-called strong verbs in respect to tense alternations. The reduction of the IE tense and aspectual systems to a binary opposition between present and preterite stems afforded an opportunity to satisfy that need, and a new method of forming the preterite for such verbs arose, by the addition of a dental suffix. The strong verbs at the same time grew more uniform in their morphological expression, for example adopting a single present stem for each verb, eliminating competitions like that between suffixed and unsuffixed stems, or between regular thematic and *tudáti-type present stems (§12.18). Certainly, some archaic formations were retained, especially among verbs of high frequency, but for the most part, morphological alternatives without any obvious retained significance were replaced by a single standard: for example, although a small number of athematic verbs are still recognizable as such in Germanic, nearly all verbs adopted the morphology of thematic formations, e.g. Go. ga-teiha ‘I tell, show’ < PIE *-deik- plus thematic *-ō rather than athematic *-mi (cf. athematic Skt. di-deš-ṭi ‘shows’, Gk. δείκ-νῡ-μι), but athematic Go. im ‘am’ < *hēs-mi and OHG tuom ‘(I) do’.

The four moods of PIE were reduced to three in Gmc. when the formal optative assumed the functions of the original subjunctive. A few formal aorist subjunctives
survive in pres. ind. use, as may be determined by the loss of certain pres. ind. stems with PIE suffix *-ské/o- (e.g. *gʷmskéti ‘walks’ > Skt. gácchati, Gk. βάσκει, but aorist sj. *gʷém-e/o- in Go. qiman ‘come’) or n-inf (e.g. 3 pl. pres. ind. *bhíndénti > Skt. bhíndánti ‘split’, but aorist sj. *bhíjéđ-e/o- in Go. beitan ‘bite’): see Ringe 2017: 185–6.

Although the middle voice of PIE is reflected in the Gothic passive, it was almost entirely lost elsewhere in Germanic.\(^3\)

1. Aorist forms must have continued in use into the WGmc. period if the WGmc. 2 sg. pret. ending *-i is to be derived from the aorist inflection (though this is dubitable: see §12.25). The extent to which Gmc. preserves traces of the aorist is a matter of controversy: see, e.g., Dimler 1974, Mottausch 2013, and see, e.g., §§12.14, 12.39, 12.59, 12.61, 12.63 infra.

2. In the older IE languages, finite verb forms require no explicit pronominal subject, e.g. Lat. paratus sum ‘I am prepared’. The same is true of Gothic, but in the other Gmc. languages an explicit subject is required; hence tuom ‘(I) do’. On null subjects in the early Gmc. languages see, e.g., Harbert 2007: 221–3.

3. Austefjord (1984) discusses the simplification of the Gmc. verb system on the basis of leveling from the preterite to the present and the reverse. Hewson (2001) explores the conversion of aspect to tense in Gmc.

12.10 Morphological restructuring of root, stem, and inflection in Proto-Germanic

As explained in §7.1, the distinction between stem and inflection was obscured in some noun forms already by the end of the PIE period, with the result that some suffixes became unrecognizable as such and were instead analyzed as part of the inflection. This process was greatly accelerated during the PGmc. period. Among the verbs a comparable development is observable. A simple example is the incorporation of the reflex of the theme vowel into the personal endings attached to it, for instance the development of PIE 3 sg. pres. ind. *-e-ti and pl. *-o-nti to Go. -iþ and -and, with the result that the reanalyzed endings were generalized, extended to most verbs that had never contained a theme vowel, essentially turning what had been athematic verbs into thematic ones.\(^1\) But suffixes besides the theme vowel could also become part of the inflection. A plain example is observable in the reanalysis of verbs of the second weak class in Ingvaeonic, whereby, e.g., PIE 3 pl. pres. ind. *-êj-o-nti developed to *-ijaþn in heavy-stemmed weak verbs of the first class, and from this was abstracted *-jaþp, which was extended to stems of the second weak class (§12.43). With the phonological reduction of unstressed syllables, then, the suffix as a morphological category intermediate between root and inflection became, to a great extent, unrecognizable as such, and the morphology of most verbs was reduced to a matter of roots (formerly stems) and inflections.

1. For specific examples of thematization, see Bammesberger 1982a.

III. Strong Verbs

A. Stem formation

12.11 The general nature of strong verbs

Strong verbs are those in which the present and the preterite are distinguished by root-internal vowel alternations derivable from ablaut alternations in Proto-Indo-European,
conforming, with minor deviations, to discrete patterns of alternation that are the basis for identifying seven classes of strong verbs. The one exception to the rule of ablaut alternations between present and preterite is that the majority of verbs of the seventh class in Gothic have the same root vowel in both tenses, and the two stems are instead distinguished by the addition of reduplication in the preterite: see §12.16. Most of the distinctions among the classes, however, are due not to ablaut differences in PIE but to specifically Germanic developments of the PIE vowels.

The relevant vowel alternations are observable in the oppositions among four stems: (1) the present stem, including the indicative, the imperative, the present subjunctive (< optative), the infinitive, the active participle, and, in Gothic, the passive; (2) the preterite singular (but not, in WGmc., the 2 sg.); (3) all remaining preterite forms, including the plural, the subjunctive, and, in WGmc., the 2 sg.; and (4) the past/passive participle. The alternations in the stems of Germanic strong verbs are thus conventionally represented by four principal parts: (1) infinitive, (2) pret. 1/3 singular, (3) pret. 3 plural (as here, though instead very commonly 1 pl. in handbooks), and (4) second participle, nominative singular masculine (as here) or neuter. In these principal parts are observable ablaut alternations in the first six classes derivable from the following in Proto-Germanic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>*ī</td>
<td>*ai</td>
<td>*i</td>
<td>*ī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>*eu/ū</td>
<td>*au</td>
<td>*u</td>
<td>*o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>*i/i</td>
<td>*a</td>
<td>*u</td>
<td>*o/u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>*e</td>
<td>*i</td>
<td>*e</td>
<td>*i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>*e</td>
<td>*a</td>
<td>*e</td>
<td>*e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>*a</td>
<td>*ō</td>
<td>*ō</td>
<td>*a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The pp. of many verbs in Olcel. occurs only in neuter form (e.g. verit ‘been’), though for consistency’s sake only what would be the nom. sg. masc. form is usually given in this book (e.g. veriðr). In OHG, the citation form of the past/passive participle, given as principal part (4) of strong verbs and (3) of weak (§12.33) is simply uninflected, whereas the nom. sg. masc. ends in -ēr, the neuter in -az (§9.2).

12.12 Productivity

In general, the strong verbs represent a closed, unproductive category in the attested Gmc. languages, with few additions over time. There do occur some innovations, but they often betray their status as neologisms by incomplete assimilation to strong patterns, e.g. PDE pp. shown and proven beside pret. showed, proved; and, conversely, in North American English, pret. dove beside pp. dived. Rather, in the course of the later Middle Ages strong verbs in all the Gmc. languages were extensively refashioned as weak ones or passed out of use altogether. The situation in the prehistoric period quite possibly was different, as there are numerous Gmc. strong verbs with no convincing IE etymology, so that they may be suspected of being additions to the strong verb inventory, perhaps from substrate languages. It appears that strong verbs could be added even as late as the WGmc. period, e.g. OE scrīfan, OFris. skrīva, OS skrīƀan, OHG skrīban ‘write’ (class I, OE pret. scrāf, etc.), borrowed from Lat. scribō ‘write’.

1. Thus, for example, Krygier (1994: 59–65, 246) finds that of 367 strong verbs identified in OE, 61 are commonly inflected weak, and nearly a quarter have no reflexes after the OE period. In general, the complete
conversion of any strong verb to a weak is infrequently attested in the early Gmc. languages before ca. 1200, and after ca. 1600 there are about as many instances of conversion of weak to strong verbs as there are of the opposite development. For discussion and references, see Fertig 2009, 2016; also van Haeringen 1940.

2. See Mailhammer 2006. For example, a group of verb stems in gr- (e.g. OHG grīnan ‘whimper’, Go. grēstan ‘weep’, OE grēotan ‘weep’) has no convincing IE etymology and may be derived from a substrate, if the origin is not simply onomatopoeic (Seebold 1970: 237, 241).

3. It is perhaps likelier, though, that the other WGmc. languages have borrowed the word from OE, due to Anglo-Saxon missionary efforts. Certainly, OIcel. skrifa is the result of missions to Scandinavia. That the WGmc. word is a borrowing rather than native is disputed: see, e.g., Orel 2003: 344, but cf. Seebold 1970: 420.

### 12.13 Derivation of Proto-Germanic ablaut patterns: classes I–III

To a considerable extent, the alternations tabulated in §12.11 are derivable from a familiar PIE pattern whereby *e* is the ablaut alternant in the present stem (at least in most thematic stems and in the singular of athematic ones), *o* in the perfect singular, weak grade in the perfect dual and plural, and weak grade in the verbal adjective in *-nó-. Classes I–III are almost perfectly regular in this respect. In class I, PIE *e*i > PGmc. *ī* and PIE *o*i > PGmc. *ai* (§3.4), and the vocalization of PIE *ī* under reduced grade is *i*, preserved as such in PGmc. In class II, PIE *eu > PGmc. *eu* and PIE *oq > PGmc. *au* (§3.4); and the vocalization of *u* under reduced grade is *u*, preserved as such in PGmc, except that at least in NWGmc., in the passive participle it is lowered to *o* before *a* in the next syllable (§4.3). (On the alternative vowel *ū* in the present stem of class II, see §12.18.) In class III, PIE *e*R > PGmc. *e*R except when *R* is a tautosyllabic nasal consonant, in which event it becomes *i*R (§4.4); PIE *oR > PGmc. *aR* (§3.2); and PIE *R* under reduced grade is vocalized to *R*, producing PGmc. *uR*, except that at least in NWGmc., *uR* becomes *oR* before *a* in the next syllable when *R* is not a nasal consonant and no *j* intervenes (§3.2). The remaining strong classes show varying degrees of deviation from the ablaut patterns of the PIE perfect to be expected on the basis of the comparative IE evidence.

### 12.14 Derivation of Proto-Germanic ablaut patterns: classes IV–V

In classes IV and V the preterite plural shows PGmc. *ēj for expected reduced grade, and there is no consensus as to why this is so. That *ē* is an analogical replacement for vowels reflecting original reduced grade may be inferred from the preterite-present verbs of the corresponding class types: cf. Go. pres. 1 pl. munum ‘remember’ and magum ‘can’, corresponding morphologically to preterite plurals of classes IV and V (§12.54), with the root-vowels *u* and *a* reflecting the expected schwa secundum (§§3.1–2). The commonest explanation is that the perfect stem in the preterite plural of classes IV–V has been replaced by the sigmatic aorist stem (minus the *s* suffix) with lengthened grade of the root vowel.1 That lengthened grade in the aorist is a PIE feature rather than an innovation in individual branches of the IE family is disputed, though Szemerényi (1996: §§9.4.2.1(c), 6.2.8 Addendum 1) offers cogent reasons to regard it as of PIE origin.2 Perhaps the most serious objection to this analysis is that it is not plain what should have motivated the replacement of the perfect stem by the aorist in the preterite plural only. Accordingly, some prefer the view that *ē* originates in the verb reflected as
Go. etan ‘eat’ (class V), where the Gmc. preterite would have been formed by reduplication (3 sg. *e-at*) or by the augment (*e- < *h₂e-*) found in the PIE imperfect (though there is no other secure evidence for a PIE augment in Gmc.: see §12.61). 3 This explanation furnishes a plausible source for the analogical change, but it leaves unanswered the question why the change did not take place in the singular, as well as the question what in the system motivated the complete loss of the original preterite plural reduced-grade vocalism and replacement by ē. A more recent suggestion is that the vowel may be due to the influence of gerundives in *-i-/ja-*, e.g. the source of OE -bære (as in OE westmbære ‘fruit-bearing’ and hornbære ‘horn-bearing’): so Heidemanns 1999. On the other hand, it has been argued, as well, that ē in the plural originated in the verb ‘sit’, with *sēt-* as the regular phonological development of reduplicated perf. pl. *se-st-*, and the long vowel spread analogically (Bammesberger 1994a, and see n. 3 *infra*). For discussion and references, see Laker 2001.


2. Szemerényi’s idea that the long vowel results from compensatory lengthening upon loss of tense-marker *s* (under Szemerényi’s law) renders it easier to believe that the sigmatic aorist should have been the source, given that *s* appears nowhere in these Gmc. preterite plurals. That there was a lengthened-grade aorist in PIE is rejected by many, e.g. Cowgill 1960: 492 n. 25, who nonetheless draws a distinction between this and long vowels of other origin in the aorist (1957: 46–52). Matzel (1970) and Meid (1971: 48–54), on the other hand, envisage PIE perfects with lengthened grade.

3. So, e.g., Mottausch 2000 and Mailhammer 2007: 67–86, both with extensive references. Some other explanations (for which they provide further bibliographical references) are the following: (1) the cause is compensatory lengthening upon loss of the root-initial consonant originating in reduplicated, zero-grade perfect plurals, e.g. PIE *bhe*bhr-* > PGmc. *bēr-* (so, e.g., Sihler 1995: §525.6a), PIE *se-zd-* > *sēd-* ‘sit’ (as in Lat. sēdimus; so esp. Streitberg 1896: §96; cf. the telling objections of Prokosch 1939: §57); (2) as proposed by Kuryłowicz (1956: 310–12, Kuryłowicz 1999. On the other hand, it has been argued, as well, that ē in the plural originated in the verb ‘sit’, with *sēt-* as the regular phonological development of reduplicated perf. pl. *se-st-*, and the long vowel spread analogically (Bammesberger 1994a, and see n. 3 *infra*). For discussion and references, see Laker 2001.

12.15 Derivation of Proto-Germanic ablaut patterns: class VI

The ablaut pattern in class VI is unlike patterns normally reconstructed for PIE verbs. Accounting for how it could have arisen in Gmc., however, is a matter of considerable difficulty, not least because analogical developments should be expected to have produced a pattern resembling one already found in the language rather than an entirely new one. The irregularities stem, moreover, not just from the vowel qualities and quantities, but also from a different distribution of variants under Verne’s law, as discussed below (§12.17). An added difficulty is that because the ablaut pattern appears not to derive from PIE, identifying the source of the vowel a in the present and in the second participle, and of ē throughout the preterite, is subject to many uncertainties. Thus, for example, a in the present may derive from PIE (1) o, (2) a, (3) ē, (4) h₂e, or (5) h₃e (§§3.1–2). Nearly all of these sources in fact appear to have been involved, though etymologies are not uniformly certain: (1) Go. faran ‘go’ and cognates < PIE *por- (cf. Gk. περάω ‘drive through’); (2) Go. skaban ‘scraper’ and cognates < PIE *skabh- (cf. Lat. scabō ‘scratch’); (3) OE hacan ‘bake’ < PIE *bhag- < *bhēh₂g- (cf. Gk. φώγω ‘roast’ < *bheh₂g-); (4) OIcel. aka ‘drive’ < PIE *aḡ- < *h₂eḡ- (cf. Gk. ἀγω ‘lead’); (5) no known example of root vowel a < PIE *o < *h₂e in class VI. Likewise, PGmc. ē in the preterite may derive from PIE ē or ō (§3.3), and both appear to be actual sources in attested verbs, e.g. OE wōd (wadan ‘advance’; cf. Lat. vādō ‘wander’) and scop
§12.15 Derivation of Proto-Germanic ablaut patterns: class VI

Looking for the reflexes of both the perfect singular and the plural, e.g. PIE perfect sg. *h₂e-h₂óǵ > PGmc. *ôk-: *ôk-, pret. to *akana 'drive'.

1. The following are merely examples. They are drawn from the survey of etymologies of the 46 verbs in this class provided by Mailhammer (2007: 92–7, 223–4), without cavil as to his derivations. The etymological uncertainties are considerable, as Mailhammer himself notes (2007: 93 n. 105).

2. Prokosch argues further that the aspectual distinction between perfective (reduced grade) and imperfective (full grade) was converted, by default, to a tense distinction in Germanic.

3. Mottausch (1996) and Jasanoft (2003: 66–77) also summarize the prior literature. Their views, which begin from the unusual assumption that present stems could be formed with either primary endings (*-mi, etc.) or stative/perfect ones, as suggested by Hittite evidence, are critiqued by Mailhammer (2007: 98–103).

4. Cowgill (1960: 489–90) had earlier rejected explanations like Mailhammer’s starting from verbs with vocalic initials, preferring the idea that the long-vowelpreterites were formed by analogy to those of classes IV and V.
12.16 Derivation of Proto-Germanic ablaut patterns: class VII

The defining characteristic of this class is that the verbs all differentiate preterite from present and participial stems by the device of initial reduplication in the former in Gothic, e.g. falþaŋ, faífalþ, faífalþun, falþans ‘fold’. Given that the most direct source of the Gmc. preterite is the PIE perfect, it should be expected that reduplication was originally a feature of all PGmc. strong preterites, and it has been lost in all classes but this. The obvious explanation is that most of the verbs in class VII in Gothic show no ablaut difference between the present and the preterite stem, whereas the two are plainly differentiated in classes I–VI: reduplication was thus preserved in class VII as a tense marker that could not be dispensed with, as it could in the other classes. There are six exceptional verbs, showing an ablaut difference between present and preterite: Go. grētan ‘weep’, lētan ‘let’, ga-rēdan ‘reflect upon’, tēkan ‘touch’, saian ‘sow’, waian blow’ (pret. sg. gaígrōt, laílōt, ga-raírōþ, taitōk, saísō, pl. waiwōun). In the infinitives of the last two verbs, ai is from PIE ē before a vowel (§4.5), and so the ablaut pattern is underlyingly pres. ē : pret. ō. It is not plain why the ablaut difference did not suffice to allow loss of reduplication in these six verbs, though of course if reduplication had been abandoned in these, they would not conform to the ablaut pattern of any of the first six classes.

It is a notable feature of the verbs of class VII that although they preserve an archaic feature of IE verb morphology, reduplication, the ablaut patterns they evince seem innovative, since they are difficult to derive directly from PIE. Aside from the six Gothic verbs with ē : ō ablaut alternation, there are five root vowels encountered in this class in Gothic: a (e.g. falþaŋ ‘fold’, pret. faífalþo), ā (e.g. háitán ‘call’, pret. haíhāit), āu (e.g. áukan ‘add’, pret. aiáuk), ē (e.g. slēpan ‘sleep’, pret. saíslēp or ga-saízlēp), and ō (e.g. hōpan, pret. haihūp). As in class VI, the individual vowels may be the result of polygenesis: e.g., haldan must reflect the PIE o-grade (Brugmann 1913: 181), whereas a in *fanxana (>). fāhan) appears to be original, if not due to a laryngeal consonant (cf. Lat. pango ‘fasten’, Gk. πάγος ‘frost’, etc.). Unlike in class VI, however, all but a few of the roots containing PGmc. a, ai, or au derive from PIE roots without either a or a laryngeal consonant, and thus they present the appearance of being derived from o-grade ablaut variants. It is possible, then, that in a fashion complementary to that which appears likeliest in class VI, the preterites are the more original forms in class VII, and the presents formed by analogy—perhaps a likely development if the original present stems were derived and thus different from the preterite in terms of more than just ablaut (§12.3). The evidence of OE relic reduplicated preterites like reordon ‘advised’, discussed immediately below, suggests, however, that Gothic has generalized ō in the preterite raírōþ (and similarly in other verbs of this class), and there must originally have been alternation between full and reduced grades, since OE reordon cannot plausibly be derived phonologically from *re-rōþ-. Rather, vowel alternations in the preterite in PGmc. appear to be a necessary assumption: see immediately below on Bamnesberger 1986a: 62–3.

Reduplication as a mark of the preterite in class VII has generally been given up in NWGmc., for reasons detailed in §12.20, where support is lent the view that a new method of distinguishing present and preterite stems was devised. With the rise of this new method, however, the older, reduplicated forms, grown exceptionally opaque, passed slowly out of use, so that only a few relics survive. These are commonest in OE, where they occur exclusively in texts of Anglian origin (including poetry, nearly all of which appears to have been composed originally in Anglian, though it is recorded
The following preterites have been regarded as examples of such:

\begin{align*}
ondreord & \text{ to ondrēdan } \text{‘dread’ (derivative of } rǣdan \text{ ‘advise’, though it alliterates on } d; \text{ Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.71 n. 1) beside WS ondrēd} \\
ḥēt & \text{ to hētan } \text{‘command’ beside WS hēt} \\
leolc & \text{ to lēcan } \text{‘toss’ beside WS lēc} \\
leort & \text{ to lēt } \text{‘let’ beside WS lēt} \\
reord & \text{ to rǣdan } \text{‘advise’ beside WS rēd, but much more commonly WS weak rǣdde}
\end{align*}

Further possible examples are Northumbrian speoft, speaft (if to spātan ‘spit’), pl. beafton, beoftun (if to bēatan ‘beat’), and blea (if to blāwan ‘blow’).

The resemblance between these preterites and the reduplicated forms of Gothic is unmistakable, but the precise changes involved in their development are not obvious. Most straightforward are reord and leolc, though if these result from normal phonological developments it must be assumed (as proposed by Bammesberger 1986a: 62–3, supported by Mottausch 1998b: 55) that in this class Gothic has analogically extended the long vowel in the preterite, eliminating an original alternation between PGmc. sg. *re-rōþ- < *re-rōH-t- and pl. *re-rō- < *re-rH-t-’ (since the reflex of PIE H is probably lost in all unstressed syllables in Gmc., §5.5) like that found in classes I–III. Some recourse to analogy or ad hoc phonological developments is required to explain most of the remainder, e.g. leort for expected *leolt.

A few forms that appear to be reduplicated are also preserved in Old Icelandic: gnera to gnúa ‘rub’, grera to gróa ‘grow’, rera to róa ‘row’, sera to sá ‘sow’, snera to snúa ‘turn’. Some of these may represent regular phonological developments, e.g. rera < *re-rō and sera < *se-zō, whereas gnera can contain r only by analogy. These preterites all end in -era, and analogical developments must have played a role in the formation of some. See the studies cited in §12.20 for discussion and references.

OHG forms with medial -r- (e.g. biruun to būan ‘dwell’) are usually grouped with these relic reduplicated forms, but see §12.20.

2. The verbs fāhan ‘seize’ and hāhan ‘hang’ had a in the root in PGmc. before this was lengthened upon loss of the nasal consonant in “fajxana” and “xajxanar”, respectively (§4.1).
3. Given the voicing of s to z in ga-saičēp, it is assumed that in at least some pret. forms of this class the reduplicative syllable was unaccented in PGmc., allowing Verner’s law to apply. In other forms there is no voicing (jaifalp, haihald, haihōp, saisō, etc.). Some assume that the reduplicative syllable remained unstressed in Gothic: for references, see Mottausch 1994: 134 n. 29.
4. Thus, for example, Brugmann (1913) argues that many Gmc. verbs of both classes VI and VII with a in the root have that vowel as an innovation. This would account for the unexpected vowel in faran (§12.15).
5. For references to the literature on these, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.71.
6. Jasanoff (2007: 264 n. 50) objects to crediting Bammesberger with first offering this insight but cites no prior published authority.

### 12.17 Verner’s law in strong verbs

It is usually assumed that voicing under Verner’s law is to be expected only in the preterite plural and the passive participle of strong verbs, an expectation raised by the variable position of the accent in Sanskrit verbs (§6.6), and that departures from this pattern
are the result of analogical change: so, e.g., Adamczyk 2004, and most handbooks of the early Gmc. languages. However, Prokosch (1939: §63) shows effectively that such a pattern, though impressively regular in the first three classes, is almost never what is to be found in classes V–VII (class IV being irrelevant, since the stem ends only in a sonorant consonant or, exceptionally, a stop). Prokosch’s idea is that voicing of a stem-final fricative should not be expected in any form containing a full- or lengthened-grade vowel, since this must have borne the accent, and he finds that the attested alternations in classes V–VII support this assumption, with voicing in class V only in the passive participle, in class VI only in the infinitive and the passive participle, and in class VII on an irregular basis, since the class represents a mixture of accentual types. On the basis of a survey of Germanic forms he concludes that this is indeed the general pattern. The evidence, however, is difficult to reconcile with this conclusion.

He points to Go. *standan, stōþ, stōþum, *sta(n)dans ‘stand’ in support of the posited pattern in class VI. It is true that in the preterite is unlikely to be due to devoicing of ð (§6.12), in view of forms like 3 pl. stōþun, 1 pl. afstōþum, 2 pl. gastōþuh, 3 sg. sj. afstōþi. But there is no reason to assume on the basis of this model that the voicing in the infinitive is to be expected in the present stem of other verbs of this class, since PIE verbs with nasal infix bore suffixal accent in the dual and plural. The stem *stand- plainly derives from a form with suffixal accent (PIE root *stēh-; cf. full grade in Lat. stāre), whereas some verbs of class VI appear to derive from roots with full-grade a or hē, as noted above (§12.15). Moreover, in Old English there is to be found a consistent pattern almost precisely the opposite of the Gothic one, in *scieþþan (LWS sceþþan), sc(e)ōd, sc(e)ōdon, sceðæn ‘injure’, and in contracted verbs (those with original root-final x, §12.1), where g, which is regular in the preterite plural (e.g. slōgon), is also predominant in the preterite singular slōg. Beside slōg there does occur slōh (which may be due to final devoicing, §6.17), but the voiced variant is the usual one in early texts (Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§6.65–6). Despite Prokosch to the contrary, g is also the rule in both the preterite singular and the plural in OHG, with few exceptions: see Braune 2004a: §346 Anm. 2, in agreement with Prokosch that g in the singular must have been extended analogically from the plural. Prokosch reasons that this extension is motivated by the need to distinguish the preterite from the present, but since the ablaut difference between the preterite stem and the present was plainly sufficient to differentiate the two in classes I–III, it is difficult to see why such a change should have taken place in this class but not those. There is the added difficulty that whereas Prokosch’s analysis predicts a voiceless fricative in the passive participle in class VI, instead a voiced one is consistently to be found in both North and West Germanic, and this must be quite an old situation: cf. Runic slaginær (Möjbro stone, ca. 450).1 Voicing in the last three principal parts but not the first appears also to have been the original rule for at least some verbs in class VII, to judge by OE fōn, fēng, fēngon, fangen ‘take’ (= Olcel. fā, fēkā, fēngu, fēngin) and hōn, hēng, hēngon, hangen ‘hang’ and NWGmc. cognates. Yet no single pattern will explain all the verbs of class VII: for example, OE has a voiceless fricative in both pres. hwōsan ‘cough’ and pret. hwēsō, whereas, like Gothic, it reflects only a voiced fricative in scēdan ‘distinguish’ (Go. skáidan), in contradistinction to OS and OHG, where the reflexes of voiceless fricatives are commonest (OS skēdan, OHG skeidan). Similarly, OHG shows a mixture of forms in faldan beside faltan beside faltan ‘fold’.

Patterns in class V are not much more supportive of the proposed distribution of alternants under Verner’s law. In Old English, for example, the preterite plural consistently reflects a voiced fricative where Prokosch predicts a voiceless (cwǣdon ‘said’,
Verner’s law in strong verbs

wāron ‘were’, gefāgon ‘rejoiced’). It is true, nonetheless, that the passive participle reflects a voiced one, as predicted, in cwedon ‘said’ and sewen, gesawen ‘seen’. The passive participle of wesan ‘be’ is unattested in any of the earliest WGmc. languages; the later forms OFris. wes(s)en and MHG gewesen, with a voiceless fricative, are most likely analogical creations.²

Whereas it is uncertain whether there was voicing under Verner’s law originally in the passive participle in class V, the considerable preponderance of the evidence thus suggests that with that one possible exception, the pattern in this class was like that in classes I–III, whereas in class VI the commonest pattern was voicing in the preterite (sg. and pl.) and the pass. participle, and that this was also the pattern for the most secure examples of class VII. These patterns plainly have little to do with PIE vowel gradation, which thus furnishes no very good explanation for the alternants under Verner’s law in classes V–VII.³

1. As Prokosch rightly observes, Olcel. pret. sg. slō (to slā ‘strike’) is ambiguous as to whether it reflects *slōɣ or *slāh (see above, §6.14).

2. In Olcel., r has been extended throughout the paradigm, even to inf. vera, imp. ver(ið), and pp. verit (neut.).

3. For this reason the argument of Ringe that only the pret. sg. in class VI retained a voiceless fricative in PGmc. must be regarded as inconclusive. He reasons that since OHG heffen ‘lif’t is a weak present with weak grade of the root, PGmc. *xbjan- should be expected (as in OE hebben, OS hebben), and OHG can have acquired the voiceless fricative reflected throughout the pres. only by analogy to the pret. singular (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 100). Yet even if there were a plain correlation in class VI between assumed ablaut grade and voicing under Verner’s law, it need not be the case that this verb, cognate with Lat. capiō ‘take’, shows weak grade of the root. Rather, this appears to be one of those instances in which full-grade a must be reconstructed for PIE (§3.1): so, e.g., Pokorny 1959–69: I, 527–8. There is, after all, the problem that PGmc. a in the pres. of class VI appears to have multiple sources (§12.15), and very few other verbs of this class reflect voiced fricatives in the pres. in WGmc. Polygenesis of the ablaut in this class renders it inadvisable to reconstruct a single pattern of alternants under Verner’s law for PGmc. The PGmc. facts appear to be irrecoverable.

12.18 Aorist presents

Reflexes of the PIE tudāti-type present stem, with weak grade in the root rather than e (§12.3), are securely attested only in Indic and in Germanic, in regard to the latter of which they are most commonly referred to as aorist presents. In Greek, for example, the opposition between full and weak grades is regularly used to distinguish the present stem, and forms based on it, from the aorist stem, as with pres. inf. φεύγειν ‘flee’ and imperfect ἐφεύγον in opposition to aorist inf. προέγειν and aorist ἐφήγον.¹ For that reason the existence of the tudāti type in PIE has been doubted, though there is no consensus (see §12.3 n. 8). The following, whether they are inherited or post-PIE innovations,² are commonly regarded as verbs of this type in Germanic:

Class I: Go. digandin ‘made of clay’ (beside full-grade inf. deigan); Olcel. vega ‘fight, kill’ (OHG ubar-wehan ‘overcome’, OE gewegan, pp. forwegen; cf. full-grade Go. weiwan, OE wīgan; the verb corresponds to OIr. fichid); also class V Go. bidjan ‘request’ and cognates (see §12.19 infra), if this has been transferred from class I (so Osthoft 1882; cf. Seebold 1970: 92–3, Pokorny 1959–69: I, 114).³

Class II:⁴ Go. ga-lūkan ‘shut’ (Olcel. lūka, OE lūcan, OFris. lūka, OS bi-lūkan, OHG bi-lūhan); Olcel. lūta ‘bow’ (OE lūtan); Olcel. sūga ‘suck’ (OE sūgan, sūcan, OS OHG sūgan); Olcel. sūpa ‘sip’ (OE sūpan, OFris. sūpa, MLG sūpen, OHG sūʃan); OE brūcan ‘use’ (OFris. brūka, OS brūkan, OHG brūhhan; cf. Go. weak
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ī ~ ai (class I) : ū ~ au (class II). Because ū is found also in related words, Perridon (2001, with references) argues...

Though derivatives show it to have been originally a verb of class I. Some further possibilities in English are...

Discounted by Seebold (1966b).

Class IV: ON koma (OE cuman, OFris. kuma, OS kuman; cf. the originally imperfective stem in Go. giman, OHG queman) < *gewem-; Go. trudan 'tread' (Ocel. troða); Go. wulan 'seeethe, rage' (no pret. attested; cf. OE weallan, OHG biwellan 'seethe' < *yel-n-?) also PGMc. *knuðana in weak on knoða 'knead'; cf. full-grade strong OE cnedan, OHG knetan.

Class V: There are no aorist presents to this class, but none would be detectable, as the root vowel in an aorist stem would have been schwa secundum, which would have been reflected as a full-grade vowel (§3.1–2). An exception is Ocel. sofa 'sleep', which could reflect either *swefan- or *sub- (see Heusler 1967: §87.2), whereas OE swefan is unambiguous.

Class VI: A great many of the verbs of this class are best analyzed as showing in the present the weak grade of a root containing a laryngeal consonant (see §12.15). Examples are Go. sakan 'dispute' (cf. Gk. ὑγίομαι 'guide, lead', Lat. sāgiō 'perceive quickly, feel keenly'); Go. skaban 'shave' (cf. Lith. skōbtī 'gouge' and Latvian skābs 'sour', from *sharp, cutting'); and Go. ga-daban 'beseeem' (cf. Go. ga-dōfs 'becoming, fit').

There is no certain example in Class VII, where etymologies are generally insecure.⁷

1. But there are exceptions. For example, Gk. γράφω 'write' reflects *grbh-ôb, whereas OE ceorfan 'carve' shows the full grade of the root. The former, perfective stem used in the present would originally have expressed punctual action, the latter stem durative (§12.1); one or the other stem was then generalized in the individual IE branches.

2. Bammesberger (1986a: §3.3.5) outlines a process by which forms with reduced grade of the root could have been created analogically in Gmc.

3. Seebold (1970: 467–8) would add *stikana 'stick', refashioned as a verb of class V (e.g. OS stekan), though derivatives show it to have been a verb of class I. Some further possibilities in English are discounted by Seebold (1966b).

4. Aorist presents of the second class have ā for expected ū in the present stem. The commonest explanation (see, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §55) is that the vowel was lengthened by analogy to the long vowel in the present stem of the first class (and the long diphthong in the non-aorist presents of the second?). Cf. A. Campbell (1977: §736(b)), suggesting an analogical proportion of present and preterite singular vocalism in PGMc. ū ~ ai (class I) : ā ~ au (class II). Because ā is found also in related words, Perridon (2001, with references) argues
for a curtailed sound change eu > ū. There is the further consideration to be taken into account that short u in a form like *tukan should be expected to have been lowered to o (§4.3), creating irregularities in the paradigm. For a list of aorist presents of class II, distinguishing inherited from innovative forms, see Ringe & Taylor 2014: 39–40.


6. WGmc. forms (OE tredan, OHG tretan) must be innovations by analogy to verbs of the fifth class (though it belongs to the fourth in Go. and Olcel.) if the PIE stem is *drey-, as in Skt. drāvati ‘runs’ (so Osthoff 1901: 372–3); but *dʒt-∅- is also possible, though unattested outside of Germanic. See Seebold 1970: 506.

7. A possible example is Go. skáidan ‘distinguish’: see Pokorny 1959–69: I, 921.

### §12.19 Strong verbs with so-called weak presents

As noted in §12.3, the suffix *-iē/𝑜 serves as one marker of present stems in PIE.¹ A number of Gmc. strong verbs are formed this way, with the consequence that morphologically they are nearly identical to weak verbs of the first class in the present (§12.34), for example showing (outside of Gothic) umlaut throughout the present paradigm and (in WGmc.) gemination in originally light stems. Unlike weak verbs, however, they are not causative or iterative in meaning, and the su

1. Olcel. blik(j)ja ‘gleam’ (cf. suffixless OS blíkan);² possibly Olcel. svikja beside svikva ‘betray’ (cf. strong pres. OS swíkan); similarly Olcel. vikja beside vikva ‘turn’; possibly OHG *in-trīhen ‘expose’.

2. Possibly Olcel. fljója ‘flee’ (pret. fló, Noreen 1970: §488, but usually weak; cf. suffixless OE flēon < *flēohan, and cognates);³ possibly Olcel. spýjja ‘vomit’ (pret. spjó, Noreen 1970: §488, though also with a weak pret.; but suffixless Go. specwan, OE spīwan, etc., belong to the first class).


4. Class IV: No known examples.

5. Class VI: Go. frägjan ‘understand’; Go. hafljan ‘lift’ (Olcel. heflja, OE hebban, OFris. hēva, OS hebbian, OHG heffen); Go. hlāhyjan ‘laugh’ (ON hlekja, OE hlīhhan < *hlīhhan); Go. ga-rājjan ‘count’; Go. ga-skapjan ‘create’ (Olcel. skępja, OE scieppan, OFris. skēppa, OS skeppian, OHG skepfen); Go. skahjan ‘harm’ (Olcel. skēdja, OE scẽppan beside suffixless sceādan (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.67 n. 5); Go. wahsjan ‘grow’ (cf. suffixless Olcel. vaxa, OE weaxan, etc.);
Olcel. deyja ‘die’ (OS dōian, OHG touwen; cf. Go. *diwan in pp. diwans); Olcel. geyja ‘bark’; Olcel. k(v)efja ‘dip, put into water’ (in part weak; cf. suffixless OHG ir-queban ‘suffocate’); Olcel. sverja (OE OS swerian, OFris. swera, OHG swerren, but cf. suffixless Go. swaran); OE stæppan, steppan ‘step’ (OFris. steppa); OS af-seffian ‘perceive’ (OHG in-sebben); OHG erien ‘plow’.

Class VII: OE wēpan ‘weep’ (OFris. wēpa, OS wōpian, OHG wuofan); perhaps also Olcel. spýja (under class II above).

1. Perhaps some of these verbs bore instead the suffix *-eje/o-; or even *-eheje/o- (from *-eh[e]-je/o-): to Olcel. stija cf. Lat. sedère < sedēre. The types coalesced in Gmc.: see §12.34.

2. This is a matter fraught with etymological uncertainties. For example, Mailhammer (2007: 92) offers reasons to reject the usual view that *waxsja- ‘grow’, *dauja- ‘die’, and *swarja- ‘swear’ are causative or iterative in origin.

3. WGmc. forms other than those of OS are inconclusive in this class, due to loss of *-j- after heavy syllables (§6.15) and failure of umlaut to affect i.

4. 3 sg. intrīhhit, the vowel seemingly originally short (Braune 2004a: §331 Anm. 4; cf. Seebold 1970: 565).

5. Likelier is that flija and spýja are formed by analogy to suffixless present forms (e.g. 3 sg. fliyr, spýr). The latter verb is perhaps better regarded as conforming to the pattern of class VII.

6. The form stæppan (rather than the less common steppan) is generally regarded by the handbooks as more original, prompting, for example, the implausible reconstruction PGmc. *stappana (so Orel 2003: 372). Rather, æ in the root is due to analogical substitution of a for æ prior to umlaut, a change that is particularly frequent in verbs of class VI (§4.7; Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.65).

7. The verb follows class VII in OHG, but it must originally have belonged to class VI (Braune 2004a: §350 Anm. 5, with references).

12.20 Preterites of class VII in Northwest Germanic

As remarked above (§12.16), Gothic verbs of class VII form their preterite stem with the addition of initial reduplication, and certain preterite forms in Olcel. and by-forms in OE (e.g. leort ‘let’) appear to be reduplicative in origin. The usual preterites in North and West Germanic, however, show no trace of reduplication. Compare the following principal parts of a verb meaning ‘let’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lētan</td>
<td>lētan</td>
<td>lētan</td>
<td>lētan</td>
<td>lētan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laiūt</td>
<td>lēt</td>
<td>lēt</td>
<td>lētun</td>
<td>liaz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>laiūtun</td>
<td>lētu</td>
<td>lēton</td>
<td>gilētan</td>
<td>liazun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lētans</td>
<td>lātinn</td>
<td>lāten</td>
<td>gilāzan</td>
<td>gilūpan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The NWGmc. preterites thus reflect ē in the root (so-called ē₂, §3.5), and this is true of roughly half the verbs in this class, whereas nearly all the remainder reflect ēo, as in a verb meaning ‘leap’ or ‘run’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hlāupan</td>
<td>hlaupa</td>
<td>hlēapan</td>
<td>hlōpan</td>
<td>hloufan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haihlāup</td>
<td>hjóp</td>
<td>hlēop</td>
<td>hlōpan</td>
<td>hlifun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haihlāupun</td>
<td>hlio</td>
<td>hlēopon</td>
<td>gihlāpan</td>
<td>gihlōpan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hlāupans</td>
<td>hlaupinn</td>
<td>hlēapan</td>
<td>gihlōpan</td>
<td>gihloufan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of the present discussion, preterites like OE lēt and hlēop will be referred to as type 2 preterites (as opposed to originally reduplicated forms like OE leort,
a type 1 preterite). How to explain the origin of the NWGmc. preterite stems of type 2, as well as the coexistence of relic reduplicated forms in OE, has been a matter of some controversy. Approaches to the problem have taken one of four forms:¹

(1) Until recently, the usual explanation, first proposed by Grimm (1822–37: I, 898–9), has been that a reduplicated form like PGmc. *xexait- (> Go. haïhait) is the etymon of both type 1 and type 2 preterites. Thus, it is assumed that in type 2 preterites there has occurred loss of a root-initial consonant (e.g. *xe-xait- > *x-eait > OE hēt), or even a consonant cluster (e.g. *ste-stald- > *ste-ald- > OE stēold ‘possessed’, inf. steadan), and explaining how a form such as *xe-xlaup- can have developed to OE hlēop requires some complication of the process of change.

(2) Following the lead of Brugmann 1895 and Wood 1895, some have analyzed the verbs of classes VI–VII as reflecting so-called heavy bases, in opposition to the light bases of classes I–V, and their preterites have been seen as counterparts to Latin perfects like jēcōt ‘did’ and aorists like Gk. ἐβήν ‘went’. Obstacles to this analysis became apparent with the acceptance of the laryngeal hypothesis (§3.1), when it could be seen that although many heavy bases must have contained laryngeals in PIE, not all did (e.g. the etymon of Go. faran, §12.15), and some of those that did could not be fitted to the Brugmann-Wood scheme, e.g. *hēyeg- in Olcel. auka ‘add’, but *hēyohg- > *wōg- in pret. jōk (however the j- is to be derived on this analysis). This approach now lacks currency; Ringe (in Ringe & Taylor 2014: 91 n. 29) calls it “wildly implausible.”

(3) Under a hypothesis developed by van Coetsem (1956: 37–41 and many subsequent studies, including van Coetsem 1990, 1994, 1997), ū in type 2 preterites results from a split of PIE ei into ee and ei > ii parallel to the split of eu into eo and eu > iu. This hypothesis has met with much criticism and appears no longer to have any proponents.

(4) Under the most recent analysis, type 2 preterites were formed in NWGmc. by the insertion of e into the present stem immediately before the root vowel. Thus, e.g., OE rēd ‘advised’, stēold, hēt, and hrēop ‘howl’ reflect, respectively, NWGmc. *r-e-ād, *st-e-ald, *x-e-aɪt, and *xr-e-ōp. That is to say, the inserted e combined with a front vowel or a front diphthong to produce OE ē, but with a back vowel or a back diphthong to produce ēo, with comparable results in the other NWGmc. languages. The model for the analogical change was verbs without an initial consonant, e.g. *aukan, hence pret. *e-auk > Olcel. jōk. The motive for the change was that due to Verner’s law and some other changes, the structural relation between many present and preterite stems had grown opaque: thus, for example, since the reduplicative syllable was unaccented in PIE, the reduplicated preterite stem of PGmc. *xaitan- should have been *xexait- and of *flōkan- ‘clap’, *febloēk-, not to speak of the vowel alternations posited by Bammesberger (§12.16). In Gothic the fricatives voiced in this fashion have for the most part been replaced by voiceless ones, but z remains in ga-saizlēp ‘slept’ (beside saislēp); cf. also Olcel. sera ‘sowed’ < *se-zō.

Explanation (4) has been fairly widely credited (references in Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.70 n. 2), though some studies still adhere to explanation (1), either on a purely phonological basis or a largely analogical one. Explanation (4) offers several advantages, one of which is that in nearly every instance it accurately predicts on the basis of the present stem whether the preterite stem will contain OE ē or ēo (with comparable results in the other NWGmc. languages). Another advantage is that it accounts for the cooccurrence of parallel forms like heht and hēt in Old English, the former being the inherited type, the later the innovative. A third is that it accounts for the appearance of ē in NWGmc. preterites, though why it should have occurred in such an environment.
has long remained an unsolved problem (§3.5). A fourth advantage is that it provides a plausible explanation not just for the stem formation of preterites to class VII in NWGmc. but for several puzzling irregularities in NWGmc., as well (on which see Fulk 1987):

(a) The diphthong derived from PIE *ey regularly develops to Old Icelandic jó before dental consonants, as well as x and m when a non-high vowel followed in the next syllable; otherwise it is reflected as jú (Heusler 1967: §49). Yet in preterites of class VII, jó appears before any consonant, as in hjóp ‘ran, leapt’. This is explicable if the reflex of PIE *ey was distinct from that of the sequence created by the insertion of e before au found in NWGmc. *xl-e-aup > hjóp at the time when the reflexes of PIE *ey became differentiated.

(b) The situation is similar in OHG, where, for instance, in class II, the reflex of PIE *ey is iu in the present stem before labial and velar consonants (other than h) even when a non-high vowel followed in the next syllable; otherwise it is eo or io. Yet in the preterite of verbs of class VII the diphthong is eo, later io (ia, ie), even before labial and velar consonants, as in leof, liof ‘ran’, and even when a high vowel follows in the next syllable, as in every preterite form in OHG except for the 1 and 3 sg. indicative, which is endingless. Explaining (a) and (b) as independent analogical developments in Old Icelandic and Old High German is methodologically suspect.

(c) In Old West Frisian the reflex of PGmc. eu is regularly iā or iē, whereas in preterites of class VII verbs of the type with PGmc. au or ō in the present the result instead is iō (van Helten 1896: 446). Once again, the diphthong in the preterite of this class appears not to derive from PGmc. eu.

(d) It is usually assumed that PGmc. ē (§3.5) is still preserved and spelt ⟨e⟩ or ⟨ee⟩ in the earliest OHG records (eighth century), though already there it co-occurs with ⟨ea⟩, which changes to ⟨ia⟩ and ⟨ie⟩ in the ninth century (so, e.g., Braune 2004a: §35). The assumption is thus that ⟨ea⟩ is an intermediate stage in the development of ē to ia and ie. Although this assumption matches the evidence of manuscript spellings for a word like hēr, hier ‘here’, it derives little support from the evidence of preterites of class VII, and the spellings of the preterites of fāhan ‘take’ and gangan ‘go’, in particular, suggest that in this class instead ea is the older value—as should be expected if it derives from inserted e plus the root vowel a.6

(e) A small number of preterites to verbs of class VII in OHG contain ⟨r⟩ of mysterious origin, which appears only on an irregular basis, and only in early texts. Thus, for example, ana-stōzan ‘strike’ has the preterite ana-steroz beside ana-stiez. These r-preterites have long been connected with the problem of the loss of reduplication in NWGmc., but any analysis along the lines of explanation (1) above must assume that the r originates in the verb scrōtan ‘cut’, with preterite ki-screrot, which is somehow to be explained as developing from NWGmc. *ske-skraud-, and then r was extended analogically to the preterites of bluozan ‘sacrifice’, stōzan ‘strike’, and buan ‘dwell’, no matter how ill motivated such analogical change may seem. The chief difficulty, however, is that the intrusive r appears in the middle of what is usually assumed to be a diphthong: -steroz, for example, is thought to derive from *steut-, though this requires the injection of r into the middle of the diphthong eu. Rather, if it is assumed that -steroz derives from a NWGmc. form with e infixed before the root diphthong (*st-e-aut), it may be assumed that the facultative use of ⟨r⟩ in such forms is an ad hoc means of representing the hiatus between e and the root diphthong. This also explains why the forms with ⟨r⟩ are found only in the earliest texts, before contraction and loss of hiatus.
(f) A number of verbs with originally vocalic stems (*verba pura*) have developed a stem-final *w* of perplexing origin, especially in OE, e.g. *grōwan* ‘grow’, *sāwan* ‘sow’ (cf. OE *grēne* < *ʒrō-n-iz* and *sǣd* ‘seed’ < *sē-ð-a*). Under explanation (4) the *-w-* may be explained as originating in some preterites of this type (Fulk 1993: 247–8): see §12.22 for details.

Jasano (2007: 250–2) rejects explanation (4) chiefly on the basis of the supposition that relevant verbs with a vocalic initial would have been too few in NWGmc. to serve as an adequate model for the analogical change that resulted in the insertion of *e* before the root vowel in preterites of class VII. It is true that in some kinds of analogical change the pattern to be copied must be rather common to serve as a plausible model. Under normal circumstances we should not, for instance, expect a noun stem found only in the genitive singular to have been extended throughout a paradigm. But the present instance is of a different sort, since the motive for the analogical change was the problem that the morphology of the original, reduplicated preterite stems had grown too opaque (a point with which Jasano concurs, 2007: 260), as remarked above in regard to expect ed alternations under Verner’s law, but as is more directly observable in the way relic reduplicated forms in Old English bear little resemblance to the predicted forms. The pressure to simplify preterite-formation in this class must have been great, and no matter how many or how few may have been verbs with vocalic initials in NWGmc., they were doubtless some of the few, if not the only, reduplicated verbs of this class with preterites that were still generated by regular rule. It is thus not the number of relevant verbs that is of paramount importance but the transparency of the relevant rule that made the model attractive. And it must be remembered that the reduplicating verbs are limited in number—Gothic attests to reduplicated preterites to just 14 verbs—so that a few preterites formed in regular fashion could exert outsize analogical influence on the rest.7 Comparison may be drawn to the origin of the vowel *ē* in the pret. pl. of verbs of classes IV and V, which is now usually attributed to the analogical influence of originally reduplicated verbs with vocalic initials (§12.14)—an origin which, e.g., Ringe (2017: 210, 273) accepts, though he points out that there is just one verb with the requisite structure to provide the model, the verb ‘eat’. Regarding the plausibility of the conversion of reduplication to infixation, the argument of Garrett 2001 about a comparable change in Yurok may be noted.

Explanation (4) thus provides solutions for a range of problems in NWGmc. phonology and morphology, whereas the competing explanations are limited in their explanatory power to preterites of class VII alone. The disadvantages to any explanation of type (1) along phonological lines should be obvious, since *ad hoc* phonological rules without application outside of class VII are required. Yet even chiefly morphological solutions in accordance with (1) have their drawbacks, not least of which is that they are necessarily far more complicated. For example, Jasanoff (2007: 262) argues that although stems beginning with *s +* stop involve the entire cluster in reduplication in Gothic (and, it should be added, apparently in PIE: §12.2), as in Go. *ga-stai-stald*, in NWGmc. the pattern was instead that seen in Olc. *snera* < *sne-z-*—with involvement of the stop in the reduplicative syllable but loss of it in the root onset. What motivated the change in NWGmc., however, is not explained, and the counterevidence (OE *speoft* rather than *spest*) has to be explained as analogical (to *beoft*, itself with an analogically induced diphthong). This different sort of reduplication would have resulted in a pret. pl. *xeglō* (to *xalōdænæ* ‘hold’), which, because of its anomalous structure, would have been altered to *held-*—though this amounts to a novel sort of change regardless of whether it is regarded as a phonological or a morphological development. Many further
analogue adjustments are required to produce the attested forms, and in no instance is such change as plainly motivated and based on as obvious an analytical model as is the unified analytical change assumed in explanation (4).

1. For bibliographical references, see Fulk 1987, esp. 159–60. For the most part, the present discussion provides references only to more recent studies.

2. Prokosch (1939: §46) defines bases as “syllables subject to gradation. A base may be a root syllable, a prefix, a suffix, an ending, or an independent particle. If under conditions of ordinary stress, its vowel is short we speak of a Light Base, if, under like conditions, it is long, we speak of a Heavy Base.”


5. The one certain exception is Olcel. blīt ‘sacrificed’ (for *blīt, inf. bliot); possibly also OE fēng ‘took’ and ħēng ‘hung, hanged’ (and cognates), on which see Fulk 1987: 165, 172. However, the rule might with equal justice be formulated to prescribe that the preterite is formed by inserting e not into the present stem but into the stem of the passive participle, in which event these last two verbs would not be exceptions. It is naturally to be expected that analogy should have obscured some of the original regularities, and that the OE verbs should reflect a fairly conservative state of affairs: on the discrepancies between OE and OFris. and ON verbs like the reflexes of PGmc. xalbana “hold”, see Fulk 1987: 167–9. To the assertion of Ringe & Taylor (2014: 91) that the only possible explanation for pret. gung ‘went’ in Beowulf is loss of the reduplicative syllable, cf. Fulk, Bjork, & Niles 2014: cxlvii f.—though, to be sure, loss of the reduplicative syllable in *gegang is the likeliest explanation. Note that gang is unlikely to be a scribal substitution for *gegang at Beowulf 1316a, as the metrical type would then normally require double alliteration (see Bliss 1967: 40–3).

6. Jasano₦ (2007: 251) sets aside the mass of evidence supporting this conclusion, crediting instead only the seeming counter-evidence of preterites of gangan, fāhan, and hāhan in the OHG Isidoro with (e) instead of (ea), which hardly seems probative.

7. About thirty such verbs can be reconstructed for PGmc., according to Ringe (2017: 279), who also rejects Jasano₦’s objection and observes that all the subclasses in class 7 are small (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 89 n. 28). This would contribute to the impression of irregularity in the other subclasses and highlight the regularity in the vowel-initial type.

12.21 Contracted verbs

After the loss of /x/ between voiced sounds in ON, OE, and OFris. (§§6.14, 6.18, 6.19) there resulted contraction of vowels rendered adjacent by this loss. In strong verbs the consequence was some notable irregularities in the present tense, where Verner’s law had not voiced x to ʒ.1 Thus, for example, Olcel. class V sjū ‘see’ (< *sex*<an-) has the stem sjū- in the pres. ind. 1 and 3 pl., elsewhere in the pres. sé- (pret. sā-), whereas class VI slā ‘strike’ (< *slaxan-) has the stem slæ- in the pres. ind. sg. and slā- elsewhere in the pres. (pret. ind. sg. slō, slōtt, slō, pl. slōg-, sj. slæg-). Common patterns in the present stem in Early West Saxon (and, in part, Kentish: see §2.24) are like those in the verbs flēon ‘flea’, slēan ‘strike’, and fōn ‘take’: 1 sg. flēo, slēa, fō, 2 flēhst, slēhst, fēhst, 3 flēhþ, slēhþ, fēhþ, pl. flēþ, slēþ, fōþ. In the Anglian dialects, on the other hand, forms like 2, 3 sg. slēs, slēð are normal, without h (which was lost between vowels, followed by contraction: see §4.13), though many analogous developments are to be found, e.g. analogical re-addition of the ending in 3 pl. on-fōad: see, e.g., Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.66. In OFris. are found contracted forms analogous to the WS forms of OE, e.g. 3 sg. pres. tiucht, slēith/slaith < *sleþþ/slezþ (Old West Fris. slacht), to itā ‘draw’ (class II) and slā ‘strike’ (class VI).

In ON, nearly all such verbs have acquired weak preterites, e.g. pret. tjāða to tjā ‘show’ < *tīdan- (class I), though strong preterites and/or passive participles to these are
sometimes preserved in old and poetic texts, e.g. pret. fló to flýja ‘flee’, more commonly weak pret. flōa, flóa, or flýa.2 A number of these, like flýja (for *fljóa: cf. Go. plúahan), have developed weak presents by the addition of -j- to the stem of the unla
terted singular. Contracted verbs that generally retain strong preterites include, from
class V, sjá ‘see’; from class VI, flá ‘flay’, hlæja ‘laugh’, klá ‘scratch’ (but originally
*kleyja), slá ‘strike’, hwá ‘wash’; and, from class VII, fá ‘take’. Contraction also
occurred in ON after loss of *w in 2 sg. spýr ‘vomit’ (cf. Go. speivwis), with reformation
of inf. *spýa to weak spýa. Compare also 2 sg. snýr and gnýr to snúa and gnúa (<
*snōw-, *bnōw-, §3.4 n. 5; to the latter verb, cf. Go. bnauan). There is contraction as
well in the pres. ind. sg. of verba pura (§12.22), e.g. 3 sg. sær to sá ‘sow’ (and similarly
gróa ‘grow’, róa ‘row’, söa ‘sacrifice’).

In OE, contracted verbs retain their strong preterites. Contracted verbs of classes
I and II have the same vocalism in the first principal part, and as a consequence, there is
some shifting of such verbs between the two classes: for example, wréōn ‘cover’ of
class I forms its pret. 3 sg. as wrāh (class I), but more commonly as wrēah (class II).
Contracted verbs in OE include the following: class I: lēōn ‘grant’, ð-sēōn ‘sift’, tēōn
‘accuse’, wrēōn ‘cover’; class II: flēōn ‘flee’, tēōn ‘draw’, lead’; class III: āēon
‘prosper’;3 class V: ge-fēōn ‘rejoice’, plēōn ‘risk’, sēōn ‘see’;4 class VI: flēān ‘flay’,
upon loss of /w/, with the original, uncontracted values confirmed by poetic meter
despite contracted spellings, is also attested in forms of rōwan ‘row’ and strēgan
few instances of non-contracted scansion in verse, is to be found in some forms of bēōn
‘be’ (< WGmc. *bij-an-, though pres. sjie(n) ‘be’ < *si-e(n) is formed without /j/ by
the analogical extension of */i-/ throughout the paradigm from the singular, e.g. original

Contracted verbs in OFris. due to loss of */h/ include fā ‘catch’, flīa ‘fly’, hwā
‘hang’ (< *hōhan; cf. dwā ‘do’ < *dō-an or *do-an, §12.61), iūn ‘confess’, sīa ‘see’,
skīa(n) ‘happen’, slā ‘strike’, and tiā ‘draw’.

1. Although Verner’s law gave no voicing in the preterite singular of at least classes I–V, in none of the
pret. sg. forms of OFris. would the voiceless fricative have appeared between voiced sounds and thus undergone
deletion, whereas */h/ in the syllable coda was lost in ON, as in pret. 2 sg. sātt ‘see’ < *sah and 3 sg. sā <
sah.

2. ON verbs that have lost */x/ and gained weak preterites include these: class I: tjá ‘show’, ljá ‘lend’; class
II: flýja ‘flee’, fjúa ‘rot’ (pp. fjūn; cf. wk. inf. fína), ljýa ‘beat’ (pp. ljūnn), tjúja ‘avail’ (pp. lýginn ‘drawn’,
Noreen 1970: §488 Anm. 4); class VI: þrā ‘yearn’ (strong pp. in name Brāinn).

3. From *þeōn < *þeān- (§4.1), with pret. sg. þāh < *þaŋ, pl. þungōn.

4. From WGmc. *sexwan, hence WS pret. pl. sāwōn < *siē(ʒ)wan, but Anglian sēgon < *sēʒ(ŋ)on (§§6.4
ad fin., 6.6).

12.22 The verba pura

A number of verbs originally inflected according to class VII have the appearance of
not bearing any stem-final consonant, due to loss of a PIE laryngeal consonant. Examples
are Go. saīan ‘sow’, Ocel. sā, OE sāwan, OS sāian (cf. Lith. sējū, sēti ‘sow’, OCS sējō, sēti, and cf. OE sēōd ‘seed’ < P GMC. *sē-ð-ð, Lat. sē-men) and Go. waiān ‘blow’,
OE wāwan, OFris. waja (cf. Skt. vāti ‘blows’, beside i-present vāyati, etc.). Lindeman
(1968) offers a list of 23 verbs of this type, to which Matzel (1987) adds a number of
roots on the basis of what he takes to be substantivized deverbal adjectives, e.g. *mō-‘exert oneself’ on the basis of Go. mōps ‘anger’ (cf. Go. pp. af-mauidai ‘fatigued’ (weak class 1), etc.). With the exception of OE, WGmc. has almost entirely reformed these verbs to inflect according to weak class 1, and that tendency is evident in all the Gmc. languages, even in Gothic, as af-mauidai demonstrates. It is commonly assumed that such verbs acquired a stem-final *-j- in the pres. already in PGmc.,1 but certain facts tell against that assumption. Particularly discordant with that view are OE verbs of this type, which have -w- rather than *-j-, e.g. grōwan ‘grow’, sāwan ‘sow’ (cf. OFris. grōja, OS sāian); but also elsewhere in WGmc., j-presents are hardly uniform in these verbs, e.g. OHG sāian, sāan, sāwen, sāhen;2 casting doubt on the antiquity of the stems in *j. Moreover, for verbs in ï most grammars reconstruct for ON forms with stem-final *w, e.g. flōa < *flōwan = OE flōw- ‘flow’.3 The evidence of both ON and Gothic is inconclusive.4 The -w- in OE verbs like flōwan is of particularly obscure origin; it is sometimes explained by reference to perfect forms like Skt. jajñā and Lat. nōvī ‘knew’ (cf. OE cnē(o)w to cnāwan ‘know’), but Bammesberger (1980: 17) has shown how implausible that supposition is. The account of the reformation of the reduplicating class offered above (§12.20) is compatible with an alternative way to account for this w: it may be assumed that it developed between ï and u in preterites like 3 pl. *ʒr-e-ō-un > OE grēowon and was then generalized as part of the stem in both the pret. and the pres., whence it was extended also to the similar verbs in OE *ǣ (> a before w), e.g. *sǣ- → sāw-.5 On preterites to the verba pura, see Matzel 1988, Bammesberger 1991d.

1. So, e.g., Kluge 1910 and others cited by Lindeman (1968: 48 n. 1). It may be that a few such verbs originally had weak presents, and that the j-suffix was extended to the rest by analogy, as Lindeman argues. But Guðrún Bórhallsdóttir (1993), who finds that intervocalic j was lost in PGmc. even after stressed vowels, argues persuasively that all such instances of WGmc. semivowels are innovations.

2. The treatment of intervocalic j in OHG is not plain, but that four forms such as these could all reflect WGmc. *sējan, as is not uncommonly assumed, seems dubitable, especially given that forms without (i) are the norm in earlier OHG, and it is only in late OHG and MHG that (i) comes to predominate (Braune 2004a: §117 Anm. 1). Note, however, that OHG -en may derive from *-jan (§12.38).

3. So, e.g., Noreen 1970: §235d, Iversen 1973: §124.6; see also the references in Lindeman 1968: 50 n. 7; cf. also Seebold 1970: 204, reconstructing *flōwan for OE but *flō-ē- for ON, though the latter could only be an analogical formation.

4. For the reasons, see Fulk 1993a: 249–51, anticipated in part by Kluge 1910: 108. The most careful treatments of this question are in fact tentative about how such forms are to be reconstructed, e.g. Streitberg 1896: §§91–2.

5. Thus Fulk 1993a: 245–6. Guðrún Bórhallsdóttir (1993: 114–37) points out that the same change could have occurred before the pres. ind. 1 sg. ending *-u.

B. INFLATION

12.23 A comparative paradigm of strong verb inflection

A typical strong verb, Go. -biudan ‘bid’ (in ana-biudan ‘bid’, fāiur-biudan ‘forbid’), with cognates in the other earliest Germanic languages, is inflected as follows:
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Ind.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-biudā</td>
<td>býða</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biudu</td>
<td>biutu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-biudās</td>
<td>býðr</td>
<td>bīest</td>
<td>biudis</td>
<td>biutis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-biudīp</td>
<td>býðr</td>
<td>bīet(t)</td>
<td>biudīd</td>
<td>biutit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-biudōs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-biudats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-biudam</td>
<td>bjóðum</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodemēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-biudīp</td>
<td>bjóðið</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-biudand</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sj.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-biudáu</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-biudás</td>
<td>bjóðir</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biodes</td>
<td>biotēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-biudái</td>
<td>bjóði</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-biudáia</td>
<td>bjóði</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-biudāits</td>
<td>bjóði</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-biudáima</td>
<td>bjóðin</td>
<td>bēoden</td>
<td>bioden</td>
<td>biotemēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-biudájp</td>
<td>bjóðið</td>
<td>bēoden</td>
<td>bioden</td>
<td>biotēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-biudáina</td>
<td>bjóði</td>
<td>bēoden</td>
<td>bioden</td>
<td>biotēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-biud</td>
<td>bjóð</td>
<td>bēod</td>
<td>biod, biud</td>
<td>biut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-biudadáu</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-biudats</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēode</td>
<td>biode</td>
<td>biote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-biudam</td>
<td>bjóðum</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodemēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-biudíp</td>
<td>bjóðið</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-biudandáu</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēodaþ</td>
<td>biodad</td>
<td>biodent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Ind.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-báuþ</td>
<td>bauð</td>
<td>bēad</td>
<td>bōd</td>
<td>bōt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-báust</td>
<td>bautt</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budi</td>
<td>buti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-báuþ</td>
<td>bauð</td>
<td>bēad</td>
<td>bōd</td>
<td>bōt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-budu</td>
<td>bauð</td>
<td>bēad</td>
<td>bōd</td>
<td>bōt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-buduts</td>
<td>bauð</td>
<td>bēad</td>
<td>bōd</td>
<td>bōt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-budum</td>
<td>buðum</td>
<td>budon</td>
<td>budun</td>
<td>butumēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-buduþ</td>
<td>buðuð</td>
<td>budon</td>
<td>budun</td>
<td>butut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-budun</td>
<td>buðu</td>
<td>budon</td>
<td>budun</td>
<td>butun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Sj.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-budjáu</td>
<td>byða</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budi</td>
<td>buti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-budeís</td>
<td>byðir</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budis</td>
<td>butīs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-budí</td>
<td>byði</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budi</td>
<td>buti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-budeiwa</td>
<td>byði</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budi</td>
<td>buti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-budeits</td>
<td>byði</td>
<td>bude</td>
<td>budi</td>
<td>buti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-budeima</td>
<td>byðim</td>
<td>buden</td>
<td>budin</td>
<td>butūmēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-budeip</td>
<td>byðið</td>
<td>buden</td>
<td>budin</td>
<td>butīt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-budeina</td>
<td>byði</td>
<td>buden</td>
<td>budin</td>
<td>butīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf.</td>
<td>-biudan</td>
<td>bjóða</td>
<td>bēodan</td>
<td>biodan</td>
<td>biotan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Part.</td>
<td>-biudands</td>
<td>bjóðandi</td>
<td>bēodande</td>
<td>biodandi</td>
<td>biotenti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. Part.</td>
<td>-budans</td>
<td>boðinn</td>
<td>boden</td>
<td>gibodan</td>
<td>gibotan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, the plural endings are used with both plural and dual subjects. In addition, inflected infinitives (also called gerunds) occur in WGmc. (§12.30). Only in Gothic are verbs regularly inflected in the passive voice, and only in the present tense: see §12.29.
12.24 Inflection of the present indicative active in Proto-Germanic

The Germanic endings of the present indicative active developed from the PIE primary thematic endings identified in §12.4, with the exceptions noted below. On verbs preserving athematic inflections, see §12.55. The endings attested in the earliest Germanic languages, with possible PGmc. antecedents (assuming unconditioned change of e to i in unstressed syllables, §5.5), are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td>-*-ō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-is</td>
<td>-r</td>
<td>-st</td>
<td>-is</td>
<td>-is(t)</td>
<td>*-is(i), *-iz(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-iþ</td>
<td>-r</td>
<td>-þ</td>
<td>-id,-it,-id</td>
<td>-it</td>
<td>*-iþ(i), *-ið(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-ōs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-ats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-am</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-aþ</td>
<td>-ad,-at,-ad</td>
<td>-umēs,-amēs,-emēs</td>
<td>-*om(i)z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-iþ</td>
<td>-ið</td>
<td>-aþ</td>
<td>-ad,-at,-ad</td>
<td>-et,-at</td>
<td>*-iþ(i), *-ið(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-and</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-aþ</td>
<td>-ad,-at,-ad</td>
<td>-ant</td>
<td>*-anþ(i), *-anð(i)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, there is umlaut of the root vowel in the second and third persons singular, e.g. 3 sg. Olcel. ferr, OE ferð (beside ferð, §12.63 & n. 4), OS ferid, OHG ferit to Olcel. fara ‘go’, etc. Umlaut should also have occurred originally in the second person plural, but analogical developments have eliminated it everywhere, though it remains in a few forms in OHG in the early Monsee Fragments (Braune 2004a: §308 Anm. 1). In Old Icelandic, umlaut is extended analogically to the 1 sg.; conversely, the PGmc. raising of e before i (§4.4) has been eliminated in strong classes III–V, e.g. 3 sg. berr ‘bears’. In OS and OHG, 1 sg. -u causes raising of e in the root to i, e.g. biru ‘(I) bear’ to beran (§4.4). In the endings reconstructed for PGmc., a vowel in parentheses indicates one that was lost without leaving a trace in early Germanic.

1 sg. PGmc. -*ō developed regularly to -a in Gothic and to -*u in NWGmc., where it should have been lost in Olcel. (but preserved in Runic writu ‘I carve’ on the Eikeland brooch, ca. 600, and in the Olcel. middle voice, e.g. gefumk ‘give’ < gefu + m(i)k). It should also have been lost after heavy syllables in OE, but analogy has obscured the original distribution, with restoration of -u (frequently becoming -o) after heavy stems in the Anglian dialects, and, in WS, replacement by -e, perhaps from the subjunctive; for references, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.11 n. 2, and cf. Holthausen 1925, A. Campbell 1977: §731(a), Suzuki 1988. Introduction of the sj. ending may have taken its initial impetus from the verb willan, the pres. ind. of which was in PGmc. formally a pret. sj. (§12.59).

2 sg. The alternation between PGmc. -*is and -*iz is a result of Verner’s law (§6.6). The Gothic desinence may reflect either variant, whereas Olcel. -*r reflects the latter and the WGmc. endings the former. In OE, -*st is usually said to result from re-segmentation of the construction in which enclitic *pu followed, i.e. -*s pu > -*stu > -*st, though it has also been argued (e.g. by Sihler 1986) that the preexisting ending -*st found in bist ‘(you) are’ and a few pret.-pres. verbs (§12.52) must have played a role. The earliest texts in OHG likewise have -*is, later -*ist, the two co-occurring in Tatian. For a thorough discussion of the competing analyses, with full bibliography, see Fertig forthcoming, where it is argued persuasively (contra Ringe in Ringe & Taylor 2014:533–5, who rejects enclisism entirely as an explanation and attributes the change solely to analogy) that the mechanisms leading to the standardization of -*st are essentially phonological in nature. Spellings like Anglian OE -esō, it may be noted, suggest at least the
perception of -t as derived from $h\text{-}u$. The syncopated form -<st> is regular in WS after heavy stems and variable after light, occurring least frequently after stems ending in a sonorant consonant. In the Anglian dialects of OE the ending is regularly -<est>, -<esð>, or -<es>, except that syncope appears to be the norm when the pronoun is enclitic, though examples are few, as with Mercian acers $du$ ‘you turn away’ (= EWS *-ā-cierst $h\text{-}ō$); syncope is variable in Kentish (see Ringe & Taylor 2014: §7.1.2 for the details of Kentish). The most plausible explanation for this distribution is that syncope originated in the construction with enclitic pronoun; WS then generalized the syncopated ending, Anglian the unsyncopated.\(^3\) The addition of -<st> to the bare stem in OE could lead to various adjustments to some of the resulting consonant clusters, in the form of devoicing (e.g., -g-st > -hst, i.e. /ŋ/ + /st/ > /xst/) and assimilation (e.g. -p-st > -sst > -st). For details, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.13.

3 sg. PGmc. *-þ(i) should have alternated with *-ið(i) under Verner’s law, although the only secure evidence for this is OHG -it < *-id < *-ið,\(^4\) whereas Go. is ambiguous (§6.12), and the other Gmc. evidence demands PGmc. *-ip; cf. the 2 pl. ending, below. ON -r is usually regarded as analogical to the 2 sg. ending;\(^5\) original -ip is still to be found in Runic b’rūtþ, Björketorp stone, Sweden, roughly contemporary). The introduction of the 2 sg. ending into the 3 sg. was probably the result of the syncopation of i in the 3 sg. inflection, leading to unwieldy final consonant clusters, as in OE (H.F. Nielsen 2000: 263). In OE, syncope is distributed the same way as in the 2 sg., and once again there could be adjustments to some consonant clusters formed when -p was added directly to the stem, including devoicing (e.g. -ng-$b$ > -ncp), assimilation (e.g. -d-$b$ > -tt), and dissimilation (e.g. -s-$b$ > -st). For details, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.13.

1 du. Go. -ōs possibly reflects the etymological PIE thematic ending *-o-yes, hence PGmc. *-awiz, but with analogical replacement of *-a- by 1 sg. -ō, producing PGmc. *-ō(w)iz (Wright 1954: §287), though it has not been proved that w should have been lost between an unstressed vowel and i (so Ringe 2006a: 136; cf. Ringe 2017: 161, reconstructing PIE *-o-yos); possibly there was the change *-ōwiz > *-ōwz > -ōs (A.W. Jones 1979: 351). Rather, Bammesberger (1983b: 174) explains -ōs as created on the analytical proportion 1 sg. pres. -am : pret. -um = 1 du. pres. x : pret. -ū, hence x = *-ō, with subsequent addition of -y from the 2 dual.

2 du. In Go. -ats, the final cluster -ts is plainly derivable from the PIE ending *-tes, though why the result is -ts rather than *-ṵ&s is disputed.\(^6\) Neither is it known for certain why the PIE thematic vowel *-e-, which should have developed to *-i- in Germanic, was replaced by Gmc. *-a-, though this seems likeliest to be a paradigm regularization, with replacement of the reflex of PIE thematic *-e- by that of its alternant *-o-.

1 pl. The Go. and Olc cel. endings represent regular developments.\(^7\) In OHG, the form -umēs appears to be oldest, though there is mixture of endings from an early date. Final -ēs in this form is difficult to explain.\(^8\) In Ingvaonic, the 3 pl. ending has been extended throughout the plural.

2 pl. The Go. and Olc cel. endings represent regular developments if it is assumed that PIE e became PGmc. i in unstressed syllables except before r (§5.5); the PIE thematic ending was *-e-te. That the final consonant in PGmc. was at least sometimes voiced by Verner’s law is shown by forms with an attached enclitic in Go., e.g. qiṵid-uh ‘and you say’. OHG -at seems to show the same substitution as in the Go. 2 du., whereas the origin of -et is much disputed: see the references in Braune 2004a: §308 Anm. 1b and in Boutkan 1995b: 317–18. Beside the latter appears the expected -it in the early Monsee fragments, which is formally identical to the 3 sg., likewise causing umlaut,
and this suggests that PIE *-ete did indeed yield PGmc. *-ip/-io. In Ingvaeonic the 3 pl. ending has been extended throughout the plural. Possibly this was aided by a prior refashioning of *-ip to *-ab (as with OHG -at < *-ad; so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §69), but the vowel of 3 pl. -ab (as explained below) must have remained long for some time.

3 pl. The PIE ending *-o-nti would normally develop to PGmc. *-anð(i), yielding *-and, reflected in Go. -and, OHG -ant. But there must have been an alernant PGmc. *-anð(i) not subject to Verner’s law because of stress on the inflection, as in the 2 and 3 sg. This is reflected in Olcel., showing the development *-anð(i) > *-ann > -a (see Heusler 1967: §§158.2, 152), and in Ingvaeonic, where the development is *-anð > *-aŋþ > -aþ (§6.17, and see n. 4 infra). OS -ad, -at would seem to reflect PGmc. *-anð(i) rather than *-andi, as n would not have been lost in the latter in NSGmc. OS -at, however, appears to be the final fortition of -ad, discouraging the idea that the former is merely a spelling variant of -ad, and final fortition tells against a development *-b > *-d > *d (cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 160). Holthausen (1921: §405) may thus be right that the OS pl. inflections represent a mixture of the original 2 and 3 pl. endings.

1. If it is supposed that umlaut by lost i did not originally affect light syllables in ON (§4.7), it must be assumed that it was extended to the 2 and 3 sg. of verbs with light stems. But almost certainly umlaut did originally apply to light syllables.

2. It is generally assumed that the unvoiced alternant was preserved in verbs of the tudati type, i.e. the Germanic aorist presents (§12.3); see also supra on the 3 pl. ending. But -s would also have remained unvoiced in verba pura such as PGmc. *dō-s(i) ‘do’, *gē-s(i) ‘go’ and *stē-s(i). Fullerton (1975, with refs.) supports the view that *-s was devoiced by the voiceless initial of an enclitic pronoun. See Ringe 2017: 207–9 for an accounting of the original distribution of the variants by verb type.

3. This analysis originates with Walde (1900: 125 n. 1); see also Löffvenberg 1949: 17–23 and Fulk 1992: §§318–21. Ringe (in Ringe & Taylor 2014: §7.1.2) adheres to the earlier view that only the Anglian endings are analogical, in support of his hypothesis that OE syncope occurred in more environments than has heretofore been allowed (see §5.2 n. 4 supra).

4. OS -id, -it may represent borrowings from OHG: so Prokosch 1939: §72a. However, since there was devoicing of final obstruents in OS (§6.20), these could both represent the alernant *-d < *-ð under Verner’s law (so Holthausen 1921: §404 Anm. 1). It is plain that voiced and voiceless alternants cooccurred in Proto-WGmc., since leveling has taken opposite directions in OHG and OE.


6. Since the Skt. ending is -a-thah, possibly the PIE ending was *-a-thles, and the laryngeal consonant prevented Grimm’s law from applying to *t in PGmc. (Krause 1968: §258, in agreement with Stang 1949). For alternative views, see Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §69, Wright 1954: §287 (the latter arguing that the i is analogical to the t in forms like Go. Olcel. 2 pl. pret. nant ‘took’), K. M. Schmidt 1974, and Bammesberger 1983b, the last arguing (171–2) that t in the suffix remained unshifted in a few athematic verbs ending in a consonant which, in contact with t, normally prevented the application of Grimm’s law, e.g. *ex- ‘be’ and *geb- ‘give’, with subsequent generalization of t, as in the 2 sg. pret. Rather, Ringe (2017: 264) assumes a regular change of *-bs to -st that, he reasons, is untested elsewhere because of paradigm regularization.

7. A comparable development is seen in the dat. plural of Gmc. a-stem nouns (§7.8 ad fin.). That is, the PIE verb ending *-o-mes gives -am in Gothic but -um in NWGmc. (§5.5).

8. Krahe 1958 argues that s remained unvoiced in the reflex of PIE *-o-mes due to suffixal accent originating in athematic verbs (cf. Skt. 1 pl. imās < *h₂-mās ‘go’), and that was then replaced by ō by analogy to the 1 pl. opt. ending *-mē (> Go. sj. -ma). Bech (1962) raises weighty objections, but no more convincing is his notion of the addition of the OHG 2 sg. sj. ending -ēs to the normal 1 pl. ind. in -um. The commonest assumption is that -umēs shows the incorporation of a following pronoun into the inflection: for discussion and references, see Bouthan 1995b: 313–17.

9. The idea of Boutkan (1995b: 318) that the Olcel. inlection reflects *anði rather than *anþi faces the objection that *-nd- should have become *-nd- in PGmc. (§6.5), but loss of final d after n could not be called
improbable. The argument of Fullerton (1974) that NSGmc. *-anþ results from devoicing in *-arða, however, cannot be reconciled with the assumption that nd arose already in PGmc.

### 12.25 Inflection of the preterite indicative in Proto-Germanic

The Germanic endings of the preterite indicative active developed from the PIE perfect endings identified in §12.4, with the exceptions noted below. The endings attested in the earliest Germanic languages are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>*(a) (§5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-t</td>
<td>-t</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>*(þ(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>*(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*(u(w(e)) &gt; *(u (§5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-uts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>*(m(e) &gt; *(m &gt; *(um (§§5.2, 3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-uþ</td>
<td>-uð</td>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td>-un</td>
<td>*(un(þ))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, the plural endings are used with both plural and dual subjects. In the desinences reconstructed for PGmc., a segment in parentheses indicates one lost without leaving a trace in early Germanic. The following inflections merit discussion:

2 sg. Gothic and OIcel. -t reflect the PIE perfect ending *-th₂e seen in Skt. -tha and Gk. -θα (as in oîðha ‘you know’; cf. also Hitt. sak-ta ‘you know’, and Lat. vīd-is-tī ‘you saw’). PIE *-th₂e is commonly assumed to have produced PGmc. *-þ, which, however, is nowhere found, except perhaps in OE (Anglian) (e)ard (§§12.56–7). Rather, after a fricative consonant PIE *-t would remain unshifted under Grimm’s law (§6.5), as in Go. saht ‘you saw’ and gafft ‘you gave’, and presumably this rather common variant was generalized in East and North Gmc., if not in PGmc. (the latter possibility discounted by Heidermanns 2007: 59). This ending is found also in WGMc. in the preterite-present verbs (§12.52), but the normal WGMc. preterite endings must reflect either *-i (etymological after light stems, analogical after heavy) or *-t. This is now usually explained as derived from PGmc. *-iz (with loss of final z after the unstressed vowel in WGMc., §6.16), reflecting the thematic vowel *-e- plus the secondary ending *-s used in the PIE imperfect and aorist. The substitution of the aorist ending for the perfect one would have been well motivated, given the awkward final consonant clusters that would have resulted in some instances from the addition of final *-þ to a stem that already ended in a consonant cluster, and given the alternation between *-þ and *-t already mentioned (if this was not eliminated already in PGmc.), as well as further irregularities like that mentioned in n. 1. A difficulty facing derivation of the WGMc. ending from an aorist is that in order to explain, e.g., WGMc. *tuzi(z), it is necessary to derive it from PIE *h₂é-duk-e-s (cf., e.g. Skt. àśicah ‘you poured’ (root sic-), Gk. ἐλιπεῖν ‘you left’), as suffix accent, though it would explain the voicing of the root-final consonant under Verner’s law, would produce final *-s rather than *-z; and yet there is no secure evidence for a verbal augment anywhere in Germanic (see §12.61). If, instead, WGMc. *tuzi is derived from an augmentless thematic aorist *dük-é-s (cf. Gk. ἀποτιθέν, etc.), it must be assumed that final *-s was lost in WGMc. regardless of whether or not it was voiced under Verner’s law, or that final *-s developed to *-z in WGMc. (and was thus lost) regardless of the original place of the accent (see §6.16).
Grønvik (1998b: 103–11, at 104–5) raises a number of other telling objections. Most alternative explanations rely upon the assumption that the WGmc. ending is optative in origin. In PGmc. the pret. subjunctive (< optative) ending was *-i-s or *-i-z (see §12.27); if the former, it must be assumed, once again, that final *-s was simply lost in WGmc. In either event, the remaining *-i would have been shortened, but not early enough to undergo apocope after heavy stems: cf., for instance, OHG 1 and 3 sg. pret. sj. -i (see §12.23). This explanation thus does not require the extensive appeal to analogy required by derivation from an aorist form. Derivation of the 2 sg. ending from analogy the aorist or the perfect subjunctive will explain why the stem is in the reduced grade in WGmc. Kortlandt (1994b) derives the ending from a posited PGmc. pluperfect.

1 du. Bammesberger (1983b: 173) regards the inflectional vowel as long, composed of ‘thematic’ u plus w < PIE *-ye. If it is short, it must reflect *-ye alone.

2 du. Go. -uts has its vowel by analogy to the 1 dual and the plural endings. See Bammesberger 1983b: 172–3.

1 pl. The usual assumption (first offered by Sievers 1877–8: 5.119–21; cf. Marchand 1957b: 107–8) is that in a form like PGmc. *bjóð-m(e), upon loss of the final vowel the remaining postconsonantal *-m was syllabified and fell together with the reflex of PIE *-η as *-um. Since this cannot be proved, Bammesberger (1986a: 96) argues instead that PGmc. *-um has its vowel by analogy to the 3 pl. ending *-un. In OE and OS, the 3 pl. ending has been extended throughout the plural.

2 pl. The endings (outside of Ingvaeonic, where the 3 pl. ending has been substituted) must derive from PGmc. *-up, though this cannot reflect the PIE perfect ending, whatever it was (*-(h)y)ê ?. This *-up most likely has its vowel by analogy to the 1 and 3 pl. inflections, and perhaps its consonant derives from the pres. ind. inflection. Alternatively, this consonant could be derived from the PIE aorist inflection *(e-)he, a possibility mentioned by Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §73. PGmc. *-up is also reflected in the present of athematic and preterite-present verbs.

3 pl. The PGmc. ending must have been *-un(p) (with loss of the final consonant already in PGmc.), to be derived from PIE *-nt, which is not a perfect ending. Rather, *-nt is an athematic secondary ending, and so used with the imperfect and the sigmatic aorist (COWGILL 1957: 48–9).

None of these endings proves conclusively that the PIE aorist was still an inflectional category at the time the PGmc. preterite was formed, but the 3 pl. ending renders that conclusion highly probable. Likewise, an aorist model, insecure as it is, seems the likeliest explanation offered to date for the 2 sg. ending in WGmc., and it is a possible explanation, in part, for the 2 pl. ending.

1. Final -i would also have resulted when *-h was added to a dental consonant, producing final -st, as in Go. 2 sg. pret. ana-biust to ana-biudan ‘bid’. There is also, however, the possibility that the First Consonant Shift preceded the loss of the laryngeal, which prevented t from shifting (so, e.g., SIHLER 1986: 201); cf. §12.24 on the pres. 2 dual inflection. Ringe (2017: 124) is probably right that laryngeals were lost before the First Sound Shift, but it does not appear to be possible to prove that anteconsonantal and postconsonantal laryngeals were lost at the same time. OE dialectal 2 sg. pres. earð, aró ‘are’ would appear to be the only Gmc. forms showing the shifted consonant, but it is by no means certain that -d reflects the original perfect ending: see §12.57.


3. As Grønvik points out, the assumption that 3 pl. *-un(p) is an aorist ending demands the supposition that the perfect and aorist melded in PGmc., so that the assumption of an intact aorist surviving into WGmc. makes no sense. Moreover, such a posited aorist has left no trace in North Germanic. In addition, the ending...
§12.24 Inflection of the present indicative active 279

*-* (OE -e) would be etymological only in strong classes 1 and 2, as the sj. stem in all other classes would have been heavy, causing apocope of the final vowel. And although OHG nī curi ‘do not’ has sometimes been identified as an aorist form (so, e.g., Streitberg 1896: §214), it is more plausibly analyzed as a pret. sj. (§12.27).

4. So, e.g., Bammesberger 1986a: 47–8; refs. in H.F. Nielsen 2000: 245. This idea was proposed already by Jacob Grimm: see Flasdieck (1934: 118–19), who discounts the idea and remarks that derivation from the aorist has in its favor that the aorist ending could not be added to the preterite-presents, since they are present in meaning. See also Meid 1971: 13–14. Bech (1969) argues that *-*aiz was taken into the pret. from the pres., and M.R. Barnes (1975) offers some refinements to this analysis, with discussion of the problem of WGmc. *-z/s.

5. Advocates of variants upon this explanation include van Helten (1893: 554; 1902: 545), Schröder (1921), Polomé (1964), Bammesberger (1986a: 47–8), Gronvik (1999b: 103–11), Euler 2013: 138–40, and Ringe & Taylor 2014: 67–9. For a syntactic justification for the origin of the use of the pret. sj. for the ind., see Gronvik 1999b: 105–11, with references. Yet surely the original ind. inflection would not have been lost entirely had it not created paradigm irregularities, as remarked above.

6. So, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §73, though their idea that -u- in this ending might in some instances reflect a (i.e. i̯) is not to be credited: see §5.5 ad fin.

7. If the PIE inflection really was *-hē, with loss of the laryngeal it would have fallen together with the 3 sg. ending, and this may have prompted the refashioning of the inflection (Boutkan 1995b: 336).

8. The PIE perfect ending almost certainly contained r (§12.4), though the original ending has been replaced analogically in the majority of IE branches.

9. Tops (1974: 26), building on ideas set forth by Polomé (1964) and Meid (1971), argues that the presumed PIE 3 pl. perf. inflection in r was replaced by -nt in the PIE period itself, and therefore the source of the Gmc. perf. ending could be the present ending. One assumes that he means by this either that the replacement did not take place in all verbs (since the r ending is reflected in Hittite, Tocharian B, Sanskrit, and Latin) or that the replacement took place in some dialects of PIE. In either event, he must mean that because the replacement took place so early, PIE phonological patterns would still have applied, and hence /nt/ would have been realized as *-nt. But the problem of the survival of the r inflection in some IE languages tells against replacement at such an early date, and at all events, if the replacement took place so early, the distinction between primary and secondary endings would still have been observed, rendering the secondary form of the Gmc. ending difficult to explain.

10. Rather, Ringe (2017: 182–5) derives the Gmc. inflection solely from the form *dēōm ‘did’, which he derives from an imperfect: see §12.61 on ‘do’.

11. Assuming that the 2 sg. ending in WGmc. is aorist in origin demands that the aorist have remained in use up to the time of the separation of WGmc. from NGmc. though there is no other reason to suppose that it was preserved so late. It would indeed be surprising if it persisted so long without leaving a trace in Gothic and NGmc. that is not found also in WGmc. Considerable uncertainty thus remains.

12.26 Inflection of the present subjunctive active in Proto-Germanic

The Germanic endings of the present subjunctive active developed from the PIE present optative desinences. It was the PIE thematic optative that was generalized in the present tense in Gmc., which, according to the standard view (§12.6), comprised the theme vowel *-*o- plus the weak-grade optative suffix *-*h₉r plus inflection, with accent on the root throughout.¹ In the present tense in Gmc., of the PIE athematic optative only a few relic forms are to be found.² The normal endings attested in the earliest Germanic languages are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-āu</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>*-a(j)u(n) &lt; PIE *-oij₉m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-āis</td>
<td>-Ir</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-es</td>
<td>-ēs</td>
<td>*-aiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-āi</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>*-a(i)ð</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following endings merit comment:

1 sg. PIE *-oīm (§12.4, in line with the explanation of Paul 1877: 378) accounts admirably for Go. *-āu, since the resulting PGmc. *-ajum would have lost *j between unstressed vowels (§6.11 ad fin.), and final *-m (> *-n) would have been lost, as well (§6.11). There is thus no need to suppose that the emphasizing particle *-u that appears to underlie the 3 sg. and pl. imp. endings in Gothic (§12.28) is required to explain this opt. ending (so Prokosch 1939: §72c). PGmc. *-au will also explain OIcel. -a (cf. ātt `8' < PIE *oktōy), whereas the WGmc. endings appear to reflect *-aim > *-ai(n), an early analogical formation with *-ai- derived from the remainder of the paradigm rather than an original alternant.3

2 sg. The Go., OIcel., and OE endings develop regularly. The OS and OHG endings have -s on an analogical basis, under the influence, not least of all, of the athematic optative (§12.6), a change perhaps motivated by the utility of re-differentiating the 2 and 3 sg. (Boutkan 1995b: 323); cf. Flasdieck 1934: 115, arguing that Anglo-Frisian has innovated.

1 du. PGmc. *-aiwē is reconstructed by comparison to, e.g., OCS ved-ě-vě ‘let us lead’ < PIE *yedh-o-īh-yē (with final -ē from -e-h?). Cf. Ringe 2017: 264–5.

2 du. The ending is the same as in the indicative (on the origin of which, see §12.24) but attached to the PGmc. thematic optative suffix -ai-.

1 pl. Go. *-aima agrees with, e.g., Lith. -o-mēs in reflecting an inflection with a long vowel (and cf. the 1 dual ending, above). By contrast, the OIcel. and OHG endings presuppose an ending with a short vowel, PGmc. *-ai-mē, in agreement with Skt. -ē-ma and Gk. -o-μευ. In NSGmc. the ending of the third person has been extended throughout the plural, as in the indicative.

2 pl. Only the Ingvaeonic endings do not result regularly, being due to extension of the 3 pl. ending throughout the plural.

3 pl. Only the Gothic ending is altered analogically, with extension of -a to match the 1 du. and pl. endings. Because he does not reconstruct a laryngeal consonant, Hreinn Benediktsson (1983: 33) regards PGmc. *-ain(ð) as an analogical formation, but since *j between unstressed vowels appears to have been lost in PGmc. (§6.11 ad fin.), *-ain(ð) may result phonologically from *-a(j)inð < PIE *-oīh-ent.

1. According to the earlier view, before the discovery of laryngeal consonants (see, e.g., Streitberg 1896: §221), the thematic optative desinence is made up of thematic *-o plus the *i found in the dual and plural of athematic optatives, producing PGmc. *oī. This requires the assumption of morphological change in some of the Gothic beginnings. But once a laryngeal consonant is assumed in PIE, resort to analogy is unnecessary, as nearly all the Go. endings can be derived phonologically, the one exception being that Go. 3 pl. must be assumed to have final -a by analogy, an assumption that is necessary under any analysis. See §12.6 on problems in the analysis of the thematic pres. optative.

2. On the present subjunctive (PIE optative) in athematic verbs, see §12.6. Very likely the OE unlauteled present subjunctives cyme, cymen reflect a PGmc. athematic optative, hence with suffix *-ī: see Bammesberger 1982b, with references. Euler 2013: 139 regards them as aorist in origin, i.e. with punctual meaning.

3. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §77) justify *-aim as an original alternate by comparison to Lat. s-im ‘1 be’, but when the presence of a laryngeal is acknowledged it should be plain that there should have been no thematic desinence *-oim inherited from PIE. For discussion and references to alternative proposals, see A.W.
12.27 Inflection of the preterite subjunctive in Proto-Germanic

The Germanic endings of the preterite subjunctive developed from the PIE perfect (hence athematic) optative desinences (§12.6), except that the reflex of weak-grade PIE *-iêh₁s- of the dual and plural was extended to the singular, replacing PIE athematic *-iêh₁r-, with the possible exception of the 1 sg. The endings attested in the earliest Germanic languages are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>-jáu</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-eis</td>
<td>-ir</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-is</td>
<td>-îs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
<td>-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>-eiwa</td>
<td>-eis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-eits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-eina</td>
<td>-îm</td>
<td>-en</td>
<td>-îm, -îmēs</td>
<td>*-îmēð(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-eîp</td>
<td>-îð</td>
<td>-en</td>
<td>-ît</td>
<td>*-îð(ð)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-eina</td>
<td>-î</td>
<td>-en</td>
<td>-în</td>
<td>*-în(ð) &lt; *-i-inð &lt; *-iêh₁-ent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Olcel. the stem shows umlaut throughout; a few possible examples with umlaut are found in OE (see Bammesberger 1982b: 414–15). The Gmc. singular endings, with the possible exception noted below, reflect analogical PGmc. *-i- plus the secondary endings, as in the present. The dual forms, attested in Gothic only, reflect this PGmc. *-i- plus the usual dual inflections. As usual in NSGmc., the 3 pl. inflection has been extended throughout the plural. Otherwise, only the following endings require comment:

1 sg. It is usually explained that Go. -jáu reflects the optative sign *-i- extended from the dual and plural with the analogical addition of -áu on the model of the present optative (so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §78). But the ending may etymologically reflect PGmc. *-jêu < *-je-u(n) < PIE *-iêh₁m if it is assumed that PGmc. *-êu would develop to Go. -áu. This development cannot be proved, but cf. the development of Go. -áu from PIE *-êu in the locative singular of u-stem nouns (§7.25). Perhaps *-jêu would also yield Olcel. -a, as *j would have been lost after the heavy syllable (§6.14) found in the stem of the pret. sj. of strong verbs other than those in classes I–II (where the syllable would have been light), though -a is perhaps likelier to be analogical to the present inflection, as every other pret. sj. ending in Olcel. is identical to the corresponding present ending. Certainly, the WGmc. 1 sg. endings reflect extension of *-i- from the other persons, but it is notable that 1 sg. pres. ind. OE (Anglian) willo, OS williu, OHG willu ‘will’ all correspond to Go. wiljáu, bearing a pret. sj. inflection on a pres. stem (§12.59), and thus supporting the assumption of PGmc. *-jêu.

2 sg. Final *-s would have remained voiceless in the PGmc. reflex of PIE *-iêh₁r-s. Perhaps when the reflex of *-iêh₁r- was replaced by *-îr- in PGmc., the original voiceless *-s remained (in which event OE -e for *-es would appear to be analogical). This would help to explain why the analogical pressure of athematic inflection was sufficient to induce extension of -*s to the corresponding present ending in OS and OHG (§12.26). Otherwise it would have to be assumed that this *preterite ending in OS and OHG is analogical to the present ending of a small number of athematic verbs. But it is
perhaps likelier that to analogical PGmc. *-i- was added -z (rather than -s), as in the
pres. subjunctive. This would explain the curious imp. OHG ni curi ‘do not’ (beside
later, analogically restored ni churīs, to kiosan ‘choose’), which appears to be an early
form of the 2 sg. pret. sj.: see, e.g., Bammerberger 1986c: 676, Euler 2013: 138.

3 pl. As in the present, the Go. ending shows extension of -a from the 1 pl. inflec-
tion. Also as in the present, loss of PGmc. *j between unstressed vowels adequately
explains the development of PIE *-i₈-ent to PGmc. *-in(ð), without recourse to analogy

12.28 Inflection of the imperative in Proto-Germanic

The endings attested in the earliest Germanic languages are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>-Ø</td>
<td>*-(e) (§5.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>-adāu</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-amēs, -emēs, -ēm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>-ats</td>
<td>-ats</td>
<td>-ats</td>
<td>-ad</td>
<td>-et</td>
<td>*-iþ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>-am</td>
<td>-um</td>
<td>-on</td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>-amēs, -emēs, -ēm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>-iþ</td>
<td>-ið</td>
<td>-að</td>
<td>-et</td>
<td>*-iþ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>-andāu</td>
<td>-andāu</td>
<td>-andāu</td>
<td>-andāu</td>
<td>-andāu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only the 2 sg. and 2 pl. endings bear a relation to the PIE endings (§12.6) transparent
enough to allow reconstruction of the PGmc. endings with sufficient confidence.

2 sg. The PGmc. inflection *-e, which would have been lost consistently, reflects
the PIE theme vowel with null inflection. On the imp. in athematic verbs, see §12.6.

3 sg. Go. -adāu derives not from the PIE 3 sg. imp. *-t(u) but from what is some-
times called the future imperative (so, e.g., Szemerényi 1996: §9.2.5), which bears a
suffix in PIE *-tōd, as in OLat. estōd ‘let him be’ (= Gk. ἔστω); the Skt. reflex is -tāt.
With root accent of the verb it thus would have produced PGmc. *-dō, to which (accord-
ing to the standard view) has been added an emphasizing particle, probably the same
seen in Skt. pres. imp. astu, santu ‘let it/them be’, to produce (thematic) PGmc. *-a-dōu
> Go. -adāu. Cf. Go. ahtāu ‘eight’ < PIE *okātōu, but see below in regard to the 3 pl.
ending for some difficulties and an alternative analysis. The theme vowel a in this form,
however (for expected e), is by analogy to the 3 pl. imp. ending (Krause 1968: §217.4).

2 du. Go. -ats is the same ending found in the pres. ind. 2 dual, just as the 2 pl.
endings are identical in the indicative and the imperative.

1 pl. The Gmc. inflections are apparently an innovation; no 1 pl. imp. ending is
reconstructible for PIE. Outside of Ingvaeonic, the 1 pl. imp. ending is identical to the
ind. ending, just as the 2 pl. ind. and imp. endings are identical. In OE and OS the sj.
plural is the normal form used for injunctions, but OS wíta and OE (w)wutan, (w)wutan,
uten (also Northumbrian wutum 3s) ‘let us’, apparently derived from forms of OS, OE
wítan ‘go’, suggest a separate original imp. ending even in Ingvaeonic. Possibly in these
languages, too, the 1 pl. imp. ending was originally the same as the indicative, but the
attested forms require the assumption of exceptional developments under low stress (see
Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§6.6, 6.46 n. 1), and so the original form of the Ingvaeonic ending
cannot be determined.

2 pl. Just as in PIE, all the 2 pl. imp. inflections are identical to the indicative
ones, on the development of which see §12.24. Thus, in NSGmc. the inflection of what
was originally the 3 pl. ind. is employed, since the 3 pl. ind. inflection replaced the 2 pl.
in Ingvaeonic. The PIE 2 pl. imp. may be in origin an injunctive (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §79), on which see §12.1 n. 2.

3 pl. The relation between Go. 3 pl. -andáu and 3 sg. -adáu has been compared to that between Skt. 3 pl. -antu < *-o-nt-u and 3 sg. -atu < *-e-t-u. Go. -andáu is commonly thought to reflect PIE *-ontōd, as in Doric Gk. φερόντω (but with accent on the root) with the addition of the same emphasizing particle *-u seen in the 3 sg. (so, e.g., Wright 1954: §289). This demands the assumption that *-u was not added until after the loss of the final consonant in the PGmc. reflex of PIE *-ontōd. The same must be assumed for the 3 sg. ending, and so it is not plain what the analogical model for the addition of *-u could have been, given this analysis. Accordingly, Markey (1972, with refs. and discussion of alternative views) argues that, here and in the 3 sg. imp., to prevent neutralization of the distinction between the imp. and the pass. ind., -āu was added, borrowed from the pass. sj., given the semantic connections between the imperative and the subjunctive, as demonstrated, e.g., by the pret.-pres. verbs, which have no formal imperative, for which the sj. instead serves. Yet Suzuki (1984) counters that -u in the pass. sj. is equally mysterious in origin, and he proposes that -u is identical to the Go. interrogative suffix -u (so earlier Wright 1954: §297). For discussion and references, see A.W. Jones 1979: 364–71.

On OHG ni curi, pl. ni curīt, curet see §12.27; on Go. ni ōgs āus, §12.53.

1. Holthausen (1921: §408 Anm. 3) assumes a long vowel, but a short seems likelier, given that OE wāton requires a short vowel to explain the development of the root vowel to u under combinative back mutation (Hogg 1992: §5.109.1).

12.29 The passive and middle inflections

Only in Gothic are verbs regularly inflected in the passive voice, and only in the present tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg. -biudada</td>
<td>pl. -biudanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg. -biudaza</td>
<td>pl. -biudanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg. -biudada</td>
<td>pl. -biudanda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The category reflects the PIE middle voice, but verbs inflected this way in Gothic are purely passive in meaning. That there is no synthetic pret. passive is a consequence of there having been no perfect passive in PIE, seeing as the Gmc. preterite reflects the PIE perfect. 3 pl. -anda directly reflects PIE *-o-ntoi (§12.5), which ending has been extended throughout the ind. plural. Its connecting vowel a has been extended to the 2 and 3 sg. endings (Lühr 1978: 110), which otherwise reflect PIE *-e-soi and *-e-toi, respectively. The 1 sg. is analogous to the 3 sg.; the original ending was PIE *-ai, which is reflected in Runic haite ‘I am called’. For a very different account, beginning with dissimilar PIE endings, see Boutkan 1995b: 327–30.

The subjunctive has the same connecting vocalism -āi- as in the pres. act. subjunctive. Otherwise the endings are the same as those in the ind. passive, except for final -āu, which is perhaps borrowed from the 1 sg. pres. indic. active; but see the discussion of the 3 sg. & pl. imperative above (§12.28).

Aside from these Gothic forms and Runic haite, the PIE middle is formally reflected in Gmc. only in OE 1 & 3 sg. hātte ‘am/is called, was called’ = Go. háittada,
with both present and past meaning. Elsewhere in Gmc. the passive meaning in this verb has been assumed by active forms.

A new middle voice, used with both reflexive and passive meaning, arose in NGmc. by the addition of reflexive pronouns to verbs, e.g. 1 sg. pres. ind. *grabdō + mik > grōfumk (to grafa ‘delve’), 2 sg. *grābiz + sik > grefsk, 3 pl. *graba(n) + sik > grafaska, 2 sg. pret. *grōft + sik > grōfzk. The paradigm is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indicative</th>
<th></th>
<th>Subjunctive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sg.</td>
<td>pl.</td>
<td>sg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>grōfumk</td>
<td>grōfumk</td>
<td>grōfumk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>grefsk</td>
<td>grafizk</td>
<td>grefsk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>grefsk</td>
<td>grafask</td>
<td>grefsk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>grōfumk</td>
<td>grōfumk</td>
<td>grœfumk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>grōfzk</td>
<td>grōfzk</td>
<td>grœfzk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>grōfsk</td>
<td>grōfsk</td>
<td>grœfsk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the development of the NGmc. middle voice, see Faarlund 2005.

1. The form is a reconstruction on the basis of two imperfect inscriptions: see Krause 1971: §103. In the sense ‘am called’ the OIcel. verb takes the form heite > heiti; the other persons and numbers are inflected according to the pattern of heavy stems of the first weak class.

2. OE 3 sg. hǣtte, in one of the so-called metrical charms, is more likely a scribal error than a reflex of *xaitiðai, i.e. the PGmc. form without substitution of the connecting vowel, as in Gothic. OE pl. hättan is analogical, possibly to weak verbs of the first class (Euler 2013: 136), but perhaps more likely to preterite-present verbs, since it may have pres. meaning but a pret. inflection.

12.30 Formation and inflection of non-finite strong verb forms

Of the various means of forming verbal nouns in PIE (§12.7), addition of the suffix *-no- (> PGmc. *-na-) to the thematic stem ending in *-o- used in the present was the exclusive method adopted in PGmc. for the formation of infinitives. These bore the nom./acc. sg. neuter o-stem inflections. Hence, PIE *bherana > Go. baíran, ON bera, OE OS OHG beran ‘to bear’. In WGmc., a suffix *-anja- bearing ja-stem inflections was added to the bare stem to form so-called inflected infinitives (or ‘gerunds’). These are chiefly in the dative case and usually follow the prep. OE tō, OS te, OHG za, zi, expressing, for the most part, purpose, e.g. OE tō berenne, tō beranne,5 OS -ann(i)a,4 OHG -anne. In OS and OHG there is also, though less frequently, an inflected inf. in the genitive, without a preposition, ending in OS -annias, OHG -annes. OHG has also instr. sg. forms in -annu (et sim.), whereas dat. pl. forms in -annum are by analogy to Latin constructions. In ON there occur some innovative pret. infinitives, formed by the addition of -u to the pret. stem, e.g. stōðu ‘to have stood’, mæltu ‘to have said’, knáttu ‘to have known’. These originate in the preterite-present verbs (see §12.53 n. 2).

The active (or present, or first) participle is formed by the addition of PIE *-nt- to the thematic stem ending in *-o- used in the present, with the addition of adjective inflections (§9.9). With accent on the root, PIE *-nt- yields PGmc. *-nō- > *-nd- under Verner’s law (§6.6), as in Go. bairands, Olce. berandi, OE berende, OS berandi, OHG beranti ‘bearing’. Except in ON, these take both strong and weak inflections; in ON they bear a uniform set of inflections identical to those borne by adjectives in the comparative degree (see §9.9 for details). In West Gmc. the strong forms bear ja- and jō-
stem inflections. That the inflections found on such participles differ in the three main branches of Gmc. is no doubt a consequence of original consonant-stem inflection, as in Gk. nsm. φέρων ‘bearing’ < *bheronts, asm. φέροντα < *bherontyn. The irregularities in the suffix produced by such inflection would naturally have motivated morphological change.

The passive (or past, or second) participle of strong verbs is formed by the addition of thematized *-an- (in alternation with much rarer *-in-) to the PGmc. unaccented verb stem reflecting the PIE weak grade, e.g. Go. bairrans < *buranaz < *bh₃r-ôn-o-s. Such participles take normal strong and weak adjective inflections.

1. PGmc. *berana* is commonly compared to Skt. bharāṇam. Hirt (1931–4: II, §158) concedes that this is a possibility, but that the Skt. form could derive instead from *bhṛgniṃ, making it more directly comparable to Gk. infinitives in -μενα. Indeed, under most formulations of Brugmann’s law we should expect *bhronom to produce Skt. bhārāṇam, though the law is too insecure for this to prove the point: see Collinge 1985: 13–21. Hirt’s idea that *-mn- would explain *-nn- in the WGerman. inflected infinitives discussed below does not simplify matters, since *-n- is already explained by the ja-stem inflection of these infinitives. The PIE suffix *-men- appears to be reflected in PGmc. *ermon- ‘immense, high’ (in Latinized Go. Ermeni-ricus (name), Olcel. jormun-, OE eormun-, OHG irmsin-): cf. Gk. part. ῥούμενος to ῥόνυμι ‘stir up’ (so Müllenhoff 1879).

2. Commonly this *-anja- is regarded as formed by the addition of *-ja- to the inf. in *-an-, though the basis for such a development is not easy to account for. Gronvik (1998b: 112–14) ventures a possible explanation. More commonly now the formation is regarded as unrelated to the stem of the uninflected inf.: see Los 2005, with references.

3. The form -anne is actually less frequent than etymological -enne in all OE dialects, doubtless by analogy to the uninflected infinitive, which is sometimes found after to in poetry, rarely in prose. The same influence is probably to be seen in OS. OHG forms in -enne among strong verbs, as well as forms in -anni, seem to attest to derivation of *-nn- from *-nj- (Brune 2004a: §315 Anm. 1).

4. With variants -anne, -enne, -onn(i)a, -onne.


### 12.31 Characteristics of the seven strong classes in the individual early Germanic languages

Phonological and morphological changes resulted in some distinctive features of verbs in various of the seven classes in some of the early languages. Representative paradigms are offered below for strong verbs in Go., Olcel., OE, OFris., OS, and OHG. Not all of the principal parts offered below are attested as such, but the forms are not in doubt, given that the ablaut patterns are well attested. On various departures from these patterns, including consonant alternations under Verner’s law, aorist presents, weak presents, and contracted verbs, see §§12.17–19.

Class I, PGmc. (1) ī, (2) ai, (3) i, (4) i: The root contains the reflex of PIE /i/, which in full grade is preceded by the root vowel. In part (1), PIE eį > PGmc. ī, and in part (2), PIE oį > PGmc. ai (§3.4) In NWGmc. there most likely should have been lowering of ī to e in passive participles, due to a in the following syllable, e.g. *ridanaz ‘ridden’ > *redanaz, but the evidence for such a change is slender: see §4.4. If it took place, it has been almost completely reversed on the basis of analogy, perhaps to the preterite plural. It might seem odd that analogy should have removed the effect of lowering in the passive participle in class I but not class II, but it should be remembered that o in the class II participle was not a phoneme in NWGmc. but an allophone of /u/
and thus, though perhaps not immune to analogical effects (see, e.g., Steriade 2000), less disposed to them, whereas e in class I would have been a phoneme. Taking into account language- or subfamily-specific sound changes, the following principal parts to Go. *beitan ‘bite’ and cognates are representative of the ablaut patterns in the individual languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>beitan</td>
<td>báit</td>
<td>bitun</td>
<td>bitans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>bita</td>
<td>beit</td>
<td>bitu</td>
<td>bitinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>bitan</td>
<td>bát</td>
<td>biton</td>
<td>biten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>bita</td>
<td>bét</td>
<td>biten</td>
<td>biten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>bitan</td>
<td>bét</td>
<td>bitun</td>
<td>gibitan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>bīzan</td>
<td>beiz</td>
<td>bizun</td>
<td>gibizan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OHG verbs with stem-final h or w have ē rather than ei in the pret. sg. (§4.17), e.g. *zīhan ‘accuse’, zēh, zīgun, gizigan.

Class II, PGmc. (1) eu, (2) au, (3) u, (4) u: The root contains the reflex of PIE */u/, which in full grade is preceded by the root vowel. In part (2), PIE *ou > PGmc. au. Outside of Gothic, Gmc. u was lowered to o before a in the next syllable. In OFr., on the other hand, *-in- (in alternation with much commoner *-an-: §12.30) was generalized in the pp., with resulting umlaut, e.g. WGmc. *budin- > beden, with analogical extension of e to the pret. pl. (Bremmer 2009: §132). The following principal parts to Go. -biudan (in ana-biudan ‘command’ and faúr-biudan ‘forbid’) and cognates are representative of the ablaut patterns in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>-biudan</td>
<td>-báuþ</td>
<td>-budun</td>
<td>-budans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>hjóða</td>
<td>bauð</td>
<td>buðu</td>
<td>boðinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>bēodan</td>
<td>bēad</td>
<td>budon</td>
<td>boden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>bída</td>
<td>bād</td>
<td>beden</td>
<td>beden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>biodan</td>
<td>bōd</td>
<td>budun</td>
<td>gibdan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>beotan</td>
<td>bōt</td>
<td>butun</td>
<td>gibotan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chief variant of this ablaut pattern is represented by the aorist presents (§12.18), which have ā in the present stem, e.g. Go. ga-lūkan ‘shut’, -lāuuk, -lukun, -lukans. OIcel. jó in the present stem occurs only before dental consonants, otherwise ji, as in fjūjiga ‘fly’, to which the pret. sg. is flō (§4.9). In OS the original diphthong *eu of the present stem is preserved before w, as in hreuwan ‘rue’. OHG has in part (2) ō only before dental consonants and h, otherwise ou (§4.17), e.g. liogan ‘lie’, long, lugun, gilogan.

Class III, PGmc. (1) e, (2) a, (3) u, (4) u: The stem ends in a consonant cluster, usually consisting of a sonorant plus another consonant, which may effect changes upon the preceding vowel. Typical is the paradigm of Go. hilpan ‘help’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>hilpan</td>
<td>halp</td>
<td>hulpun</td>
<td>hulpans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIcel.</td>
<td>hjálpa</td>
<td>halp</td>
<td>hulp</td>
<td>holpinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>helpan</td>
<td>healp</td>
<td>hulpun</td>
<td>holpen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>helpa</td>
<td>halp</td>
<td>hulp</td>
<td>hulpen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>helpan</td>
<td>halp</td>
<td>hulpun</td>
<td>giholp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>helfan</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>hulfun</td>
<td>giholfan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OIC. hjālpa shows fracture followed by stress shift and lengthening (§§4.8–9); the pret. sg. may also be hjālp, by analogy. In OE healp there is breaking (§4.13), and
breaking also occurs in part (1) before /r/ or /x/, as in *beorgan ‘protect’ and *feohtan ‘fight’, though not in *berstan ‘burst’ and *perscan ‘thresh’, in which there is metathesis of r with the root vowel. Verbs with initial g- or sc- show WS diphthongization by initial palatal consonant if breaking did not antecede it, thus *gieldan ‘pay’, *giellan ‘yell’, *gielpan ‘boast’, *sciellan ‘resound’; compare the palatalization in part (1) of OFris. *ielda ‘pay’, *gald, *gulden, *gulden. The vowel u/o is probably analogical (i.e. not developed in, e.g., ru < *ru: see n. 3 infra) in the pret. and pp. of Olcel. *bregða ‘brandish’, OE *frignan ‘ask’, *stregdan ‘strew’, OS *flehtan ‘braid’, and certainly of OE *feohtan ‘fight’, and cognates. Another ablaut pattern in class III looks rather different, due to the effect of a nasal consonant on the root vowel (§4.4), as demonstrated by the principal parts of Go. *bindan ‘bind’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>bindan</td>
<td>band</td>
<td>bundun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>binda</td>
<td>batt</td>
<td>bundu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>bindan</td>
<td>band</td>
<td>bundon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>binda</td>
<td>band</td>
<td>bunden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>bindan</td>
<td>band</td>
<td>bundun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>bintan</td>
<td>bant</td>
<td>buntun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Olcel. *batt develops from *bant < *band (§6.14). OE *birnan ‘burn’ and *irnan ‘run’ adhere to this pattern because they show metathesis of r with the root vowel.

Class IV, PGmc. (1) e, (2) a, (3) ē, (4) u: Verbs of this class generally have a single, sonorant stem-final consonant, and in those few instances in which the consonant is not a sonorant, a sonorant appears before the root vowel, thus explaining u/o in the pp. as, probably, analogical (see n. 3 infra). Such exceptional verbs usually have a stem ending in PGmc. k, e.g. OHG *brechan ‘break’, *rechan ‘avenge’; *sprechan ‘speak’, *stechan ‘pierce’, *trechan ‘draw’, *treffan ‘strike’.2 Normally, the vowel of the pp. should have been u (reflecting PIE schwa secundum: §§3.1–2), lowered to o outside of Gothic before a in the next syllable.4 OFris. e in the pp. is due to umlaut (see the explanation under class II above). On Gmc. ēi in the pret. pl., see §12.14. The normal ablaut pattern may be illustrated by the principal parts of Go. *bairan ‘bear’ and its cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>bairan</td>
<td>bar</td>
<td>bērun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>bera</td>
<td>bar</td>
<td>bāru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>beran</td>
<td>bär</td>
<td>bāron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>bera</td>
<td>ber</td>
<td>bēren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>beran</td>
<td>bar</td>
<td>bārun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>beran</td>
<td>bar</td>
<td>bārun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One verb shows the effect of a nasal consonant upon the root vowel similar to that observable in verbs like *bindan in class III. The principal parts of Go. *niman ‘take’ and cognates are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>niman</td>
<td>nam</td>
<td>nēmun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>nema</td>
<td>nam</td>
<td>nāmu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>niman</td>
<td>nam</td>
<td>nōmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>nima</td>
<td>nom</td>
<td>nōmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>niman</td>
<td>nam</td>
<td>nāmun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>neman</td>
<td>nam</td>
<td>nāmun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Olcel. *e* in the present stem is etymologically correct; PGmc. *e* is, as usual, raised to *i* in Go. (§4.5). In WGmc., the pres. stem *nem-* occurs in a considerable minority of forms in OS, whereas OFris. *nem-* is found only in the Rüstring manuscripts, where lowering of *i* (and *u*) in open syllables before *a* is the norm (Bremmer 2009: §134). Conversely, OS pp. *ginuman* occurs rarely. Accordingly, it is possible to explain the raising in Ingvaenic *nim-* as due to analogy to verbs like *bindan* of class III (so Gough 1973), and the consideration that it is only in this verb that raising takes place before a heterosyllabic nasal consonant would seem to support this position. It should be noted, though, that in the instance of the corresponding back vowel, the effect of a heterosyllabic nasal consonant upon a preceding *u/o* is well documented, as in OE *fruma* ‘beginning’ and *guma* ‘man’: see §4.3.

The very common verb ‘come’ belonging to this class is somewhat anomalous:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>qiman</td>
<td>qam</td>
<td>qēmun</td>
<td>qumans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>koma</td>
<td>kom/kvam</td>
<td>kōmu/kvāmu</td>
<td>kominn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>cuman</td>
<td>cōm</td>
<td>cōmon</td>
<td>cumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>kuma</td>
<td>kom</td>
<td>kōmen</td>
<td>kemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>kuman</td>
<td>quam</td>
<td>quāmun</td>
<td>gikuman, kumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>queman</td>
<td>quam</td>
<td>quāmun</td>
<td>queman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go. *qiman* and OHG *queman* represent the normal type PGmc. *kwem-*, whereas the remaining present stems reflect an aorist present *kwem-* > *kum-*. The difference is between the action of coming (durative, full-grade) and the result of coming (aorist, weak grade: see §12.1). One or the other stem was generalized in the early languages, taking on both meanings. Olcel. inf. and pp. stem *kom-* is from *kum-* (the latter frequent in Old Norwegian) by *a*-mutation (§4.8). Pret. sg. *kvam* is the more original form; *kom* shows the development of *wa* to *a*, presumably under low stress (Heusler 1967: §87.2); and *kvāmu* (*kvōmu*) is the older form of the pret. pl., with development of *vō* to *ō* before retained *u* (Noreen 1970: §77.11). In OE, *cōm* and *cōmon* correspond to more original Anglian *cwōm*, *cwōmon*; there is no consensus about the origin of the long vowel in the singular, though *niman* similarly has sometimes pret. sg. *nōm* for *nam* (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§6.59 n. 4, 6.58 and n. 3, with references). Umlauted forms of the pres. sj. occur in some OE texts, and this may be because *cuman* reflects an aorist stem, to which an optative in PIE *-ihr* (rather than thematic full-grade *-o-ihr*) is to be expected: see Sievers 1882: 81–3 and see above, §12.26 n. 2. OFris. *kemen* shows umlaut (from *kumin-*: see under class II above). OHG pp. *queman* is analogical to the inf.; on the several variants of the OHG forms, see Braune 2004a: §340 Anm. 3.

Class V, PGmc. (1) *e*, (2) *a*, (3) *ē*, (4) *e*: Verbs of this class are like those of class IV, except that the stem ends in an obstruent. This explains *e* (from schwa secundum, §§3.1–2) in the passive part. The normal ablaut pattern is illustrated by the principal parts of Go. *mitan* ‘measure’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go.</td>
<td>mitan</td>
<td>mat</td>
<td>mētun</td>
<td>mitans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olcel.</td>
<td>meta</td>
<td>mat</td>
<td>mātu</td>
<td>metinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OE</td>
<td>metan</td>
<td>mēt</td>
<td>mēton</td>
<td>meten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFris.</td>
<td>meta</td>
<td>mat</td>
<td>mēten</td>
<td>meten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>metan</td>
<td>mat</td>
<td>mātun</td>
<td>gimetan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHG</td>
<td>mezzan</td>
<td>maz</td>
<td>māzun</td>
<td>gimezzan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An irregularity is that the pret. sg. of PGmc. *etana/* ‘eat’ is *ēt (and so also *fra-ēt to *
fra-etana/* ‘devour’), which, like Lat. perf. ēdē, is subject to various interpretations.\(^5\)
The cognates of Go. *giban* ‘give’ show a number of variants: in OE there is diphthong-
ization by initial palatal consonant in EWS *giefan* (so also in *be-gietan* ‘acquire’,
on-gietan * ‘perceive’), whereas some forms in other dialects may show back mutation,
hence *geofan*; Old West Frisian shows a variety of phonological and analogical devel-
opments (see Bremmer 2009: §135); and *giban* appears beside *giban* in OS.

Class VI, PGmc. (1) a, (2) ō, (3) ō, (4) a: On the origin of the ablaut pattern in
this class, see §12.15. The present stem ends in a single consonant unless the verb
reflects a PIE derived stem (§12.3), as with OE *standan* ‘stand’, *wæcnan* ‘awake’,
*wæscan* ‘wash’, *hebban* ‘raise’, etc. The ablaut pattern may be illustrated by the
principal parts of Go. *faran* ‘go’ and cognates:

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
(1) & (2) & (3) & (4) \\
Go. & faran & för & förn & farans \\
OLcel. & fara & för & förn & farinn \\
OE & faran & för & förn & faren \\
OFris. & fara & för & förn & faren, ferin \\
OS & faran & för, fuor & förun, fuorun & gifaran \\
OHG & faran & fuor & fuorun & gifaran
\end{array}
\]

Weak presents are numerous in this class.\(^6\) Go. *standan* ‘stand’ and cognates have the n-
infix only in the present stem (see §12.3), and similarly, OE *wæcnan* ‘awake’ loses the
n-suffix in pret. *wōc, wōcon* (no strong pp. attested). In OLcel., verbs with a stem-final
velar (palatal) consonant have palatal mutation in the pp. (§4.7), e.g. *tekinn* < *takinaz,
to *taka* ‘take’. Also in OLcel., *vada* has pret. *ód, ódu* (§6.14, later *vōd, vōdu* by analogy
to the rest of the paradigm); similarly *vaxa* ‘grow’. OE *wæxan* ‘grow’ has usually the
ablaut pattern of a verb of class VII, but the Gmc. cognates (Go. *wahsjan*, OLcel. *vaxa*,
etc.) belong to class VI (see Flasdieck 1936: 343). The pp. in OFris. may or may not
show umlaut. On *ō/uo* in the OS pret., see §4.15.

Class VII shows various ablaut patterns in Gmc., but as in class VI, the vocalism
of parts (2) and (3) is the same, as is that of parts (1) and (4). In Gothic verbs with no
ablaut difference between present and preterite the root vowel may be a,\(^7\) ē, ō, ā, or ōu.
The only ablaut alternation is *ē : ō*, though the former also develops to *ai* before a
vowel, as in *saian* ‘sow’ (pret. *saísō*), *waian* ‘blow’). In NWGmc. the following alternations (A–E) are attested:

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{type} & \text{parts} & \text{OLcel.} & \text{OE} & \text{OFris.} & \text{OS} & \text{OHG} \\
A & (1, 4) & á & ĕ\(^8\) & ē & ā & ā \\
& (2, 3) & é & ē & ō\(^9\) & ē & ia\(^10\) \\
B & (1, 4) & ô & ô & ō & ō, uo & uo \\
& (2, 3) & ê\(^11\) & ê & iō & io & io \\
C & (1, 4) & ei & å & ē & ê & ei \\
& (2, 3) & ê & ê & ō\(^9\) & ê & ia\(^10\) \\
D & (1, 4) & au\(^12\) & ëa & å & ō & ou\(^13\) \\
& (2, 3) & jó & ëo & ē, iō\(^14\) & eo, io, ia & eo, io, ia, ie
\end{array}
\]

Verbs with PGmc. *a* in the root show a considerable variety of ablaut patterns, as illus-
trated by some representative verbs, OS *haldan* ‘hold’, *fallan* ‘fall’, *blandan* ‘mix’,
*spannan* ‘link’, *fāhan* ‘catch’ (< PGmc. *fāxnāna*) and cognates:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>type</th>
<th>part</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OFris.</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>halda</td>
<td>healdan</td>
<td>haldan</td>
<td>haldan</td>
<td>haltan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>helt</td>
<td>höld</td>
<td>höld/höld</td>
<td>held</td>
<td>hialt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>falla</td>
<td>feallan</td>
<td>fallan</td>
<td>fallan</td>
<td>fallan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>fell</td>
<td>föll</td>
<td>fell</td>
<td>fial</td>
<td>fial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>blanda</td>
<td>blandan</td>
<td>blandan</td>
<td>blantan</td>
<td>blantan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>blett</td>
<td>blênd</td>
<td>blend</td>
<td>bliant</td>
<td>bliant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>spannan</td>
<td>(bonna)</td>
<td>spannan</td>
<td>spannan</td>
<td>spannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>gangan</td>
<td>gungan</td>
<td>ganguan</td>
<td>gangan</td>
<td>gangan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>gëng</td>
<td>fän</td>
<td>fän(h)</td>
<td>fänhan</td>
<td>fänhan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>fëng</td>
<td>fëng/fëng</td>
<td>fëng</td>
<td>fiang</td>
<td>fiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>fà</td>
<td>fôn</td>
<td>fän(h)</td>
<td>fänhan</td>
<td>fänhan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>fekk</td>
<td>fëng</td>
<td>fëng/fëng</td>
<td>fëng</td>
<td>fiang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most striking irregularity is that whereas OE and OHG consistently (or almost so in the former case) show a long vowel or a diphthong in the pret., Olcel. and OS seem to contradict this pattern. OFris. appears to agree with OE and OHG, but the quantity of its preterite vowels is not universally agreed upon; spellings like (h)ild, (g)ing, and (f)ing) must result from an etymological long vowel. In Olcel. there is shortening of vowels in closed syllables (§4.9); in OS there is likewise shortening before geminates, and probably other consonant clusters (Holthausen 1921: §108 Anm. 1). Thus, there is no obstacle to assuming original long vowels in the preterites of type E1–6, whereas the assumption of an original short vowel requires much analogical intervention to produce the attested forms of OE, OFris., and OHG.\(^7\)

1. This verb acquired a weak pret. early, but similar preterites were reformed by analogy to other verbs of this class, e.g. analogical laug ‘lied’ beside earlier và.
2. OHG pp. digrohhan is an innovation: Go. wrikans, Olcel. rekinn, OE wrecen plainly belong to class V.
3. To OHG pp. digrofian cf. Olcel. dreppinn, whereas OE has both dreppen and dropen. A verb such as Go. brikan (brak, brekun, brukans) ‘break’ should be expected originally to have shown the alternation e ~ ò ~ r > P GMC. e ~ ò ~ ur (i.e., with pp. *burgana), and doubtless Ringe (2017: 102–3) is right that ur was changed to ru because in all other forms in the paradigm the vowel followed rather than preceded r. There is sometimes assumed instead a stem *brur.ò (so Pokorny 1959–69: I, 165) to account for, e.g., the equivalence of P GMC. *bruk- and Lat. frag- (as in fragilis), but *brur.ò is not a plausible PIE form, since there is no reasonable way to explain why it is not *brurô. Rather, Latin has innovated the same way Gmc. has (note that r gives or in Lat.), on the basis of frangô ‘break’ and related forms.
4. Go. aii in the pp. in the given paradigm is due to lowering of u before r (§4.5); the normal vowel of the pp. is u, as in trudans ‘trodde’.
5. The long vowel in Latin could be due to reduplication in the perfect *hêh-ôdê (in alternation with *hêh-ôdê; see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.3b) to the root hêdê-, or it could have arisen by analogy to long-vowel perfects like vêni (Sihler 1995: §487). Another possibility is that it results from a stem with augment, i.e. *hêh-ôdê-, though the augment is otherwise unattested, or not securely attested, in either Latin or Germanic. Analogy to the plural (so Prokosch 1939: §59b n. 6), or to the long-vowel preterites of class VI, is also a possibility, although the motivation seems weak.
6. Cf. Lat. capiô, faciô, and see §12.19.
7. Also à in -aô- < PGMC. *-aôs- (§4.1), as in fâhan ‘seize’ and háhan ‘hang’.
8. Non-WS e (§4.6), as in létan ‘let’, rédan ‘advise’.
9. But i in the Rüstring texts (§1.17). The situation in OFris. is thus normally like that in non-WS OE, with no contrast between pres. and pret. vocalism in verbs with ê in the present.
10. Also (ê, ea, ie). See §3.5.
11. For expected jó: see §12.20. The only attested example is the verb blóta ‘sacrifice’.
12. To this pattern belongs also *hǫggva 'hew' < *havwan- (with Verschärfung, §6.10), pret. sg. hjó, pl. hjoggu. (So also OFris. hāwa, pret. unattested.) A more regular example is klaupa ‘leap, run’, hljóp, hljópu, klaupinn.

13. But ő before b or a dental consonant (§4.17), as in stōzan ‘thrust’.

14. So Bremmer 2009: §137. Steller (1928: §97) has rather ē beside ũ, as in types A and C. Van Helten (1890 §275) indentifies the vocoid as ia but says that the preterite of such verbs is unattested in Old East Frisian.

15. OFris. bona ‘summon’ is given here because there is no cognate of OS spannan attested in OFris.

16. But pp. gangen, gengen, genzen, ginzen, the latter two with affrication of /g/.

17. For discussion and references, see Fulk 1987: 167–73, with pertinent remarks on the earliest OHG spellings of ē, See also §12.20 supra.

IV. Weak Verbs

12.32 The nature of weak verbs

Weak verbs are distinguished from strong in that the preterite stem is differentiated from the present not by ablaut alternation but by the addition of a dental suffix, a characteristic they share with preterite-present verbs, the verb ‘will’ (Go. wiljan), and a few isolated verbs. They originate in certain derived verb types of PIE, of which many (the secondary verbs) originally had no discrete preterite stem (§12.3), and thus the rise of a unified method of forming preterites to these disparate derived types should hardly be surprising. This is especially so because of the high productivity of the weak types, their constantly growing numbers reinforcing the utility of a single method of preterite-formation. Although it seems likely that the strong classes were productive in PGmc. (see §12.12), it is also likely that this productivity ceased at a relatively early date, after the initial accommodation of a number of non-IE verbs to the emerging Gmc. strong types. After that time the simpler method of suffixation used to form weak verbs assumed the burden of permitting the addition of new verbs, usually derived secondarily from strong verbs or other parts of speech. Some weak types remained productive in the historical period: thus, for example, Go. sildaleikjan ‘wonder at’ is plainly derived from the adj. sildaleiks ‘wonderful’, and Go. ga-frisahkan ‘become an example’ is derived from frisahts ‘example’, with no parallel to either verb outside of Gothic. Certain classes, however, ceased to be productive in NWGmc. In OE, for example, new verbs were not generally added to class 1 once the morphology of the class lost transparency with the deletion of the suffix *-j- and the resultant morphologization of umlaut and gemination. It was in fact only class 2 that remained productive in WGmc., as shown by such neologisms as OE hūslian ‘administer the Eucharist’ and OHG managfaltōn ‘multiply’ (cf. managfalt ‘numerous’). Such developments, however, were not inevitable. For example, despite the loss of phonological conditioning for some alternations in class 1, verbs continued to be added in ON, e.g. Olcel. hógvera ‘appease’ (cf. hógvaerr ‘gentle’) and prýða ‘adorn’ (cf. prūðr ‘magnificent’, from OE prūd, from Old French). And strong verbs could acquire weak preterites in all the NWGmc. languages.

For weak verbs just three principal parts are required to illustrate variation in the stem: (1) infinitive, (2) 3 sg. pret., and (3) pass. participle, nom. sg. masc. (as here) or neuter, or, in the case of OHG, simply uninflected (see §12.11 n. 1).
12.33 Origin of the dental suffix

How the dental suffix of the weak preterite arose is far from plain.¹ The most widely credited explanations derive the dental element either from (1) PIE *dh* or from (2) PIE *t* > *þ*, which may become *ð* under Verner’s law (§6.6):

(1) Nearly all studies that derive the dental suffix from PIE *dh* assume that the suffix is a form of the PGmc. verb that becomes PDE *do* (the so-called composition theory).² Thus, for example, a PGmc. noun *salƀō* ‘ointment’ in the instr. case (PIE *solpā* plus a root aorist *dēð(þ)* (PIE *dhēr*), literally ‘did with ointment’, could be expected to have been grammaticalized as *salƀōðēþ(þ)* (with *ð* rather than *d* because of PGmc. phonotactics), producing Go. salbōda ‘annointed’, a verb of weak class 2. The grammaticalized *ð*-element was then extended to the other weak classes, since it represented a transparent method of forming preterites to verbs without a preterite stem (Lühr 1984: 43–4). This approach to the problem has several advantages. It is a development with obvious parallels in other IE languages, e.g. the rise of the Latin imperfect (Lühr 1984: 43–4). This approach to the problem has several advantages. It is a development with obvious parallels in other IE languages, e.g. the rise of the Latin imperfect

(2) Studies arguing for the derivation of the dental preterite suffix from PIE *t* are more varied in nature, identifying numerous possible sources, including PIE inflections peculiar to particular persons and numbers (such as the 2 sg. perf. *-thē*, the perf. middle 3 sg. *-tai*, and the aorist middle 2 sg. *-thēs*) or to particular tense stems (esp. PIE *-t-* in forms like Lat. plectō, OHG flehtan ‘plait’; cf. Lat. plicō, Gk. πλέκω ‘fold’). But the most widely credited approaches involve the PIE verbal adj. suffix *-to-* (> PGmc. *-þa-/-ða-*), as in Lat. datūs ‘given’ and nātus ‘born’. It is certainly possible that when this suffix came to mark the past participle in Gmc., its association with past action should have prompted analogical extension to the preterite. This seems the least complicated explanation for certain weak preterites which cannot derive their dental element from PIE *dh*. Most preterite-present verbs are of this sort. Thus, PGmc. *-þ- is
reflected in OE cūde ‘knew how’ and ūde ‘granted’ < PGmc. *kunþ-, *unþ-, and by dissimilation it becomes t (or, more plausibly, was never shifted under Grimm’s law) in forfte ‘needed’, dorse ‘dared’, etc. Likewise, a number of irregular weak verbs (i.e., those of the first class without connecting vowel in PGmc. between the root and the dental suffix, §12.37) suggest a suffix PGmc. *-þp- > t, e.g. Go. baúhta ‘bought’, þúhta ‘seemed’ (cf. infs. bugjan, þugkjan), as the preterite, if formed from the reflex of PIE dh, would instead be þbugda, þbrangda.

Explanation (2) is anything but straightforward even for the forms it seems best to explain. If the source of the dental suffix is PIE *-tô-, the dental consonant should have developed to Gmc. ᵃ rather than ὑ under Verner’s law, since the root vowel was unaccented in the verbal adjectives that this suffix formed. There are indeed preterite-present verbs with preterites in PGmc. ᵃ rather than ὑ: cf. Go. munda ‘thought’ and skulda ‘should’ (3 sg. pres. man, skal), showing the expected voicing. But in most preterite-present verbs the dental suffix is voiceless, and that would be difficult to explain if the suffix originated in the past part. It is chiefly this consideration that has prompted hypotheses about derivation of the dental suffix from finite verb inflections and suffixes such as those mentioned above. Thus, for example, it is conceivable that the dental suffix in these verbs should have originated in the PIE 2 pl. aorist inflection *-te (so, e.g., Bammesberger 1986a: 75), but the motive for extension of that particular inflection is not plain. It may be instead that the accent shifted in most of the preterite-present verbs before the application of Verner’s law: so Prokosch (1939: §65d), who offers the contrast between Skt. rikta- ‘empty’ (adj.) and riktä- ‘emptied’ (part.) in evidence of accent shift when tô-particiles are used in non-participial function. And it is indeed true that a morphological contrast arose outside of Gothic to differentiate participles from adjectives derived therefrom: thus, for example, in ON most such participles have been reformed according to the second weak class (e.g., to pp. kunbra cf. adj. kuðr, kunnr ‘known’ = Go. pp. kunþs, but cf. ON pp. ått ‘owned’), and in OE they have been reformed as strong participles (e.g., to pp. witen cf. adj. gewiss ‘certain’ < *-wit-t-, §6.8; = Go. -wiss in un-wiss ‘unknown’). Analogical extension of the dental suffix from the part. to the pret. would thus have to have taken place at a time when no distinction other than placement of the accent was drawn between otherwise formally identical participles and adjectives. The preterite-present verbs are an archaic category (see §12.54), certainly much older than the preterites and past participles of weak verbs, and so even the most archaic of weak verbs may be supposed to have borrowed the dental suffix from the preterite-present verbs, thus explaining the voicelessness of the dental suffix in preterites to primary verbs like Go. þúhta, OE þōhte ‘thought’ (§12.37). If this is so, however, the voiced dental suffix in all other weak verbs is hard to explain as derived from the same source.

Accordingly, most approaches to the problem of the origin of the dental preterite now favor the assumption of polygenesis, with both PIE dh and ὑ playing a role. Since Go. munda and skulda show that some preterite-present verbs did have a dental suffix voiced under Verner’s law, as should be expected if the suffix originated in the passive part., it may be that folk etymology led to association of that variety of the suffix with forms of ‘do’.  

2. This analysis was first proposed by Diederich von Stade no later than 1718: see Ball 1968: 163.

3. Bammesberger (1986a: 68) gives the example of Skt. gamayám caakára ‘I have brought’ (literally ‘I have made a causing to go’), an innovative perfect (on which see Whitney 1889: §§1070–1), though he also illustrates synthetic formations by the example of σ-aorists and κ-perfects to derived verbs in Greek, e.g. ἐπαίδευσα and παιδίκως to παιδέω ‘educate’.

4. Note, however, that the origin of these forms is disputed, and the WGmc forms cannot easily be reconciled with the assumption of a root aorist: see §12.61.

5. Hill (2010) argues that the pres. of PGmc. ‘do’ reflected a Pre-Gmc. aorist sj. reinterpreted as a pres. ind. unaugmented imperfect, forms of which served to form the weak preterite. Since imperfects did not have optative forms of their own, such had to be created for the new weak preterites. In Go. the opt. of the strong pret of ‘do’ (PGmc. 3 pl. *dēdō-tnt) served this function, and the pret. opt. stem was extended to the ind. pl., since the pret. opt. and the ind. pl. stems are identical in strong verbs. In NWGmc., by contrast, the weak pret. opt. reflects the ind. stem in *-dē- plus the pret. opt. sign *-i- plus inflection. There is much of worth in this analysis, though it is necessarily speculative. Cf. the analysis of Stiles (2010), whereby the Go. pl. forms with -dē- are said to reflect the original 3 sg. employed as a stem, plus the original weak pl. inflections. On the idea of Kiparsky (2009) that weak preterites in OHG were still morphologically compounds, see §5.6 n. 10.

6. It should be noted in defense of such ad hoc phonological changes, however, that the Gmc. languages do have a tendency to avoid the repetition of identical sounds in proximity to each other, especially in unstressed syllables, and that the means of avoiding the repetition are commonly dissimilatory, haplological, or otherwise unlike instances of regular sound change. Examples are WGmc. *vé for /nu/ in proximity to /u/, as in OS heban ‘heaven’ (cf. OS, OHG himel); the change of *j/ to */v/ in OE hergian ‘harry < PGmc. *xarjôjana’ (Hogg & Fulk 2011: §118 n. 2); the change of OE -odon to -edon (§5.6); and the Modern Icelandic dat. pl. inflection plus definite article -u-num [=v-num] for expected [x-num]. Parallels closer to the question at hand are OHG swibogo ‘arched vault’ < *swibi-bogo, Old Franconian unsēr, unsero (= UG unsërër, unserero: see §8.5 n. 1), PDE England < OE Englā land, NHG Zauberin ‘sorceress’ for Zaubererin, and PDE morphonology for morphophonology. Lühr (1984: 44) explicitly attributes the change in weak preterites to haplology, as does Ringe (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 516–17; 2017: 192–3); for further references, see Hill 2010: 417–20, with counterarguments; also Stiles 2010: 350. On irregular sound change in Gmc. and frequency of incidence, see Mańczak 1987a, and cf. Shaterian 1990, as well as Markey 1979. On haplology in particular, see Fertig 1998, 2000: 136–40.

7. The verb ending appears to have been *-dē in Proto-Norse, spelt -da in Runic. This explains Olcel. -de, later -di.

8. The pass. part. of this verb, however, is geunnan, as if the verb were strong.

A. WEAK VERBS OF CLASS 1

12.34 Stem formation

Aside from primary verbs lacking connecting PGmc. *-i- in the preterite (§12.37), the earliest verbs of weak class 1 were denominal (including deadjectival) verbs in PIE *-jé/o- and causative-iterative verbs in *-é-je/o- (§12.3), which two types fell together, the suffix developing to PGmc. *-ji- and *-ja- or the variants *-iji- and *-ija- after heavy syllables under Sievers’ law (§5.8).1 When deadjectival, such verbs are generally factitive in nature (i.e., with the meaning ‘cause to have the quality of the adjective’), e.g. Gk. φιλέω ‘love’ (cf. πίσος ‘dear’), Go. ga-tamjan ‘tame’ (cf. ON adj. tamr ‘tame’) and natjan ‘dampen’ (cf. NHG naß). The causative-iterative type, which was originally chiefly deverbial, was the more productive of the two, and in it the root vowel was usually Gmc. a < PIE o, with accent on what was originally the theme vowel preceding the j-suffix, thus distinguishing verb roots in these stems from those of the primary verbs from which they were derived, which naturally had PIE e in the present stem.2
The causative type is very frequent, e.g. Go. ga-dráusjan ‘cast down’ (cf. driansan ‘fall’), Olcel. setja ‘set’ (cf. sitja ‘sit’ < *setjana*), and OE cwellan ‘kill’ < *kvaljana* (cf. cwelan ‘die’), though many exceptions to the pattern will be found.\textsuperscript{3} Examples of the iterative (or intensive-iterative) type are Go. wagjan ‘shake’ (cf. ga-wigan ‘move’) and wrakjan ‘persecute’ (cf. wrikan, with the same meaning). Gothic verbs of the first weak class are based on noun/adjective and verb stems only, reflecting the original situation, but in the NWGmc. languages causative-factitive verbs could be formed from adverbs, as well, as in ON yppa ‘lift’, OE uppán ‘disclose’ (cf. ON upp ‘up’). It is plain that by the time preterites were formed to these verbs by the addition of the dental suffix, the suffixal element *-j-* originally proper to the present stem was viewed as integral, since it was carried over to the preterite stem, where it appears as *-*i-* between consonants.

The exception is the verbs lacking PGmc. *-i-* in the preterite (§12.37), which represent the earliest stratum in this class.

1. Cf. Kortlandt 1986, arguing that the distinction between the two types was maintained after light roots until a relatively late date.

2. Late formations aside, the exceptions with a long vowel in the root are usually otherwise explicable as regular, e.g. Go. uf-hlōhjan ‘cause to laugh’, with PIE *-aH-* in the root, as opposed to hlōhjan ‘laugh’, with *-H-. Weak grade in the root is also not uncommon, e.g. Olcel. byljja ‘roar’ (cf. bylr ‘squall, gust of wind’). It is nonetheless true that in some instances PGmc. ō in the root must be explained as a product of the perception that the causative stem is that of the preterite sg. of a strong verb (since both contained PIE o > PGmc. a), and thus the pret. sg. stem of other strong types was adopted for the causative. The plainest instance is PGmc. *fōrijana* > OIcel. fœra, OS fōrian, OHG fuoren: cf. OIcel. pret. sg. fóra ‘go’ (Ringe 2017: 258).

3. There is a wealth of relevant types cited in Riecke 1996. Otherwise, grammars of the individual languages should be consulted.

\section*{12.35 Inflection}

In summarizing the inflection of weak verbs of class 1 it is necessary to distinguish etymologically light stems from heavy. The patterns may be illustrated by the paradigms of Go. satjan ‘set’ and ON fremja, OHG fremen ‘promote’ (light stems) and Go. dāiljan, Olcel. deila, OHG teilen ‘deal out’ (heavy stems), with OHG illustrating the general WGmc. pattern:

\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|l|l|l|}
\hline
& Go. & Go. & Olcel. & Olcel. & OHG & OHG  \\
\hline
\textbf{Pres. Ind.} & & & & & &  \\
1 sg. & satja & dāilja & frem & deili & fremmu & teilu  \\
2 sg. & satjis & dāileis & fremr & deilir & fremis & teilis  \\
3 sg. & satjiþ & dāileþ & fremr & deilir & fremit & teilit  \\
1 du. & satjōs & dāiljōs & & & &  \\
2 du. & satjats & dāiljats & & & &  \\
1 pl. & satjam & dāiljam & fremjum & deilum & fremmemēs & teilemēs  \\
2 pl. & satjiþ & dāileþ & fremið & deilið & fremmet & teilet  \\
3 pl. & satjand & dāiljand & fremja & deila & frement & teilent  \\
\hline
\textbf{Pres. Sj.} & & & & & &  \\
1 sg. & satjáu & dāiljáu & fremja & deila & fremme & teile  \\
2 sg. & satjáis & dāiljáis & fremir & deilir & fremmēs(t) & teile(t)  \\
3 sg. & satjái & dāiljái & fremi & deili & fremmēn & teilen  \\
1 du. & satjáwa & dāiljáwa & & & &  \\
2 du. & satjáits & dāiljáits & & & &  \\
1 pl. & satjáima & dāiljáima & fremim & deilim & fremmēm & teilem  \\
2 pl. & satjáiþ & dāiljáiþ & fremið & deilið & fremmēt & teilet  \\
3 pl. & satjáina & dāiljáina & fremi & deili & fremmēn & teilen  \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
### A Comparative Grammar of the Early Germanic Languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imp.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>satei</td>
<td>dáilei</td>
<td>frem</td>
<td>deil</td>
<td>fremi</td>
<td>teili</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>satjadáu</td>
<td>dáiljadáu</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
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<td>dáiljats</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>satjam</td>
<td>dáiljam</td>
<td>fremjum</td>
<td>deilum</td>
<td>fremmemēs</td>
<td>teilemēs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>satjiþ</td>
<td>dáileþ</td>
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<td>deilið</td>
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<td>teilet</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>satjandáu</td>
<td>dáilandáu</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. Ind.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>satida</td>
<td>dáilida</td>
<td>framða</td>
<td>deilda</td>
<td>fremita</td>
<td>teilta</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>satidēs</td>
<td>dáilidēs</td>
<td>framðir</td>
<td>deildir</td>
<td>fremitōs(t)</td>
<td>teiltōs(t)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>satida</td>
<td>dáilida</td>
<td>framði</td>
<td>deildi</td>
<td>fremita</td>
<td>teilta</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>satidēdu</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
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<td>dáildēduþ</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>satidēdum</td>
<td>dáilidēdum</td>
<td>fromðum</td>
<td>deildum</td>
<td>fremitum</td>
<td>teiltum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>satidēdúþ</td>
<td>dáilidēdúþ</td>
<td>fromðuð</td>
<td>deilduð</td>
<td>fremitut</td>
<td>teiltut</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
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<td>dáildēdun</td>
<td>fromðu</td>
<td>deildu</td>
<td>fremið</td>
<td>teilen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. Sj.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>satidēdjaú</td>
<td>dáilidēdjaú</td>
<td>fremða</td>
<td>deilda</td>
<td>fremiti</td>
<td>teilta</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>satidēdeis</td>
<td>dáilidēdeis</td>
<td>fremðir</td>
<td>deildir</td>
<td>fremiðs(t)</td>
<td>teilts(t)</td>
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<td>deildi</td>
<td>fremi</td>
<td>teilta</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
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<td>dáilidēdeiwaþ</td>
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<td>satidēdeima</td>
<td>dáilidēdeima</td>
<td>fremðim</td>
<td>deildim</td>
<td>fremitim</td>
<td>teiltim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
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<td>dáilidēdeīþ</td>
<td>fremðið</td>
<td>deildið</td>
<td>fremiðt</td>
<td>teiltt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>satidēdeina</td>
<td>dáilidēdeina</td>
<td>fremði</td>
<td>deildi</td>
<td>fremið</td>
<td>teilti</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inf.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>satjan</td>
<td>dáiljan</td>
<td>fremja</td>
<td>deila</td>
<td>fremmen</td>
<td>teilen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Part.</strong></td>
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<td>satjands</td>
<td>dáiljands</td>
<td>fremjandi</td>
<td>deilandi</td>
<td>fremmenti</td>
<td>teilenti</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pass. Part.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>satiþs</td>
<td>dáilþs</td>
<td>fram(i)ðr</td>
<td>deildr</td>
<td>gifremit</td>
<td>teilit</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, the plural endings are used with both plural and dual subjects. In addition, inflected infinitives (also called gerunds) occur in WGmc. (§12.30). In the pres. ind. and sj., Go. verbs may be inflected in the passive voice, with the same endings as in §12.29, e.g. 1 sg. pres. ind. *satjada, dáiljada*, etc. In Alemannic the inflectional vowel is ō throughout the pret. ind. pl., hence teiltōm, teiltōt, teiltōn.

1. Earlier deilða, etc.: see §6.14.

### 12.36 Variation in the stem

Due to various phonological and analogical developments, the paradigms of these and other verbs of this class evince some irregularities. These may be discussed in respect to the individual Gmc. branches and languages, as follows:

**Gothic.** The only notable irregularity in the given paradigms is that whereas the present stem of *satjan* is consistently *satj-* (with the exception only of the 2 sg. imperative: see §12.28), that of *dáiljan* is *dáil-*, rather than *dáilj-*, in those forms of the pres. ind. in which the corresponding inflection of the light stems has the vowel i; in those forms the heavy stems have instead an inflection in ei. Thus, for example, 3 sg. -eip in the heavy stems (corresponding to *-j-iþ* in the light stems) may be derived from PGmc. *-ij-iþ* (with *-j-* realized as *-ij-* after the heavy stem under Sievers’ law, §5.8), undergoing the development *-i(j)iþ* > *-iiþ* > -, spelt -eip (§12.38). Aside from the verbs lacking -i- in the preterite (§12.37), the only other variation in this class in Gothic is in verbs with stem-final ō, ū, or au in the present, since these vocoids appear as such
before -j- in the present, but they undergo change before -i- in the preterite (§4.5): to infs. stójan ‘judge’, ana-niujan ‘renew’, and táujan ‘do’ cf. pret. 3 sg. ind. stauída, ana-niwiða, tawída.

Old Icelandic. In the present, the light stems have -j- before an inflection beginning with a back vowel (as in the ja-stem nouns, §7.11; everywhere else the -j- has been lost), and the heavy stems bear an inflection beginning with -i- whenever the light stems do not bear an inflection beginning with a vowel. In the 2 and 3 sg. ind. this -i- reflects *i, of the same origin as ⟨ei⟩ in the Go. 2 & 3 sg.; the vowel is then extended to the 1 sg., to make the sg. paradigm analogous to that of strong verbs, such that deil-i-Ø, deil-i-r is parallel to bior-Ø, bior-r. In the preterite, all the indicative endings were of sufficient weight to induce syncope of -i-, though earlier after heavy stems than light, resulting in phonemicization of umlaut in heavy stems, e.g. dæmōi ‘judged’, but not light, e.g. framōi (§4.7). Both heavy and light stems show u-mutation in the pret. ind. plural (§4.8). In the pass. part. of light stems, -ið- should originally have alternated with -ó-, due to the conditions outlined in §5.6, producing, e.g., nom. sg. masc. framíðr, fem. framíði, neut. framíti: masc. acc. sg. framíðan, dat. fromíðum, etc., but from the 12th century the original distribution is much disrupted by analogy; likewise, where -i- was not synocopated it should have caused i-umlaut, but this has been eliminated within the paradigm. In stems ending in d or t, syncope of i is carried through, e.g. gladdr ‘gladdened’, fluttir ‘conveyed’ < *glaðiðr-, *fluttið-.

Regarding patterns not observable from the paradigms in §12.35, in those present forms in which -j- remained, g and k were geminated at the close of a light syllable, but the resulting paradigm alternation between geminate and non-geminate was usually settled in favor of -gg- and, conversely, -k-, hence leggja ‘lay’, vekja ‘waken’. When the preterite suffix -óð- was added to a light stem ending in d or t, the result was a geminate stop, hence pret. gladdi ‘gladdened’, flutti ‘conveyed’, pp. gladdr, fluttir (as above), to gleðja, flytja. The suffix was devoiced after a fricative or a voiceless stop, as krafði [krafði] ‘demanded’ (to krefja), vakði ‘wakened’, in the latter instance later becoming t, as in vakti. Similarly, by about 900 -óð- developed to d after a heavy stem in l, n, as in deildi > deildi, and later (13th–15th centuries) after other heavy stems containing a sonorant consonant, e.g. dæmōi ‘judged’, fylgði ‘followed’, kembdī ‘combed’ > dæmdi, fylgði, kembdí, and after light stems in l, n, as in talði, later talði ‘counted’.

West Germanic. In the given forms the stem shows throughout the paradigm umlaut of vowels capable of undergoing umlaut, though the mutation of vowels other than a is not observable in OS and OHG. An exception is that there is no umlaut in OHG heavy-stemmed verbs in the pret. or in the inflected past participle. Light stems ending in a consonant other than r show the effect of WGmc. gemination (§6.15) in all pres. forms in which j had not been eliminated, i.e. all except the 2 & 3 sg. ind. and the 2 sg. imperative.2 The j causing gemination was subsequently lost except in OS and in the oldest OHG texts. In light stems ending in r (including r < z), no gemination takes place, and j remains, as in OHG OS OE nerian ‘save’.3 Geminate voiced fricatives become stops, as with OS an-swēbbian ‘fall asleep’ (cf. pp. an-swēbit). The preterite suffix *-óð- develops regularly to *-d- in WGmc. (§6.16), and this is devoiced when in contact with a voiceless consonant, as with OE pyfte ‘puffed’, wyrpte ‘recovered’, līxtē ‘illuminated’. With the exceptions noted below, the general pattern in the WGmc. preterite is that *-i- is retained after light stems but is syncopated after heavy.

In the pres. stem in OHG, when a geminate consonant has undergone the High German Consonant Shift (§6.21), the new sound is extended to forms within the paradigm that did not undergo gemination, e.g. 3 sg. ind. scepfit ‘creates’, settizit ‘sets’,
weckit, UG wechhit ‘wakes’. Outside of Bavarian, in verbs like nerian there occur stems like nerr- for neri-: see §6.21. Light stems ending in w develop two forms of the stem, resulting in parallel paradigms, one with umlaut but no gemination, the other with gemination but no observable umlaut, e.g. frewen beside frauwen > frouwen ‘gladden’. In early UG there is not infrequent gemination after a long vowel or diphthong, as in hörren ‘hear’ and teillan ‘divide’. In general, the preterite suffix is -it- after light stems, -i- after heavy, but in addition to cognates of verbs lacking any reflex of PGmc. *-i- in the preterite in other languages (§12.37) there are some principled exceptions, whereby -t- is attached to light stems and there is no umlaut: such verbs include those with stems ending in ll or tt in the present (e.g. wellen ‘choose’, scutten ‘pour’, pret. walt, scutta), though to these verbs there also occur preterites in -it- such as welita, scutita (see Dittmer 1989). Likewise, preterites in -i- are normal to verbs with stems that came to end in affricates in the present and (underlyingly) geminate fricatives in the preterite due to the effect of the High German Consonant Shift on voiceless geminates in the present and the corresponding non-geminate stops in the preterite, e.g. sefta, saza, wahta (beside analogical wakta), with forms like setzida occurring in Franconian only (Schatz 1927: §472; cf. Braune 2004a: §362). Verbs like frewen/frouwen form their preterite normally (frewita), though analogical forms do occur (frouwita). In Franconian there occur some heavy stems with -it- in the preterite. As for the pass. part., light stems that always have -i- in the preterite also have it in all case forms of the part., whereas both light and heavy stems without it have -i- only in uninflected forms of the part., hence giszeit, gihörit but gisatär, gihörtär.

In OS the present suffix -j- is retained and spelt i after both heavy and light syllables, as with quellian ‘kill’, lérian ‘teach’ and wredian ‘support’, which, like nerian, is without gemination. As in OHG, stems ending in a dental consonant lack the connecting vowel i in the preterite; they may or may not lack umlaut, as in latta, letta ‘prevent’ and quadda, quedda ‘greet’ to lettian, queddian; likewise lagda, legda ‘laid’ to leggian, but cf. analogical pp. gilegid. Verbs ending in a postconsonantal sonorant l, n do not lose -i- in the preterite, hence twiftime ‘doubted’, tēknida ‘drew’. This is probably the model for other heavy-stem preterites in -id-, which are not uncommon. As in OHG, -i- in the pass. part. of heavy stems should have been preserved only in uninflected forms, producing alternations such as gi-lērid : gi-lērdes, etc. However, in most instances, especially in the Heliand, the syncopated vowel has been restored. Rarely does analogy operate in converse fashion, producing uninflected forms like gibrand ‘burnt’ (inf. brennian) and gi-stīld ‘stilled’ (stīllian).

In OE, to some present stems there are adjustments like those mentioned in §12.24 when syncopated inflections are added to the 2 & 3 sg. pres. indicative, e.g. sentst, sent ‘send(s)’ (inf. sendan), brencō ‘brings’ (bren(e)an). Stems ending in w or h could undergo some significant changes, with many analogical developments: see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§6.97–9 for details. Where preserved, -i- in the preterite is lowered to e after the earliest texts. Stems ending in a dental consonant have syncope in the preterite regardless of whether the stem is heavy or light, as with pret. sette ‘set’ (for expected *settede). Pret. legde ‘laid’ (inf. lecgan) follows the same pattern. As in OS, the connecting vowel is not syncopated in verbs with a stem ending in a postconsonantal sonorant consonant, e.g. timbrede ‘built’, LWS bŷcnedon ‘signified’. In EWS and in all late OE dialects there is a tendency for originally light stems to acquire inflections of the second weak class, under somewhat obscure circumstances (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.88), e.g. wenian ‘accustom’, pret. wenode, replacing wennan, wenede.
§12.36  Variation in the stem of weak class 1 299

1. The connecting vowel \(-i\) has not yet been syncopated in older Runic preterites, e.g. \textit{faðiðo} ‘I wrote’ (Einang stone, 4\textsuperscript{th} cent.).

2. An exception is the OHG pl., which ought not to have a geminate; the stem has been made uniform in the pl. But cf. Boutkan (1995b: 343), arguing for an inflection \(*-ete > -et\), with retention of preceding \(j\) long enough to cause gemination.

3. The nonsyllabic status of this \(j\) in OE is attested by the Mercian gloss on the Vespasian Psalter, wherein spellings like \textit{hergan} ‘praise’ (cf. class 2 \textit{lufjan} ‘love,’ with syllabic \(i\)) are the norm. In poetry, too, the stem \textit{nerg-} prevails, though by the end of the OE period spellings like \textit{nerg-} (also in OHG) are common.

4. The stem \textit{frew-} originates in the preterite and pass. part., where there was no gemination, and the stem \textit{fraw-} originates in geminated forms of the present, where the development of \textit{aw} in \(*-awja\) to the diphthong \textit{au} prevented any graphic representation of umlaut.

5. It is commonly stated in the handbooks that there is no umlaut in the pret. sj. of OHG verbs of this class: so, e.g., Schatz 1927: 47, Braune 2004a: §361 Anm. 1. This is not the case: cf., e.g., in Oftrid’s gospel book, 3 sg. \textit{legiti} (IV, 35.13, 24), pl. \textit{legitin} (III, 24.61; inf. \textit{leggen} ‘lay’). Rather, umlaut fails in the pret. sj. of verbs that lack the connector \(-i\) in the preterite, e.g. \textit{branti} ‘burned’, \textit{zalti} ‘counted’, and this is surprising because the PGmc. inflections contained \(i\). The restoration of the unmutated vowel is usually explained as due to the need to differentiate pres. and pret. stems: see Robinson 1980 for discussion and an account of alternative views.

6. Since spellings like \textit{timberde} are rare and late (Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.96), \(-re\) in \textit{timbrede} probably does not reflect an etymologically nonsyllabic sonorant consonant made syllabic, but instead \(*-ri\), as in OS.

12.37  Verbs without \(*-i\) in the preterite

All the Gmc. languages show some verbs of weak class 1 that lack any trace of original \(*-i\) in the preterite and pass. participle. Examples are Go. \textit{bugjan} ‘buy’ and \textit{þagkjan} ‘think’, prets. \textit{baúhta}, \textit{þáhta} < \*\textit{buxta}, \*\textit{þakxta} < \*\textit{buʒ-t-}, \*\textit{þagk-t-} (§§4.1, 4.5), the last two forms with \(-t-\) unshifted by Grimm’s law (§6.5).\textsuperscript{1} In Gothic the type is limited to verbs with stems ending in a velar consonant: in addition to \textit{bugjan} and \textit{þagkjan}, the relevant verbs are \textit{bringan} ‘bring’ (strong pres., weak pret.), \textit{brúkjan} ‘use’, \textit{þugkjan} ‘seem’, and \textit{waúrkjan} ‘make’ (prets. \textit{brāhta}, \textit{brúhta}, \textit{þāhta}, \textit{wauðhta}).\textsuperscript{2} But not all Go. verbs ending in a velar consonant are formed this way: cf. \textit{lagjan} ‘lay’, \textit{dragkjan} ‘give to drink’, and many others with \(-i\) in the preterite. Olcel. \textit{sækja} ‘seek’, \textit{yrkja} ‘make’, \textit{þekkja} ‘recognize’, and \textit{þykkja} ‘seem’ are of this type, with prets. \textit{sōtti}, \textit{orti}, \textit{þatti}, \textit{þōtti} (§6.14; cf. Runic \textit{worhto} on the Tune Stone, ca. 400); whether there were any original light-stemmed verbs of this type in NGmc. is impossible to say, since light stems normally lack both \(-i\) and umlaut in the preterite. West Germanic shows a wider variety of verbs of this type. Additions to the class include dental stems (on which see below), as well as OHG stems ending in affricates in the present but in (underlyingly geminate) fricatives in the preterite, though all these may or may not have umlaut in the pret. (§12.36). Yet WGmc. also shows this feature in some originally light stems ending in \(l\), and these always lack umlaut in the preterite, so that it is not plain whether such verbs are all WGmc. additions or whether some arose earlier.\textsuperscript{3,4} Old English (as well as OHG) has a significant number of verbs of this sort with stems ending in a velar consonant (for a list, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.100) for which no evidence of formation without \(*-i\) is to be found in any of the few North and East Gmc. cognates, and in at least one instance such a cognate offers counterevidence: to Olcel. \textit{rekja} ‘heed’, pret. \textit{raðt} cf. OE \textit{recc(e)jan}, \textit{rōhte}. That the OE form could be more original, however, is a possibility suggested by the agreement of Olcel. \textit{sækja}, \textit{sōtti} with OE \textit{sēcean}, \textit{sōhte}, as against Go. \textit{sōkjan}, \textit{sōkida}.
In all the WGmc. languages are to be found a few stems ending in a dental consonant that resemble verbs lacking PGmc. *-i- in the pret., e.g. OS lettian ‘hinder’, pret. latta beside letta (not *letida), OHG guetten ‘call’, pret. quatta, OE settan ‘set’, pret. (Northumbrian) gesætte (WS sette). Probably analogical to OS settian ‘set’, pret. satta beside setta, due to the semantic resemblance, is leggian ‘lay’, pret. lagða (beside legða). Gallée (1993: §407) would derive such forms from PGmc., but East and North Gmc. afford no evidence of this. Still, the lack of umlaut in the pret. renders it likely that these arose in WGmc. before the onset of umlaut, though most evidence of the phenomenon has been eliminated on an analogical basis.

The securest examples of verbs lacking PGmc. *-i- in the preterite are plainly quite archaic verbs in which this irregularity persisted because of high frequency of use. The plainest sign of the antiquity of the type is that although the preterites are weak, they are formed with a suffix *-þ- (> *-t-) instead of *-ð-, since, for example, *bugð-oð would produce Go. *bugda rather than *bauhta. These preterites are thus formed in the same way as those of the preterite-present verbs, another archaic category (§§12.51–4).

There is no scholarly consensus as to why *-i- should be missing from such preterites. The verifiably oldest of these are primary verbs (so, e.g., Go. waúrkeǐþ = Avestan vərzxeiti ‘does, makes’, and cf. Gk. ῥέζω ‘do’), which in PIE attached the *-i/o- suffix to the present stem only. As the most archaic of the Gmc. ja-verbs, then, those like waúrkeǐþ merely reflect the oldest state of affairs (so, e.g., Fullerton 1977: 5–7). This is an attractive analysis inasmuch as the type is plainly archaic, and since the preterite was formed with *-þ- rather than *-ð-, the means of forming the preterite plainly differed from the means used with later additions to weak class 1. A disadvantage of this analysis is that it leaves unexplained why, aside from WGmc. additions to the class, it is only stems ending in a velar consonant (or a consonant, like /l/, capable of velarity) that lack *-i- in the preterite. The problem is of some moment because the parallel between preterite formation in these verbs and in preterite-present verbs is an important clue to the origin of the type, yet preterites in that class with a stem-final velar are a notable minority (see §12.53). Thus, an alternative analysis is that the preterite originally contained *-i-, which was lost on a phonological basis. For example, Prokosch (1939: §67c; cf. Brunner 1965: §407.3) argues that the final velar consonant was palatalized by the following *i, which it absorbed, though it reverted to velar articulation early enough for breaking to have taken place in forms like OE streahhte ‘stretched’ and tealde ‘counted’. Yet perhaps it is the case that the conditioning is morphological rather than phonological. Adding PIE i or its reflex Gmc. h as the preterite suffix to stems ending in a dental consonant (other than s, n) would have resulted in remarkable paradigm irregularities like that seen in Go. preterite-present *witan ‘know’ (cf. pres. 1 pl. witum), with pret. wissa, and so it should not be surprising if original, primary weak verbs of this sort without *-i- in the preterite were reformed to avoid this irregularity by the addition of *-i-.

It is less apparent why stems in labial consonants should have undergone a similar analogical reformation, but it is notable that among the preterite-present verbs the only stem of this type is to Go. *pàuirban (cf. pres. 1 pl. páirhum, but 1 sg. *parf), whereas there are several verbs with stems ending in a velar consonant (OE dugan, *-nugan, magan, ágan). It is possible, then, that among the presumably small number of primary verbs in the earliest stages of PGmc. preterite-formation for weak and preterite-present verbs, the relatively high incidence of the alternation between pres. *-z- and pret. *-xt- ensured its acceptability, whereas the comparatively few stems in non-velars were all refashioned to conform to the pattern established by analogically reformed stems like pres. *sat-j- : pret. *sat-ið-.
On the issues treated here, see further Penzl 1988c.

1. The term Rückumlaut (i.e., retrograde mutation) is sometimes used to describe this phenomenon, but there is no umlaut in Gothic, and the term is more properly reserved for those instances, discussed below, in which syncope of i before umlaut occurred, especially in OHG. Cf. Antonsen 2002: 253.

2. Go. käuðatjan ‘buffet’ has the pret. käupasta (but pp. käuþaþps), but this is plainly a phenomenon of a different order.

3. That OE stands closest to the original situation in WGmc. is the opinion, e.g., of Paul (1879–80: 7.143) and Prokosch (1939: §67c). Ringe avers that there were just five verbs lacking *-i- in the pret. in PGmc., all with stems ending in a velar consonant (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 71, 97–9). It is notable that the athematic verb Go. wiljan ‘will’ has the pret. wilda (§12.58), which is contracted in the manner of verbs of the first weak class without *-i- in the preterite. A cogent argument has in fact been made that ‘will’ was the model for the analogical spread of the pret. irregularity to other stems in i in WGmc. (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 73–5).

4. OE cwellan ‘kill’, ðwellan ‘mislead’, sellan (later syllan) ‘give’, tellan ‘position’, tellan ‘count’ (prets. cwealde, dwealde, etc.); OS sellian ‘give’, tellian ‘count’ (prets. salda, talda). OHG verbs of this type may or may not have both -i- and umlaut. Perversely, though umlaut is usually missing from the preterite of light stems in Olc., the pret. of selja ‘give’ is soldi.

5. Note that alternation between y and x was well established in other environments, under Verner’s law, whereas that between b and f was rarer and was presumably somewhat obscured by the change of the voiceless bilabial fricative to the latter, §6.4 n. 3.

### 12.38 Development of the inflections of the present stem

Under Sievers’ law (§5.8), in PGmc. the stem-forming suffix in the present was *-j- after light syllables and *-ij- after heavy. On stems of more than one syllable, see §2.5.

Loss of *-j- in the sequence *-ij*- (§6.11 ad fin.; hence, in the 2 & 3 sg. ind. and the 2 pl. ind.) produced a long (trimorric?) vowel, the difference between heavy and light stems in this respect being still observable in Gothic and ON, with 3 sg. pres. Go. -jíþ and -eðþ, ON -r and -ir, after light and heavy stems, respectively. As for WGmc., there is no evidence of such a long vowel in the relevant forms in OHG, but there is evidence that the distinction persisted into prehistoric OE, since a strong verb like sěoan < *sèoxan has WS 3 sg. pres. ind. ge-siehð < *sìoxíþ, with loss of the inflectional vowel before intervocalic *x could be deleted, whereas a weak verb like þéwan ‘press’ < *þuxíjan- has WS 3 sg. þéþ < *þuxíþ, with preservation of the inflectional vowel long enough to enable loss of *x.3 Plainly, the North and West Gmc. forms show loss of j before i in the light desinences *-jíz, *-jiþ, and this change is often ascribed to PGmc., demanding the assumption that Go. -jíþ, -jíþ are analogical re-creations, with extension of j from those forms in which it was preserved before a back vowel.4 This is possible, but unless Sievers’ law (§5.8) was an active constraint at the time this morphological change took place, it would seem odd that there was no comparable paradigm regularization in the heavy stems, e.g. sòkeis, sòketip alterned to *sòkjìs, *sòkjíþ, since stem-final j similarly in this case appeared elsewhere throughout the paradigm.

In the pres. indicative, the primary PIE thematic inflections were added to the stem-suffix *-ij-. After the development of PGmc. *-ji- to *-i- (or *-i-? see §5.4) in the 2 & 3 sg. and the 2 pl., the remaining instances of *-ij- in the heavy stems (i.e., the instances preceding a back vowel) were reduced to *-j-.5 These changes resulted in such paradigm irregularities that it is probably best to assume morphological reanalysis, such that the remaining instances of *-j- were no longer treated as part of the stem but of the inflection (though Kiparsky 2000 assumes otherwise). The PGmc. inflections on heavy stems were thus these (with alternants due to Verner’s law):

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2. See §2.5.
3. Only the short form *-jíþ is attested in the 3 sg. inf. pres.
4. This must be an analogy from the Aor.
5. On the issues treated here, see further Penzl 1988c.
The corresponding inflections on light stems would have been the same, except for 2 sg. *-jis(i), *-jiz(i), 3 sg. *-ij(i), *-jó(i), and 2 pl. *-jih(i), *-jód(i), with subsequent loss of *j in all these (§6.11 ad fin.). The Gothic development of the inflections is regular, aside from analogical changes in the dual like those in strong verbs (§12.24) and, apparently, re-introduction of *j in the endings just cited. The ON developments are likewise regular, except that the 2 sg. endings have been extended to the 3 sg., as in the strong verbs, and the vowel of the 2 & 3 sg. has been extended analogically to the 1 sg. in heavy stems. After heavy stems, *-j- was regularly lost, as in the *ja-stem nouns. Although *j is preserved in OS, it is lost everywhere in OE except after *r in light stems, whereas in OFris. it is lost even after *r; in OHG, *-ja- turns to -e-. As noted above, inflections with *i in heavy-stemmed verbs must have replaced this with *i at a fairly early date in OHG but not in OE; perhaps they adopted the *i found in the corresponding desinences of strong verbs and light-stemmed weak verbs (but cf. Ringe & Taylor 2014: 70–1).

As regards the subjunctive (optative), the Go. inflections are the same as for strong verbs, except without loss of *j in any instance, with light and heavy stems inflected identically. The situation is the same in ON, except that *j is preserved only in the 1 sg. inflection -ja after light stems (-a after heavy), this being the only inflection containing a back vowel. In WGmc. the subjunctive is inflected just as in the strong verbs, with inflections attached to the same stem as in the infinitive.

In the imperative, aside from the 2 sg. the attested forms are entirely comparable to those of strong verbs. In the 2 sg., PIE *-e should have been lost consistently in PGMc., leading to nuclearization of final *-j (§5.2 ad fin.) in light stems and preservation of *-ij as *-i in heavy. Thus, Go. -ei in heavy stems should originally have alternated with *-i in light, but analogy led to elimination of the alternation in favor of the long vowel.6 Both forms of the inflection were lost phonologically in ON. In WGmc. the inflection was preserved after light stems but lost after heavy, and this situation is reflected in OE (cf. sete ‘set’ < *seti : dēm ‘judge’), but elsewhere in WGmc. the ending of light stems has been extended to the heavy (e.g. OFris. dēle, OS dēli, OHG teili ‘divide’).

The infinitive and the present participle are formed with the same suffixes as in strong verbs attached to the present stem in -j-. In OHG, once again, *-ja- turns to -e-, hence inf. in -en and pres. part. in -enti, whereas strong verbs more commonly have -an and -anti, though there is much mixture of the variants from an early date. The same may be said of gerunds (§12.30).

1. Since 2 sg. Go. nasijis ‘save’ must derive from PIE *nov-ēj-esti. Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §85) prescribe that PGMc. *-ijis- in such forms underwent development to *-is-, which then gave *-ji- after light stems but *-ī- after heavy. It is more plausible to assume that, under Sievers’ law, *-iis- after light stems became *-ij- before *j could be lost intervocally.

2. The assumption of a trimoric vowel as the result of loss of intervocalic *j would explain the divergent developments in Go. 1 sg. pres. harbō ‘wander’ < *-ōjō (§6.11 ad fin.) and nom. sg. giba ‘gift’ < *-ō.)

3. This evidence at first appears only circumstantial because the distinction is between strong and weak verbs rather than heavy- and light-stemmed verbs with weak presents. But there were no heavy-stemmed strong verbs with weak presents with stem-final /x/ comparable in structure to weak *poversen in prehistoric OE (only an original light stem in hlihhan ‘laugh’), and, conversely, there were no light-stemmed weak verbs
of the first class with stems ending in *-i- even before WGmc. gemination applied, and so all the relevant weak verbs thus had a long vowel in the pertinent inflections. A version of this analysis was offered already in Fulk 2010a. This accounts for the otherwise bewildering observation of A. Campbell (1977: §462) that a single phonological process, syncope in the 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind., occurred earlier in OE strong verbs than in weak. This analysis poses a difficulty for the account of weak verbs of the second class proposed by Cowgill (1959): see §12.43 infra. Less probable seems the explanation of Hogg (1992: §7.49) that h in ge-siehō has been re-introduced analogically from pret. 1 & 3 sg. seah, especially as the same analogical development would have to be assumed to have occurred independently in Old Frisian.


5. For simplicity of presentation, this development is here treated as belonging to the PGmc. period. In actuality, it probably postdates that period, in view of Runic inf. prawiyan ‘desire’ (? Kalleby stone, ca. 400). This form contains a light stem, but it is probably best explained as due to the analogical influence of heavy stems (of which no relevant Runic forms are attested). Compare the variation in Runic harja and harija (§5.8).

6. See §5.5 on the development of PIE *-o-mes to Go. -am, NWGmc. -um.

7. With analogical replacement of i (PIE e) by a (PIE o): see §12.24.

8. Since *-i was shortened in Gothic (§5.3), it must be assumed that Go. -ei is analogical to the vowel that predominates in the pres. of heavy stems; but see §7.10 for an alternative view.

12.39 Development of inflections of the preterite stem

How the preterite inflections are to be reconstructed is a question inseparable from the question of the origin of the dental preterite (§12.33), but certain facts can be established independently. The oldest Runic endings in the singular are 1 sg. -ō and 3 sg. -ē (beside hypercorrect -ai, §5.3), pointing to PGmc. *-ōm and *-ēp. The former will also account for Go. 1 sg. -a, though this could also derive from *-ēm, or it could be analogical to 3 sg. -a (Hirt 1931–4: II, §124). But 3 sg. -a is itself difficult, since a long vowel should be expected to have been preserved as such when originally protected by a final consonant, as in the parallel instance of ō (§5.3 & n. 3). Go. 2 sg. -ēs may safely be derived from PGmc. *-ēs. Thus, the likeliest reconstruction of the preterite desinences in the singular is *-ōm, *-ēs, *-ēp, bearing PIE secondary inflections, of which only the last raises unresolved difficulties. The Go. plural desinences -ēdum, -ēdāp, -ēdun correspond exactly to the OHG pret. pl. forms of the verb ‘do’, i.e. tātum, tātut, tātun, providing strong evidence for the composition theory (§12.33), regardless of how the OHG forms themselves are to be explained (§12.61), but the sg. forms are another matter: cf. OHG 1 & 3 sg. tēta, 2 sg. ōtā. Attempts to derive the sg. pret. endings from the same source as the plural (and dual, as well as all forms of the subjunctive) thus face considerable difficulties if the Gothic plural endings are considered more original than, e.g., 3 pl. Olcel. -ōu and OHG -ōun, even though, conversely, it seems counterintuitive to suppose that Go. innovated plural endings so different from the sg. ones. The commonest explanation for the sg. endings is that they reflect unreduplicated aorists, e.g. PIE 3 sg. *dhēt, but the o-quality of 1 sg. *dhōm is then anomalous, as *dhēm should be expected, instead (Bammesberger 1986a: 85–6). It is not impossible, however, that the vocalism of *-dhēm, *-dhēs, *-dhēt should have been altered on the basis of the usual pattern in thematic secondary endings, *-om, *-es, *-et (so Hirt loc. cit.).1 It is at all events remarkable that the WGmc. simplex verb (OE dōn, OS dōn, duon, OHG duon) appears to reflect *dhōh-, whereas elsewhere in IE, full-grade verbs reflect *dhēh- (cf. nouns Gk. θομός ‘heap’, Lat. ab-dōmen ‘abdomen’, i.e. ‘thing hidden’ (ab-ditum)): see §12.61 on the explanation of Hill (2010). Note also OHG 2 sg. pret. -ōs and (principally) Alemannic 1, 2, 3 pl. -ōm, -ōt, -ōn (otherwise OHG -tum, -tut, -tun).2
In the subjunctive, the inflections are identical to those of strong verbs, attached to the pret. stem, which in Go. is the pret. pl. stem.

In general, the stem of the pass. part. is identical to that of the pret. sg., with the same endings as taken by strong participles. In Go. the *d ([ð]) of the stem is devoiced to *þ before *s in the nom. sg.


2. Here the vowel *ð in the 2 sg., however, is best explained as analogical to the original 1 sg. ending *-ð/i/m/, and *ð in the Alemannic pl. as analogical to the 2 sg. (Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §90). Boutkan (1995b: 362) agrees that *ð in the Alemannic plural is analogical, but he derives *ð in the 2 sg. from the original perfect of ‘do’. Cf. Hollifield 1980: 151, Ringe & Taylor 2014: 76–7, the latter identifying *-s as borrowed from classes 2 and 3, and perhaps the pres. sj.

B. WEAK VERBS OF CLASS 2

12.40 Stem formation

Verbs of this class bore in PIE the su *₃x *-ā- < *-e-, with or without the addition of *-je/-o-. Derivatives of this type were formed in two ways. (1) The suffix was attached to adjective stems to form factitive verbs—i.e., verbs with the meaning ‘cause to have the quality of the adjective’. An example is Hittite newaḫmi ‘I make new’, Lat. re-novāre, OE nīwian (cf. Gk. νέος ‘new’ < *neg-o-s); perhaps also Go. frijōn ‘love’ (cf. frija- ‘free’, but also Skt. pṛṇāti ‘pleases’). Verbs derived from nouns by this method are generally younger formations, as exact cognates in separate IE branches are uncommon. Gmc. examples are Go. ϵskōn ‘ϵsh’ (cf. ϵsk(ε) (noun) and Lat. piscāri ‘ℵsh’ (verb)) and Go. sidōn ‘practice’ (cf. sidus ‘custom’). Verbs of this type could also be formed by the addition of PIE *-je/-o- to *-ā-stem nouns, e.g. Go. karōn ‘care for’ (cf. kara ‘anxiety’) and OE eahtian ‘esteem’ (cf. eaht ‘estimation’). 1. (2) The suffix was attached to verb roots, forming primary verbs, e.g. Lat. plicāre ‘fold’ (cf. explicere ‘unfold’), lavāre ‘wash’ beside lavere, and cubāre ‘recline’ (cf. recumbere ‘recline’). It is usually assumed that factitive verbs of type (1) were originally athematic, with addition of inflections directly to the stem-forming *-ā-, as the forms of ‘make new’ (above) attest, whereas thematic verbs, with the addition of *-je/-o- to *-ā-, were formed to both types (1) and (2). Hirt (1931–4: II, §134) argues that the relation between verbs with and without -ā- under (2) parallels that between ā-stem and o-stem noun pairs like Gk. τομῆ ὁμῶ ‘stump’ and τομῆς ‘slice’, and thus verbs of type (2) are actually denominal. Many verbs resist this explanation, however, especially on semantic grounds, since, e.g., a noun *piskā (Go. ϵiskōn, Lat. piscāri; cf. nouns Go. fisks (a-stem) and Lat. piscis (i-stem)) seems unlikely. And as he points out, verbs of this type not infrequently coöccur with verbs of weak class 1, e.g. OHG mālōn beside Go. mēljan ‘write’, and OE hatian ‘hate’ beside Go. hatjan, suggesting rather deverbal derivation. Yet the uncertainties about origins are considerable. In Gmc. a further source of verbs of this class is most likely preterites like *salbōðēþ ‘anointed’, if this is a compound of a noun in the instrumental case with a form of the verb ‘do’ (§12.33), allowing derivation from nouns other than Gmc. ō-stems.

1. Denominal verbs of this type are surveyed and classified semantically by Schäfer (1984).
§12.41 Inflection of weak class 2

There is no distinction between the inflection of light and heavy stems in the second weak class, illustrated by the paradigms of Go. hwarbōn ‘wander’ and cognates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Ind.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>huarbō</td>
<td>hvarfa</td>
<td>hwearfige</td>
<td>hwarboiu</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>hurbōs</td>
<td>hvarfar</td>
<td>hwearfast</td>
<td>hwarbos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>hurbōp</td>
<td>hvarfar</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarbod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>hurbōs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>hurbōs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hvǫrfum</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hvarfið</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hvarfa</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pres. Sj.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hvarfa</td>
<td>hwearfige</td>
<td>hwarboi</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hvarfī</td>
<td>hwearfige</td>
<td>hwarboi</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hurbōwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>hurbōts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
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<td>hvarfim</td>
<td>hwearfigen</td>
<td>hwarboian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>hurbōp</td>
<td>hvarfið</td>
<td>hwearfigen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>hurbōna</td>
<td>hvarfī</td>
<td>hwearfigen</td>
<td>hwarboian</td>
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<td>Imp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>hurbō</td>
<td>hvarfa</td>
<td>hwearfa</td>
<td>hwarbo</td>
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<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>hurbōdāu</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hvǫrfum</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hvarfið</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hvarfi</td>
<td>hwearfað</td>
<td>hwarboiad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pret. Ind.</td>
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<td>hvarfaða</td>
<td>hwearfode</td>
<td>hwarboda</td>
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<tr>
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<td>hwearfodest</td>
<td>hwarbodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hvarfaði</td>
<td>hwearfode</td>
<td>hwarboda</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hurbōdēduts</td>
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<td>hwarbodun</td>
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<td>hwarbodun</td>
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<td>hvǫrfuðu</td>
<td>hwearfodon</td>
<td>hwarbodun</td>
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<td>hwarbodis</td>
</tr>
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<td>hwarbodi</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
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<td>hvarfaðim</td>
<td>hwearfoden</td>
<td>hwarboini</td>
</tr>
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<td>hvarfaðið</td>
<td>hwearfoden</td>
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<td>hwearfoden</td>
<td>hwarboini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hurbōn</td>
<td>hvarfa</td>
<td>hwearfan</td>
<td>hwarboian</td>
<td>(h)warbōn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pres. Part.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hwarbōnds</td>
<td>hvarfaði</td>
<td>hwearfiende</td>
<td>hwarboandi</td>
<td>(h)warbōnti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. Part.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hurbōps</td>
<td>hvarfaðr</td>
<td>hwearfod</td>
<td>gihwarbod</td>
<td>gi(h)warbōt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, the plural endings are used with both plural and dual subjects. In addition, inflected infinitives occur in WGmc. (§12.30). In the pres. ind. and sj., Go. verbs may be inflected in the passive voice, with the same endings as in §12.29, e.g. 1 sg. pres. ind. huarbōda, 2 sg. huarbōza, etc.
12.42 Morphological variation

Some verbs in Old English show contraction, e.g. *spā ‘prophesy’ < *spāa < *spaxōjana and *fjā ‘hate’ < *fjījōjana.

In Old English, -i(g)- in the pres. stem reflects *-ōj-, e.g. inf. hwearfian < *xwarbōjana, in which *ō is umlauted to *ē by the following *j, and this *ē is subsequently shortened and raised to i by the influence of the following palatal sound. The commonest pattern is for the pres. suffix to appear as -i- before a (rarely -ige-) but -īg- before e, except in non-finite forms, though there are many exceptions, especially outside of LWS. By dissimilation, -ōd- is commonly changed to -edon (§5.6). The preterite suffix is normally -ōd- in standard WS (early -ud-) but -ad- in Kentish and Anglian; the former reflects *-ūd-, the allomorph that appeared before u in the next syllable, which was generalized in WS, whereas -ad- reflects unraised *-ōd-, generalized in the other dialects. On forms like hwearfende and tō hwearfenne (rather than -iende, -ienne) in Anglian, see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.112. Contracted verbs to this class also occur in OE, e.g. smēagan ‘contemplate’ < *smauxōjan-, 3 sg. pres. ind. smēah < *smauxōp. Contractation could also occur without any loss of [x], as with frīgan ‘love’ < *frījej- < NSGmc. *frijōj-.

Old Swedish (with hwar- spelt ⟨hwar⟩) shows the usual variation in the spelling of inflectional vowels (§§1.18, 5.6). In addition, -ōa- may be spelt -ogea-, parallel to spellings in OE. The forms given are presumably the older ones, since they are found almost exclusively in poetry. In addition to forms in -ōa- and -oie(-) there occur forms in simple -o(-) that are comparable to the OHG forms, thus pres. ind. pl. hwarboð, sj. 1 & 3 sg. hwarrbo, pl. hwarbon. These are normal in prose, though they occur also in poetry, where in fact they predominated, at a rate of about 5 in 6 relevant forms. Pres. ind. 1 sg. hwarrboið does not in fact occur as such, but it is rendered certain by two forms in prose, opprāiu and likiu (Cowgill 1959: 3), as should be expected on the basis of the OE and OFris. forms, showing that the longer forms bear thematic endings (1 sg. PIE *-ō), whereas the shorter ones bear athematic (1 sg. *-mi, as in OS truōn, tholon), as in OHG. In poetry there also occur forms in -i-a- (with syllabic i) for -ōa-, and these forms are comparable to those encountered in Anglo-Frisian. Unlike in OHG, the stem vowel -o- has been shortened, as shown by its not infrequent lowering to a.

OHG shows the usual variation of vowels in inflections (§5.6 ad fin.); in addition, -ōn may appear for -ōm(eš). In the pres. opt. there occur in UG (but also in Isidori), especially in Alemanic, longer forms of the order 1 & 3 sg. warbō(g)e, 2 sg. -ō(g)eš, 1 pl. -ō(g)ẽm(e), etc., where ⟨g⟩ = [j].

1. Despite the incredulity of Fullerton (1977: 50), these developments are well attested in OE, with umlaut of a vowel or diphthong by an immediately following *j, as in Anglian cēgan ‘call’ (EWS cēgan) < *kaujan-, weakening of unstressed long vowels, as of *u > u > a in the preterites of this class, and raising of weakened front vowels before palatal sounds, as in hālig ‘holy’ < *hālej- < *sailay-.

12.43 Historical development

Significant uncertainties attend the analysis of this class of verbs. The Go., ON, and OHG forms would appear to represent athematic conjugation, with inflections added directly to stems in PIE *ā (or *ēh₂), whereas the longer stems of Anglo-Frisian and, in part, OS appear to be thematic, with the suffix *-iē/or-, containing the theme vowel, inserted between *ā and the inflections. The OHG 1 sg. pres. ind. ending -ōm (= OS -on) is certainly athematic, but Go. -ō and Runic -ō are thematic, as are the endings in
Anglo-Frisian. The earliest attempts at an explanation thus assumed the cooccurrence of thematic and athematic forms in Gmc., with mixture of the two in Ingvaeonic and generalization of the athematic elsewhere. (Compare athematic Aeolic Gk. τίμᾱμι beside thematic Attic τίμᾶω < *τῖμᾰμον ‘fear.’) Yet the required analogical changes are not uniformly well motivated, and the reason for the particular distribution of thematic and athematic forms in Ingvaeonic is difficult to perceive on this basis. It is especially hard to account for the pres. sj. forms in this fashion, since athematic optatives to stems in PIE *ā (or *eh₂) should have been formed by the addition of *-i(e)h₁- (§12.6).¹

A revised approach by Cowgill (1959) turns conventional wisdom on its head by explaining some of the seemingly most archaic forms as innovations. Cowgill argues that PGmc. *j was lost between any two unstressed vowels (but not if the first vowel was *i, §6.11 ad fin.),² followed by contraction of the remaining vowels, with the result that simple ō in the non-Ingvaeonic forms (as opposed to Ingvaeonic *-oja-, *-ōji-) is the phonologically regular result of this change, whereas the longer Ingvaeonic forms are the result of an analogical change. On this analysis, alternations in heavy-stemmed verbs of the first weak class such as inf. *dōmijan, pres. sg. *dōmijō, *dōmīs, dōmīp, pret. sg. *dōmīdē, led to morphological reanalysis whereby the stem in these forms was perceived to be *dōmi- and the inflections *-jan, *-jō, *-s, *-p, and *-ōē, respectively. Thereupon, these inflections were extended analogically in Ingvaeonic to stems of the second weak class in *-ō-, hence, e.g., *x̂arbō-jan, *x̂arbō-jo, *x̂arbō-s, *x̂arbō-p, *x̂arbō-ōē.³ This accounts brilliantly for both the Ingvaeonic and the non-Ingvaeonic forms, disposing very effectively, especially, of the problem of the pres. sj. forms, assuming that the alternative, longer sj. forms of UG are an analogical innovation, formed by the addition of the normal sj. endings of strong verbs to stems in *-ō- in order to redifferentiate ind. and sj. forms that had fallen together.⁴

Attractive as Cowgill’s hypothesis is, however, it faces several difficulties that are not insignificant. Although his objections and counterproposals are on the whole unpersuasive, Fullerton (1977: 49) is right to observe that it is difficult to believe that loss of j and subsequent contraction in the sequence *-ōji- would lead to a monophthong *o rather than a diphthong.⁵ A problem that Cowgill himself raises is that if the longer forms of OS (hwarboian, hwarboiad, etc., as opposed to the shorter forms hwarbon, hwarboad, etc.) are actually analogical innovations and thus the younger of the two types, it is difficult to see why the longer forms occur almost exclusively in the more conservative language of verse.⁶ A further problem is that reanalysis of *dōmijan as stem *dōmi- plus inflection in Ingvaeonic is complicated by developments in OE, since it was pointed out above (§12.38) that even though a short vowel is indicated in the 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind. of such verbs in OHG (for which Cowgill assumes shortening already in WGmc.), prehistoric OE seems to require a long vowel (*-s, *-þ) in order to explain the different effects of syncope in contracted strong and weak verbs, e.g. strong fliehō ‘flies’ < fluixīþ : weak þyð ‘presses’ < *þuxīþ. This consideration perhaps does not disqualify Cowgill’s explanation altogether, but it renders the assumed reanalysis of the heavy-stemmed inflections less straightforward. In addition, it should be said that Cowgill’s assumption is that there was no athematic inflection of such verbs in PGmc., rather than cooccurring thematic and athematic inflection. He is thus obliged to assume that the OHG 1 sg. pres. in -dım (and OS -on) is analogical to WGmc. *dōm (OHG tuom, OS dōm, Anglian OE dōm) ‘(I) do’, and though this may not be impossible, it seems dubitable that such an otherwise unproductive category of Gmc. verbs as athe-}

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¹ See Fullerton (1977: 49).
² See Fullerton (1977: 49).
³ See Fullerton (1977: 49).
⁴ See Fullerton (1977: 49).
⁵ See Fullerton (1977: 49).
⁶ See Fullerton (1977: 49).
problems are perhaps not insurmountable. Yet however these difficulties are to be accounted for, Cowgill’s remains the only very plausible account to date.

1. For summaries of the scholarship, see Cowgill 1959 and Fullerton 1977: 45–54. Bammesberger (1986a: 155) highlights the problem posed by the present subjunctive and argues that in this respect the second class is analogical to the first.

2. This hypothesis about the loss of j between unstressed vowels had already been proposed: see Wilmanns 1893–1906: III, 86; Prokosch 1939: §54; Krahe 1948: 129, 134; see also, e.g., Krause 1968: §241. The objections of Birkhan (1974: 4–7) fail to persuade.

3. Note, however, that on this analysis no analogical change is actually required in the 2 & 3 sg. forms, which would already have had */-ōs, *-ōþ on a phonological basis.

4. To the contrary, Kirschstein (1962: 109) regards the longer sj. forms as more original, even though they are UG and thus cannot very plausibly be regarded as the result of a dialect continuum with Ingvaenic.

5. Prokosch (1939: §54) sees this as “a process akin to the loss of the second element of long diphthongs in IE,” but in Gmc. such loss is characteristic only of, perhaps, PIE */ēt > PGmc. /ē/ and, even more tentatively, */ōt > /ō/; cf. especially the development of PIE */āt > PGmc. */ai rather than */i (§3.4). Yet it should be observed that the most widely credited explanation for the PGmc. comparative suffix */-ōz is that it is contracted from */-āt-iz (though the proposer of that explanation, Brugmann (in Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 1.560–1) attributes the change to */-ōz to an analogical process, not a phonological one: see §9.10).

6. Ringe proposes that by the 9th cent., when the poetry was composed, the longer forms would have seemed more archaic, and that the shorter forms came to dominate later under OHG influence (Ringe & Taylor 2104: 161). The former explanation seems uncharacteristic of early Gmc. poets’ practices with regard to archaic language, the latter, then, too coincidental to seem probable. The problem persists.

C. WEAK VERBS OF CLASS 3

12.44 Stem formation

Extra-Germanic cognates to verbs of this class suggest that they were formed in PIE with a stem in */-ē- < */-eh-, with or without the addition of a thematizing suffix */-je/ō-. They would thus have been entirely parallel to verbs of weak class 2, but with PIE */ē instead of */ā. An example is Lat. monēre ‘warn’, Lith. minėti ‘remember’, OCS mněti ‘believe’, Go. munan ‘remember’, OHG manēn ‘warn’. As the example demonstrates, some of these are deverbal and durative, but a particular use for stems of this type in PIE was to form deadjectival stative verbs with the meaning ‘have the quality of the adjective’.1 An example is Lat. rubēre, OCS rūđěti, OHG ro.tell ‘be red’. There are also factitives derived from both nouns and adjectives, preserved almost exclusively in Gothic, e.g. Go. gāpiwan ‘enslave’ (cf. piwōs ‘servants’), arman ‘pity’ (< */regard as poor’; cf. arms ‘poor’). The difficulties that attend accounting for the attested Gmc. forms starting from such a reconstruction, however, are even greater than in the parallel instance of class 2, as discussed in §12.43. Especially in Ingvaenic, a great many of these verbs are normally inflected according to weak class 1 and/or 2. There is also the problem of how it is to be explained that PIE statives and factitives came to be inflected alike in Gmc. (on which see Ringe 2017: 205, Ringe & Taylor 2014: 518).

1. Dishington (2010), rather, argues that the most basic verbs in this class are denominal.
12.45 Inflection

Although no one verb exemplifies all the difficulties encountered in trying to account for this class, the paradigm of Go. *haban* ‘have’ and its Gmc. cognates, a deverbal formation related to Go. *haftjan* ‘raise, bear’ (= Lat. *capitō*), illustrates a number of the peculiarities of the type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>haba</td>
<td>hef(i)</td>
<td>hæbbe</td>
<td>hebbiu,</td>
<td>habēm, -ēn</td>
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<tr>
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<td>habáis</td>
<td>hef(i)r</td>
<td>hæfšt</td>
<td>habes, -as, -is</td>
<td>habēs(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>habáíþ</td>
<td>hef(i)r</td>
<td>hæfð</td>
<td>habed, -ad, -id</td>
<td>habēt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>habōs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>habats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>habam</td>
<td>hǫfum</td>
<td>habbaþ</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>hafa</td>
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<td>hafa</td>
<td>hæbbe</td>
<td>hebbie, habbie</td>
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<td>hafir</td>
<td>hæbbe</td>
<td>hebbias, habbias</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>habdes, -as</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>habáidēdeiits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>habáidēdeima</td>
<td>hefōim</td>
<td>hæfden</td>
<td>habdin</td>
<td>habēfim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>habáidēdeiþ</td>
<td>hefōið</td>
<td>hæfden</td>
<td>habdin</td>
<td>habēft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>habáidēdeina</td>
<td>hefōi</td>
<td>hæfden</td>
<td>habdin</td>
<td>habēfin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inf.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>haban</td>
<td>hafa</td>
<td>habban</td>
<td>hebbian</td>
<td>habēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pres. Part.</td>
<td>habands</td>
<td>hafandí</td>
<td>hæbbende</td>
<td>habēnti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pass. Part.</td>
<td>habáíþs</td>
<td>haför</td>
<td>hæfðl</td>
<td>gihabd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside of Gothic, the plural endings are used with both plural and dual subjects. In addition, inflected infinitives occur in WGmc. (§12.30). In the pres. ind. and sj., Go.
verbs may be inflected in the passive voice, with the same endings as in §12.29, e.g. 1 sg. pres. ind. habada, 2 habaza, etc.

12.46 Morphological variation

The verb hafa is the only one of this class in OIcel. to show forms without -i(-) in the pres. sg. (hef, hefr beside newer hefi, hefir), aside from segja ‘say’, to which seg, segr are old and rare. Many past parts. end in -aðr rather than -ðr (-tr after a stop, as in keyptr ‘bought’), e.g. brosadr ‘having smiled’, and it is notable that hafa and segja show (rarely) an alternative form of the pass. part. only in older and/or poetic texts, hafat (neut.) and sagaðr. In OE, where just four verbs are regularly inflected according to this class (habban ‘have’, libban ‘live’, secgan ‘say’, hycgan ‘think’) there is considerable variety in stems and inflections. Thus, secgan and hycgan show umlaut in the present stem (but not 2 & 3 sg. sægst, sægð), whereas habban and libban do not (though umlaut would be undetectable in the stem libb-, as opposed to leof-); libban lacks syncope in the 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind. (leofast, leofað, with back mutation, §4.8), whereas the others do not (e.g. hefast, hæfð); and to imp. sg. hafa, leofa cf. sæge, hyge. The verb hycgan is in fact indistinguishable from a verb of class 1, except in the preterite. The Anglian forms are different, sometimes in expected ways, e.g. pres. ind. sg. hafa, hafast, hafað, but also lig- for libb-. OFris. hebba, habba ‘have’, libba ‘live’, and sedza ‘say’ are inflected the same way as verbs of class 2, so that only the stems attest to original membership in class 3. OS hebbian ‘have’, libbian ‘live’, and seggian ‘say’ are the only OS verbs inflected thus, and they show some of the same peculiarities as the OE verbs, including the mixture of forms with and without umlaut (e.g. inf. hebbian beside habbien; 2 & 3 sg. sagis, sagad beside 1 sg. seggiu, etc.), and forms alternately with -e/a or -i in the imp. singular. Although no pres. part is attested for hebbian or seggian, cf. libbiani beside libbendi. Among other variants, OHG has in some early texts pret. hapta < *habda (so also hogta, hoca ‘thought’), in agreement with Ingvaeonic. The number of such verbs in OHG is notably greater than in NSGmc.: see Braune 2004a: §369 for an inventory.

12.47 Historical development

Although much ingenuity has been expended in the attempt, no purely phonological explanation has succeeded convincingly in deriving the attested inflectional patterns directly from the stems in PIE *-ē(-i/o)- that the extra-Germanic cognates suggest should be the starting point. The OHG forms might be accounted for in this fashion, but the great regularity of OHG stem-formation in -ē- can only be an analogical innovation, in view of the irregularity of the stem in the other Gmc. languages, and especially in view of early OHG preterites like hapta and hogta (beside habēta, hogēta). And seeing as the most probable explanation of the Ingvaeonic verbs of weak class 2 is that they were analogically reformed after class 1 (§12.43), it would be hazardous to make the Ingvaeonic forms of class 3 the basis for reconstructing the PGmc. situation. Probably, then, the best evidence for the most archaic patterns is to be found in East and North Germanic.

The Go. pres. paradigm shows -ai- in those forms in which the inflection contained PGmc. *i < PIE *e in other classes of verbs, otherwise -a(-), and so this has the
appearance of a regular phonological development. However, athematic PIE *-ē- should not have produced non-final *a in Gothic (cf. *nasidēs : *nasīda, and *huammē-h ‘to everyone’ : *huamma ‘to whom’), much less thematic *-ēje/ō-, the development of which can only be guessed. Various morphological solutions have been proposed, involving analogy and/or the cooccurrence of thematic and athematic stems within the paradigm (see the counterarguments in Jasanoff 1978b: 60–7), but in neither event is it plain what forces should have produced an alternation with the appearance of being phonologically conditioned. Accordingly, Bennett (1962; cf. Jasanoff 1973: 855) proposes that the stem-final formative was not *-ē- < *-ehr- but the weak grade of this, hence thematic *-h₁je/ōr-, a structure closely paralleled in OCS verbs like 1 sg. pres. stojā ‘stand’, 3 sg. stojitā, corresponding to OHG *sēm, stēt (an athematic verb, §12.64), though in this verb *h₁ (> OCS o) is not suffixal. ² Though Bennett offers no extra-Germanic parallels to the weak grade of the suffix in -ē-verbs, weak grade seems best to explain certain Balto-Slavic forms, e.g. OCS 2 pl. pres. sēdite ‘sit’, Lith. sédite, as well as Gk. verbs like μαίνεται ‘is mad’ < *μανίάται (cf. inf. μανίνατος; see Streitberg 1896: §206).³ Assuming (as Cowgill does in regard to verbs of weak class 2, §12.43) that PGmc. *j was lost between unstressed vowels (though not after *i when a back vowel followed), the Go. pres. endings can be generated on a purely phonological basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIE</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>PIE</th>
<th>Go.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sg. 1 <em>(h₁j)-ō</em></td>
<td>-a</td>
<td>Pl. 1 *(h₁j)-omes</td>
<td>-am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 *(h₁j)-esi</td>
<td>-āis</td>
<td>2 *(h₁j)-eti</td>
<td>-āīp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 *(h₁j)-eti</td>
<td>-āīp</td>
<td>3 *(h₁j)-onti</td>
<td>-āand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similarly, *-h₁ē- would have been lost in all pres. forms of the subjunctive (optative) before the suffix *-ōf-, resulting in the same endings as on strong verbs both active and passive; the pass. ind. endings likewise parallel those of strong verbs, which arose by the analogical changes detailed in §12.29. Note that this analysis requires that syllabic laryngeals not have been lost in all Gmc. unstressed syllables (see §5.5 ad fin.). Thus, the suffix *-h₁ē- would have developed to -ā- before the dental consonant in all forms of the preterite, but *(h₁j)-o- would have produced -a- in the infinitive and pres. participle. Although Bennett offers a different explanation, PIE imp. 2 sg. *-h₁ē- may be presumed to have produced Go. -āi regardless of whether final *-i < *-e or *-j- was lost first. Bennett’s hypothesis thus accounts admirably for all the Gothic forms as regular phonological developments.

By Bennett’s account, his analysis also explains all the inflectional forms of this class in ON, which in the present has -e(-) (> -i(-), from *-ai-) everywhere Go. has -ai-, and -a(-) everywhere Go. has -a(-), with the exception only of 1 sg. pres. ind. -e (> -i), which does not correspond to Go. -a. In the preterite, *-e- < *-ai- was syncopated in medial syllables when the inflection was of sufficient weight, and thus there is no connecting vowel in the ON preterite, in which all the inflections were heavy. The verbs segja ‘say’, þegja ‘be silent’ have their -j- already in the earliest records by analogy to weak class 1.⁴ But matters are surely not so straightforward as this. The pres. ind. sg. forms 1 hef and 2 & 3 hefr (also seg, segr) must be old, since they are found only in archaic and poetic texts, though umlaut in such forms is difficult to explain, both because umlaut ought not to be found in light stems without preserved i in the next syllable and because on this analysis there seems no plausible way to derive ² in 2 sg. *xabīz > hef(i)ir. It is probably best to assume an original paradigm in which syncopated forms alternated with unsyncopated, e.g. 1 sg. *xab(ajj)ō > *habu (which would have developed to *hoṣ if analogy had not intervened) : 2 sg. *xabīz (whatever the derivation
of ð) > hefir, with paradigm regularization then extending umlaut throughout the sg. and leading to parallel paradigms with and without inflectional -e(-) > -i(-) in the sg., the forms with -e(-) coming to prevail by an early date in the literate period. Similar developments are required to explain the coöccurrence of pass. parts. in -ð- and -að- (the latter, in the verbs hafa and segja, at least, occurring only in early and/or poetic texts), which is comparable to (and has the same cause as) the alternation between -ð- and -ið- in the pass. parts. of weak class 1 (§12.36).

The Ingvaeanic forms may be accounted for in a fashion similar to the one that Cowgill (see §12.43) devised for weak class 2 (Hogg & Fulk 2011: §§6.124–5). That is, outside of the 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind., the reanalyzed endings of the heavy-stemmed verbs of weak class 1 (e.g. inf. *-jan, 1–3 pl. *-jāþ) were added to the present stem; but whereas the present stem in weak class 2 was perceived to end in *-ð- (hence, e.g., NSGmc. inf. *xailaȝ-ð-jan > OE hālgan ‘hallow’, 3 sg. *xailaȝ-ð-p > hālgap), the stem in weak class 3 was perceived to end in a consonant, due to the original alternation between, e.g., PGmc. inf. *xab(aijan- > *xab-an- and 3 sg. *xaba(jiþ)i > *xab-aþ. The result in Ingvaeanic would have been forms like the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. sg.</th>
<th>Ind.</th>
<th>Sj.</th>
<th>Imp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>*xab-ju</td>
<td>*xab-jai</td>
<td>*xab-ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>*xab-ais</td>
<td>*xab-jai</td>
<td>*xab-ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>*xab-aþ</td>
<td>*xab-jai</td>
<td>*xab-ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl.</td>
<td>*xab-jaþ</td>
<td>*xab-jain</td>
<td>*xab-jaþ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inf.</td>
<td>*xab-jan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. part.</td>
<td>*xab-jandf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If it is assumed that WGmc. gemination was still operative at this early date in Ingvaeanic, this will account for forms like OE habban, OFris. hebba, habba, OS hebbian, habbian. In such a paradigm umlaut would have applied everywhere but in the 2 and 3 sg. pres. ind., and this is the situation as preserved in OE libban and secgan, though umlaut has been extended analogically throughout the paradigm of hyegan and leveled out of that of habban, in the latter case perhaps to differentiate the present paradigm from that of hebban ‘raise’. The imperatives OE sæge, hyge show the correct development of final -ai, whereas hafa and leofa must be explained as having acquired the imp. sg. ending of weak class 2; cf. OS imp. sg. habe beside haba, habi, the last with the ending of weak class 1. Likewise, OE 2 & 3 sg. leofast, leofað (as well as Anglian hafast, hafad) cannot reflect *-ais, *-aþ but must bear endings borrowed from class 2; and there is, again, alternation among the vowels e, a, and i in the corresponding inflections in OS, showing mixture of endings from classes 1–3. WS hæfstan, hæfð are probably not regular developments under the conditions outlined in §12.24 but analogical creations (unsurprisingly, given the dominant role of analogy in the formation of the 2 & 3 sg. in OE), in view of the preservation of the etymologically long inflectional vowel in the corresponding forms of weak class 2; but they conform to the pattern of adding the inflections of class 1 to the bare consonantal stem that governs the morphology of this class, even if they were formed long after the Proto-Ingvaeanic period. Similarly, neither 1 sg. pres. ind. WS hæbbe nor Anglian hafo directly reflects Ingvaeanic *xabju, which results correctly in OS hebbiu, but they show analogical developments that are already familiar from the development of these and other verbs in OE. As for the preterite, PGmc. *-ai- should not have been syncopated before the dental suffix, but given that the present stem was analyzed as ending in a consonant, it may be assumed that in Ingvaeanic the same development affected the preterite formation as the present, and
dental suffix plus inflection were added to the consonantal present stem to form the preterite, just as in heavy-stemmed verbs of weak class 1 they were added to the present stem, which was perceived to end in *-i-, e.g. WGmc. *dömī-dē > OE dēmede ‘judged’.

The OHG forms are then to be explained as showing analogical extension of the stem in -ē- < *-ai- throughout the paradigm, under the influence of the parallel stems in -ō- of class 2. That early preterites like hapta, hogta lack a connecting vowel suggests that the analogical change outlined above resulting in the Ingvaenic preterite stem without a final vowel began already in early WGmc.

1. For an exhaustive survey of the extensive literature, see Flasdieck 1935, focusing particularly on OE. More concise accounts are offered by Bennett 1962 and Fullerton 1977: 58–9; see also Dishington 1976, Kortlandt 1990, Boutkan 1995b: 347–51.

2. On uncertainties about the development of syllabic laryngeals in Gmc. unstressed syllables, see §5.5 ad fin.

3. Yet Ringe (2017: 157–8) offers a plausible account of how h₂ can have arisen in innovative pass. participles to these verbs and spread thence to the pres.

4. Note that the lack of gemination in segja, þegja can be explained either on the assumption that a vowel has been syncopated before j (so, e.g., Dishington 1978: 312, with refs.) or as due to the relatively late date at which these forms were created analogically. Kortlandt (1990: 3–4) attributes the lack of a geminate in segja (and þegja ‘be silent’) to the same analogical cause as in vejkja, rekja, etc. (§6.14 supra), but that analogical process, though degeminating k, normally leaves gg geminated (e.g. leggja ‘lay’). To the contrary, Ringe (2017: 158, 163–4) supposes that *sagj[a- developed to *sagja- already in PGmc., on the assumption that rare seggja is older than segja, the latter formed by analogy to 2 & 3 sg. segir (so Noreen 1970: §279.1). The usual assumption, however, is that seggja is an innovation of the 12th or 13th cent. (so, e.g., Finnur Jónsson 1901: 109), seeing as seggja is required by the rhyme just once in skaldic verse, in a poem of no very early date (Ámundi Árnason, Lausavísa 3 (13th cent.)), whereas segja is demanded by the hending often in verse, some of it demonstrably archaic, e.g. Sigvatr Þórðarson’s Nesjavísur 1 (ca. 1016). See the exhaustive discussion of relevant skaldic forms in Konráð Gíslason et al. 1875–89: II, 351–412.

D. WEAK VERBS OF CLASS 4

12.48 Stem formation

This class remains a discrete category in Gothic only. Elsewhere in Gmc. the verbs originally belonging to this group are all inflected according to one of the other weak classes, usually class 2, though in OHG, as a rule, they join class 3. The most distinctive signs of this class are stems ending in -n- and inchoative meaning (or ‘anticausative’: Scheungraber 2014: 214; or ‘fientive’: Ringe 2017: 200), e.g. Go. mikilnan ‘be magnified’ (cf. mikils ‘large’) and tundnan ‘become lit’ (cf. tandjan ‘kindle’). As the examples show, these verbs may be either denominal (esp. deadjectival) or deverbal, and at least in primary verbs the root is in the weak grade, due to suffix accent in PIE. For a catalogue of relevant verbs and references to the pertinent literature, see Scheungraber 2014.

12.49 Inflection

With the stem in -n- throughout, in the pres. these verbs are inflected precisely the way strong verbs are, and in the pret. as verbs of weak class 2. The conjugation may be illustrated by the paradigm of Go. fullnan ‘become full’:
There are no transitive verbs in this class, due to their inceptive meaning, and so they have no passive inflection.

### 12.50 Historical development

These verbs are usually compared to Skt. verbs of the *pyúati* ‘fills’ type (class 9), which have a stem ending in a laryngeal consonant preceded by a nasal infix, between the two of which there appears a full-grade vowel in the singular, though otherwise the stem is entirely in the weak grade; hence, to 3 sg. *pyúati* < *ph*-n-èh-ti cf. 1 pl. *pyúmah < *ph*-n-h₂-mós (with lengthening of i < *h₂ by analogy to the long vowel in the sg., according to Kuryłowicz 1956: 258). The usual assumption, then, is that because the Go. 1 & 3 pl. and the pres. part. contain *-na-* (which may be derived from *-nh₂*)¹ and which makes these forms identical to the corresponding forms of strong verbs, strong endings were leveled into the entire pres. ind., and thence into the other pres. forms.² This seems rather a radical analogical refashioning on the basis of a slender resemblance, however, and therefore more plausible is the account of Fullerton (1971, 1977: 71–6), who points out that IE stems with what was originally infixed -n- may be either thematic or athe-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIE</th>
<th>Skt.</th>
<th>PGmc.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-ò</td>
<td>*pyúami</td>
<td>*fulnó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-è-si</td>
<td>*pyúasi</td>
<td>*fulnis(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-è-ti</td>
<td>*pyúati</td>
<td>*fulniþ(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-ò-mes</td>
<td>*pyúamah</td>
<td>*fulnom(iz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-è-t(H)e</td>
<td>*pyúatha</td>
<td>*fulniþ(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td><em>p</em>-n-h₂-ò-nti</td>
<td>*pyúanti</td>
<td>*fulnanþ(i)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A disadvantage of Fullerton’s account is that it renders the Go. preterite more difficult to explain: whereas the pres. is to be derived from thematic stems, the pret. must be derived from athematic, e.g. athematic sg. stem *pln-éh₃ or *pln-óh₃ plus dental suffix and inflection, producing Go. fullnōda, etc. It is by no means plain why the pret. stem, before the addition of the dental suffix, should in no instance have been identical to the pres. stem, since this is unparalleled in Go. weak verbs. Fullerton posits an interesting complementary distribution, however, that lends support to the assumption of parallel thematic and athematic stems in Gmc.: in NWGmc., verbs of this sort with strong preterites have thematic present inflection, whereas those with weak preterites have, unlike Gothic, athematic presents. That is to say, a verb like OE wæcnan ‘awake’ (pret. wōc) has a pres. stem ending in the equivalent of PIE thematic *-nH-o-, whereas OE hlinian ‘lean’ (pret. hleonode) has a pres. stem ending in the equivalent of PIE *-n-e/o-H- > PGmc. *-nō-. The evidence is hardly solid, especially in view of forms like OE weak wæcnian ‘awake’ (pret. wæcnode) parallel to strong wæcnan, giving rise to the opportunity for much analogical refashioning. But it is an important observation that whereas intransitive-inchoative verbs in -n- are all weak in Gothic, and are usually so in NWGmc., a few traces of strong conjugation survive outside of Gothic, in forms with the weak grade of the root expected in primary verbs of this type, including OE murnan (pret. murne) beside weak murnde, the latter originally of weak class 3, like Go. maūrnan (only pres. sj. forms attested), OS mornian, OHG mornēn4 and OE spurnan (pret. sparn, also occasionally with weak pret. of class 2), OHG spurnan (pret. pl. spurnum); probably also ON gina ‘yawn’ (pret. gein), OE gīnan (pret. gān), beside wk. OE ginian, geonian, OS ginon.5

1. A difficulty is that in athematic verbs of this sort the 3 pl. should end in *-nH-énti (Szemerényi 1996: §9.2.1.2), which should not produce Go. -nand, as Verner’s law would not apply. Since the alternant with d has otherwise been generalized in Gothic (§12.24 ad fn.), however, its appearance here may be regarded as analogical.


3. Sanskrit substitutes the athematic 1 sg. inflection for the thematic. The Go. spellings with -ll- are possibly by analogy to falls ‘full’; some spellings of the Go. compound us-fullman have just one l. There is the added difficulty that PGmc. *-ln- should have developed to -ll- in all forms (§6.8); it may be that the Go. verb is thus largely a late (or analogically reformed) creation based on the adjective, but the example otherwise illustrates well the underlying principles of stem formation and development that Fullerton outlines for this class, and which may be assumed to have applied in other verbs like this one. Boukkan (1995b: 352–3) objects to Fullerton’s claim that his explanation accounts for every Go. pres. form, since the thematic vowel should have been colored as a in 3 sg. *-nH-e-ti. It is true that the suffix extracted from nasal-infixed nouns contained h₃ (Beekes 2011: 258), but thematic *pln-h₃-é-ti did not (cf. Lat. complētus), and presumably some others. Certainly, analogy must have played a role in many verbs, but not necessarily all.

4. That the weak forms of this verb are of class 3 should be unsurprising, since the stem-final laryngeal in these PIE n-infixed stems could be of any sort. Note that in OHG, weak verbs of this sort most commonly conform to weak class 3, whereas elsewhere weak class 2 is the commonest sort.

5. The long vowel in the strong forms is probably by analogy to other verbs of class I, cf. the lengthening in aorist presents of class II like OE brūcan ‘use’, lūcan ‘close’, etc., and compare unlengthened aorist presents in class I like Go. digandin (§12.18). Scheungraber (2014: 81–4) explains the long vowel otherwise.
V. Preterite-present verbs

12.51 Stem formation

Present-tense forms of preterite-present verbs are formally and historically Gmc. pret-erites, i.e. PIE perfects, almost entirely identical to the preterite forms of identifiable classes of strong verbs. New, weak preterites were formed for them with a dental suffix, to which the normal preterite inflections of weak verbs were added. Thus, for example, Go. 3 sg. pres. *kann ‘knows’ resembles a 3 sg. pret. of a strong verb of class III, with 3 pl. *kunnun; the innovated 3 sg. pret. is *kunþa.

12.52 Inflection and forms

The following paradigms of Go. *mag ‘can’ and its Gmc. cognates may serve to illustrate the inflection of the pret.-pres. verbs. Given their semantics, in Go. no passives are preserved, and for the same reason many of these verbs have no infinitive. On imperatives, see below, §12.54. In the paradigms below an exceptional number of gaps have been filled in by reference to other verbs and expected strong and weak patterns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Ind. 1 sg.</td>
<td>mag</td>
<td>má</td>
<td>mæg</td>
<td>mag, mah</td>
<td>mag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>magt</td>
<td>mátt</td>
<td>meaht</td>
<td>maht</td>
<td>maht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>mag</td>
<td>má</td>
<td>mæg</td>
<td>mag, mah</td>
<td>mag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>magu</td>
<td>magu</td>
<td>magu</td>
<td>mag</td>
<td>mag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. du.</td>
<td>maguts</td>
<td>megum</td>
<td>magon</td>
<td>mugun</td>
<td>magun, mugun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>magum</td>
<td>megum</td>
<td>magon</td>
<td>mugun</td>
<td>magun, magut, mugut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>magþ</td>
<td>meguð</td>
<td>magon</td>
<td>mugun</td>
<td>magun, mugun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>magun</td>
<td>megu</td>
<td>magon</td>
<td>mugun</td>
<td>magun, mugun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Sj. 1 sg.</td>
<td>magjáu</td>
<td>megi</td>
<td>mæge</td>
<td>mugi</td>
<td>megi, mugi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>mageis</td>
<td>megir</td>
<td>mæge</td>
<td>mugis</td>
<td>megis, mugis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>magi</td>
<td>megi</td>
<td>mæge</td>
<td>mugi</td>
<td>megi, mugi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>mageiwa</td>
<td>megi</td>
<td>mæge</td>
<td>mugi</td>
<td>megi, mugi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>mageis</td>
<td>megi</td>
<td>mæge</td>
<td>mugi</td>
<td>megi, mugi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>mageima</td>
<td>megim</td>
<td>mægen</td>
<td>mugin</td>
<td>megin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>mageib</td>
<td>megið</td>
<td>mægen</td>
<td>mugin</td>
<td>megit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>mageina</td>
<td>megi</td>
<td>mægen</td>
<td>mugin</td>
<td>megin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Ind. 1 sg.</td>
<td>mahta</td>
<td>máttja</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahte</td>
<td>mahta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>mahtēs</td>
<td>máttir</td>
<td>meahtest</td>
<td>mahtes</td>
<td>mahtest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>mahta</td>
<td>mátti</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahte</td>
<td>mahta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>mahtēdu</td>
<td>máttum</td>
<td>meahton</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>mahtēduts</td>
<td>máttum</td>
<td>meahton</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēdum</td>
<td>máttum</td>
<td>meahton</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēduþ</td>
<td>máttuð</td>
<td>meahton</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēdu</td>
<td>máttu</td>
<td>meahton</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
<td>mahtun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. Sj. 1 sg.</td>
<td>mahtēdjáu</td>
<td>meatta</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahti</td>
<td>mahtu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>mahtēdeís</td>
<td>meattir</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahtis</td>
<td>mahtis(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>mahtēdi</td>
<td>meatti</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahti</td>
<td>mahti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>mahtēdeiwa</td>
<td>meatti</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahti</td>
<td>mahti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>mahtēdeits</td>
<td>meatti</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahti</td>
<td>mahti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
§12.52  Infection and forms of preterite-present verbs  317

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēdeima</td>
<td>mættim</td>
<td>meahten</td>
<td>mahtin</td>
<td>mahtīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēdeip</td>
<td>mættīð</td>
<td>meahten</td>
<td>mahtin</td>
<td>mahtīt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>mahtēdeina</td>
<td>mætti</td>
<td>meahten</td>
<td>mahtin</td>
<td>mahtīn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inf.    mega magan  magan
Pres. Part. magands megandi magende  maganti
Pass. Part. mahts mātt
(§6.8), with subsequent analogical re-addition of the 2 sg. ending, though Sihler (1986) offers cogent reasons for regarding *wāist as the regular reflex of *yē-t-the. The pass. parts. of Olcel. veit and cognates (weak in ON, strong in WGmc.) are all innovations; the original pp. *wissa- < *wīttō- < *yīd-tōs is reflected only as an adj. stem meaning ‘certain’ (cf. Go. un-wiss, Olcel. vissu-ligr, OE ge-wiss, etc.). Infinitives to this verb are attested in Go. (witan), Olcel., OE, OS, and OHG. The verb Go. áih ‘owns’ is very commonly regarded as belonging to this class (so, e.g., Euler 2013: 165), but see below under class VII.

### CLASS II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>dáug</td>
<td>dēag</td>
<td>dōg</td>
<td>tug</td>
<td>tohta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>dugon</td>
<td>dugun</td>
<td>tugun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>dohte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The form dáug is the only one attested in Gothic (2×). There is an inf. OE dugan.

### CLASS III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>ann</td>
<td>an</td>
<td>an</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>ann</td>
<td>ann</td>
<td>ann</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>unna</td>
<td>unnon</td>
<td>unnun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>unni</td>
<td>ūde</td>
<td>onsta</td>
<td>onda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td>unn(a)ðr</td>
<td>unnen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>ga-dars</td>
<td>dearst</td>
<td>gi-tarst</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>dear</td>
<td>-dar</td>
<td>gi-tar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>ga-daúrsun</td>
<td>durron</td>
<td>gi-turrun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>ga-daúrsta</td>
<td>dorste</td>
<td>gi-dorsta</td>
<td>gi-torsta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>kant</td>
<td>kannt</td>
<td>canst</td>
<td>kānst</td>
<td>kanst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>kann</td>
<td>kann</td>
<td>kann</td>
<td>kan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>kunnum</td>
<td>kunnu</td>
<td>kunnon</td>
<td>kunnun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>kunña</td>
<td>kunni</td>
<td>cūðe</td>
<td>konsta</td>
<td>konda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td>kunþa</td>
<td>kunnaðr</td>
<td>-cunnen</td>
<td>-cunnan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>bart</td>
<td>bart</td>
<td>bart</td>
<td>bart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>barf</td>
<td>þarf</td>
<td>þarf</td>
<td>þarf</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>þárbun</td>
<td>þurfur</td>
<td>þurfon</td>
<td>þurfun</td>
<td>þurfan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>þáurfita</td>
<td>þurfite</td>
<td>þorfite</td>
<td>þorfta</td>
<td>dorfta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td>þáurfts</td>
<td>þurfir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go. 2 sg. kant is once spelt kannt (1 Corinthians 7:16). In addition to OHG onda, konda there occur gi-onsta, konsta in Otfrid. The original pass. parts. Go. kunþs ‘known’ (Olcel. kunr, OE cūð, OS küd) and þáurfts ‘necessary’ are used as common adjectives. There occur the infinitives OE OHG unnan; also Go. ga-daúrsan. Infinitives for kann occur in Go. (kunnan), Olcel., OE, and OHG; and for þarf in Olcel. (þurfa) and OE. WGmc. forms with 2 sg. pres. ind. -st for etymological *-t, it is usually assumed, have abstracted this desinence from *waist, *darst, and *mōst. If this analogical replacement occurred in Proto-WGmc., it must be assumed that analogy within the paradigm prevented or eliminated the expected change *kann-st > *kan-st > *kān-st in NSGmc.
§12.53 Preterite-present verbs by corresponding strong verb class

### CLASS IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>mant</td>
<td>-manst</td>
<td>mant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>ge-man</td>
<td>man</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>munun</td>
<td>muna</td>
<td>ge-munon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>munda</td>
<td>mundi</td>
<td>ge-munde</td>
<td>-monsta</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td>munds</td>
<td>munaðr</td>
<td>ge-munen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OIcel.

*mun* ‘will (probably)’ is cognate with Go. *munan* ‘intend, will’, a weak verb of class 3. It was refashioned as a pret.-pres. verb in ON in large part because of the formal identity of some infeetional forms to those of *man*: see Birkmann 1987: 243–8. Note that it shows no ablaut alternation, betraying its origin as a weak verb. Go. pp. *skulds* has the meaning ‘owing, lawful’, and OIcel. *skyldr* (with umlaut!) ‘obliged, due’. Infinitives for *man* occur in Go. (*ga-munan*), OIcel., and OE; and for *skal* in OIcel. (*skulu*, a pret. inf. in form, §12.30), OE, and OHG. OIcel. *mun* has the inf. *munu*.2

### CLASS V

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>knátt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>kná</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>knegu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>knátti</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 2 sg.</td>
<td>mag</td>
<td>mátt</td>
<td>meaht</td>
<td>maht</td>
<td>maht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 sg.</td>
<td>mag</td>
<td>má</td>
<td>meagt</td>
<td>mah</td>
<td>mag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres. 3 pl.</td>
<td>magun</td>
<td>megu</td>
<td>magn</td>
<td>magun</td>
<td>magun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. 3 sg.</td>
<td>mahta</td>
<td>mátti</td>
<td>meahte</td>
<td>mahta</td>
<td>mahta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass. part.</td>
<td>mahts</td>
<td>máttir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OIcel.

*kná*, not pret.-pres. in origin and chiefly poetic, is cognate with OE *cnāwan* (see §12.22 on the *verba pura*), and its paradigm is constructed by analogy to *má*.3 There occurs an inf. *knáttu*, pret. in form (§12.30). Although *mag* was certainly perceived to be of this class (to judge by the rise of the analytical stem *mug*- in various NWGmc. languages, §12.52), in origin it cannot have resembled strong verbs of class V: cf., e.g., Gk. *μῆχος*, Doric *μᾶχος* ‘means, enablement’, pointing to a PIE root *mēgh*, suggesting class VI or VII.4 Infinitives to *mag* occur in OIcel. (*még*, pres. in form), OE, and OHG (*magan*, *mugan*). On variation and development in forms of *mag* and cognates, see §12.52.
**CLASS VI**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 2 sg.</strong></td>
<td>*ga-mōst</td>
<td>mōst</td>
<td>mōst</td>
<td>muost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td>ga-mōt</td>
<td>mōt</td>
<td>mōt</td>
<td>muoz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 pl.</strong></td>
<td>*ga-mōtun</td>
<td>mōton</td>
<td>mōtun</td>
<td>muozun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td>*ga-mōsta</td>
<td>mōste</td>
<td>mōsta</td>
<td>muosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pass. part.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 2 sg.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>ēg</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>áh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 pl.</strong></td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>eigun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td>āhta</td>
<td>āhti</td>
<td>āhte</td>
<td>ēhta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go. pret. 3 sg. *ga-mōsta may be safely assumed on the basis of pl. *mōstēdun (Mark 2:2). No inf. occurs. To Go. ēg there occurs 2 sg. imp. ēgs (in negated ni ēgs ūus) of disputed etymology, though it probably reflects a short-vowel sj. (or injunctive) PIE *āgh-e-s. As the present system of these verbs is preterite in origin, they have no etymological imperatives, for which subjunctives are generally used. Weak grade of the root of ēg appears in the negated part. *un-agands ‘fearless’ (cf. pres. part. ēgands), probably attesting not to an old ablaut alternation but to a secondary formation: cf., e.g., āgis ‘fright’ and āgjan ‘frighten’, and see Jacobsohn 1913: 342 n. 1. The verb does not occur in pret.-pres. conjugation outside of Go.; cf. the weak verbs Olcel. āask ‘be afraid’, āgja ‘frighten’, OE on-ēgan, on-ēganan ‘fear’.

**CLASS VII**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>Olcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 2 sg.</strong></td>
<td>ātt</td>
<td>āh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td>āh</td>
<td>áh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. 3 pl.</strong></td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>ēgun</td>
<td>eigun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. 3 sg.</strong></td>
<td>āhta</td>
<td>āhti</td>
<td>āhte</td>
<td>ēhta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pass. part.</strong></td>
<td>ātr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although 2 sg. OE āhst is usual, there occurs an archaic āht in Northumbrian and Early WS. Infinitives occur in Go. (faír-āihan), Olcel., OE, and OS. The original pp. Olcel. eigin ‘(one’s) own’ (indeclinable; OE ēgen, OS ēgan, OHG eigan) is entirely adjectival. This verb is often reckoned among those of class I, but since all other pret.-pres. verbs in classes I–IV show the expected ablaut alternation between pres. sg. & pl., it seems likelier that it is comparable to Go. háitan ‘call’ and thus belongs to class VII, in which no ablaut distinction is to be expected between sg. and plural. Birkmann (1987: 74–8) reviews the arguments that have been adduced and concludes that derivation from class I is more persuasive because alternations under Verner’s law are not to be expected in class VII, but Antonsen (1992: 97) responds that such alternations are well attested in class VII in the opposition between infs. *fanxana ‘take’, *xanxana ‘hang’ and pass. parts. *fanxanaz, *xanxanaz. There in fact appear to have been multiple patterns of variation under Verner’s law in class VII (see §12.17), and so the evidence of Verner’s law provides no reliable basis for determining the original class of this verb. Many expected forms of this verb in OS and OHG are unattested because instead are used forms of OS hebbian, OHG habēn ‘have’.

1. David Fertig kindly advises that OS and OHG pret. forms like konsta, -onsta, -monsta raise doubts about this explanation, the analogical extension then being, in at least some cases, that of a stem alternation, whereby a stem-final s is added before a t-initial suffix, on the model of (OHG) gi-tar ‘(I) dare’, 2 sg. gi-tarst, pret. gi-torsta.
2. The Olcel. infs. skulu, munu, and rare megu (usually mega) have -u (rather than -a) due to the homomorphy of inf. and 3 pl. pres. ind. in most verbs. This is the origin of the ending -u of ON pret. infinitives (§12.30).

3. So, e.g., Noreen 1970: §525 Anm. 2, Seebold 1970: 302. This is so even though kná appears to reflect a more original stem than kunnan (Eichman 1973). In one sense it should be unsurprising that a new pret.-pres. verb meaning ‘know (how)’ should have arisen in ON, as the PIE root with this meaning had already produced the pret.-pres. verb Go. kunn and cognates. A new verb meaning ‘know (how)’ arose in conjunction with the restriction of ON kunna in meaning to ‘know’ in the sense ‘have knowledge of’.

4. Bammesberger (1986a: 73) supposes rather that mag did originally belong to class V, and that the root is to be reconstructed *mëgh, of which the reduced grade *mëgh- produced a PGmc. *mey- reflected chiefly in OS and OHG, and e-grade *megh- produced Olcel. pres. 3 pl. megu and similar Olcel. forms.


6. Go. 1 & 3 sg. áth (7×, beside analogical ái 1×) does not prove the matter, since there is devoicing of final fricatives in Go. (§6.12), but Olcel. á is probative, as *-aih by devoicing in *-aij produces -é rather than -á, as in sté, the more archaic form of the pret. of stiga ‘step’. Cf. also Go. inf. fair-iáhan.

### §12.54 Historical development

The example usually cited to illustrate how these verbs acquired present meaning is Go. wáit = Skt. vēda, Gk. οἶδε ‘knows’ < PIE *öjóde, an unreduplicated perfect to the weak-grade stem seen in Lat. videō ‘see’. Since the perfect is probably stative in origin (§12.5), and these verbs are stative in meaning, they appear to preserve an archaic state of affairs; yet even if some are Gmc. innovations, given that the perfect designates past events which are relevant to a present state (“has dreaded”), it is plain enough how the present element of its semantics should in such instances have come to dominate (“is afraid”). In actuality, wáit is the only one of these verbs in which the rationale for the word’s semantic development is pellucid, though it is perhaps not too difficult to see how the sense ‘have thought (and still think)’ should result in ‘remember’ (Go. ga-man, like Lat. meminī; cf. Gk. μεινοντα wish’ and Skt. pres. māyantē ‘thinks’), and how ‘have come under obligation’ (cf. Old Lith. skelū ‘am culpable’) should result in ‘shall’. These examples illustrate that the category is an ancient one, with parallel perfects in non-Germanic languages to which no present is formed, and yet the considerable majority of the Gmc. verbs have no IE parallels to pret.-pres. usage, e.g. G. kunnan in comparison to Skt. jānāti ‘knows’, Gk. γιγνώσκω, Lat. nōscō. Most, accordingly, appear to be Gmc. innovations.1 Go. wáit and its cognates show with particular clarity that this is an ancient category of verb, given the lack of reduplication across IE languages; but although this verb has sometimes been thought to demonstrate a more archaic perfect construction, formed before reduplication became obligatory (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §65), instead it seems likelier that the lack of reduplication is an innovation: see Szemerényi 1996: §9.4.3, Jasanoff 2003: 228–33.2 One particularly interesting sign of the category’s antiquity is that the pres. pl. of verbs resembling those of strong class IV has the vowel u that etymology suggests should have been original, whereas strong verbs have the reflex of PGmc. e3 in the pret. pl.: see §12.14.

As with the verbs of weak class I lacking *-i- in the preterite (§12.37), most pret.-pres. verbs form the preterite with PGmc. *b < PIE *r attached directly to the stem of the pres. (originally pret.) plural, without any connecting vowel, though in Go. skal and man the dental suffix in the preterite reflects PGmc. *ð, the expected form under Verner’s law if the dental suffix in this class of verbs originated in the PIE verbal adj.
suffix *-tō-*, given its accentuation: see §12.33 for discussion and a possible explanation for the voiceless variant, pertaining to the development of the original pass. participles to common adjectives and their replacement in North and West Germanic. The PGmc.
dental suffix *-þ-*(or earlier*-*t-*) underwent further development in the consonant clusters that arose from its affixation, as follows. The regular development of *-tt-*(§6.8) is seen in Go.
pret. wissa < PIE *yid-t-. In WGmc. there also occur pret. forms in which the dental suffix has been analogically reintroduced, e.g. OE wiste, OHG wista. Similarly in regard to the verb ga-mōt, OHG muosa < NWGmc. *mōssē* appears to reflect the original situation in the pret. (*mōt-t-*) whereas the other languages have analogically re-added the dental suffix, e.g. Go. mōstēdun. After a fricative the voiceless
dental suffix appeared as t and caused devoicing, if applicable, e.g. Go. ga-dārsta and paurfīta < *purv-t-. In Ingvaeonic there was loss of *n before *hb with compensatory lengthening
(§4.11) in, e.g. OE cūðe, ūde < *kunþ-p-, unþp-. By contrast, ON shows assimilation in the

Go. 2 sg. pres. ind. wāist is perhaps for *wāis < PGmc. *waiss < *wait-t < PIE
*yōkl-thē*, with re-addition of the 2 sg. pret. inflection -t (but see §12.53 in reference to Sihler 1986). In OICel., root-final -t is re-added, as well, giving veizt (where zt = *st/st/). The normal reflex of the PIE 2 sg. perfect ind. inflection *-thē* would be -p (but see §12.25 n. 1 on this), but in fricative clusters -t should be expected, and in Go. and ON this -t has been extended analogically to stems that should have had -p, hence, e.g., Go.
kant, skalt, ON anmt, mant. The inflection is otherwise well preserved in Go. and ON, whereas in WGmc. it is found in some pret.-pres. verbs, but not all, replaced by the present
inflection -st (on which see §12.24). This is an unsurprising development, given that 2 sg. -t was not used in WGmc. preterites, but rather an inflection that is
dubitably aorist in origin (§12.23), and the process was no doubt aided by forms like WGmc. *wāist, *mōst, which either are etymological (again, see §12.53) or already in
PGmc. had facultative analogical readdition of *-t* to stems in *-s < *-ss < *-tt-
*t.*

Since the pres. paradigm is formally preterite, and in view of the Go. endings, umlaut should be expected in the pres. sj. in North and West Gmc. It has been almost
entirely removed, doubtless by analogy to strong verbs, which have no umlaut in the
pres. sj., but a few relics occur, e.g. OE dyge, pyrfe (beside duge, purfe), and scyle is the
usual form (beside rare scale); and the pres. sj. stem meg- is preserved in OICel. and
extended to the indicative. Etymologically there should be no umlaut in the pret. of
these verbs, where the dental suffix was added to the stem without any intervening *-i-,
but again by analogy to other verbs, umlaut has been induced in OICel. preterites.

As there was no perfect imperative in PIE, these verbs have no etymological imperative. In Go., as explained above, imp. ōgs is probably sj. (opt.) in origin. In OICel.,
new imperatives have been created, using the bare stem of the pres. pl. in the 2 sg., by
analogy to other verbs (e.g., vit, eig), though the semantics of some prohibit imperative
formation (parf, mun, már, kná). In WGmc. the sj. is generally used for the imp., though
occasionally imperatives of the OICel. type are found in Northumbrian, e.g. ge-wit
‘know’.

Preterites like OHG onda, konda show o for *u* as a result of analogy to other
preterites in this class such as tohta, gi-torsta, dorfīa, skolta; OS preterites like gi-onssta,
konssta, for-monsta show the same influence, and they make the analogical nature of the
change especially plain, transferring not only the vowel but also the stem-final s from
gi-dorsta (with support from mōsta; but see §12.53 n. 1).

2. To the contrary, Randall & Jones (2015) would derive these verbs from a separate category in PIE, one of aorist roots to which stative inflections were added, so that they never showed reduplication.

3. It seems likely that at least some of the changes described here antedate the First Consonant Shift; alternatively, PIE *r remained unshifted in the relevant consonant clusters.

4. 2 sg. -t originally remained after a fricative or -l-, but not -n-. But archaic OE āht gave way to āhst, and the obscuration of the original regularity in regard to -h- perhaps contributed to the LWS replacement of meaht by miht.

VI. Athematic verbs

12.55 Inventory

As noted above (§12.9), athematic verbs were generally thematized in Gmc., but a small number of exceptions persist, due to frequency of use. Since the PIE inflections of thematic and athematic verbs were otherwise identical, the plainest indication of preserved athematic conjugation in Gmc. is 1 sg. pres. ind. in -m < PIE *-mi (vs. thematic *-ō) — though -m is not an infallible diagnostic, as it may in some instances be an innovation, e.g., perhaps in OHG verbs of weak class 2. For this reason verbs of this type are sometimes referred to (as in Greek grammar) as mi-verbs, but also sometimes as anomalous verbs. Despite its antiquity, Go. preserves the fewest signs of athematic inflection, and WGmc. the greatest number of relevant verbs: ‘be’ and ‘will’ show traces of athematic inflection in all the Gmc. languages; ‘do’ and ‘go’ in all the WGmc. languages; and ‘stand’ in OS and OHG.

12.56 The verb ‘be’

The present and preterite paradigms are based on unrelated PIE roots; the root *yós in the latter also may occur in the inf., the pres. part., and the imp., and in no instance did it form an athematic verb, but only the root *h₂s in the present did so. In WGmc. there is a future/consuetudinal stem (with no separate preterite) based on a third root, though the distinction between present and future/consuetudinal meaning is maintained only in OE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Ind.</th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIr.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sing.</td>
<td>im</td>
<td>em</td>
<td>eom</td>
<td>bium</td>
<td>bin</td>
<td>-mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sing.</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>eart</td>
<td>bist</td>
<td>bist</td>
<td></td>
<td>*h₂eś-si</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sing.</td>
<td>ist</td>
<td>es, er</td>
<td>is, ist</td>
<td>ist</td>
<td></td>
<td>*h₂eś-ti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>siju</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>sijs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>sijum</td>
<td>erum</td>
<td>sind(on)</td>
<td>sind(un)</td>
<td>biru(m)</td>
<td>*h₂s-mès</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>sišub</td>
<td>eruō</td>
<td>sind(on)</td>
<td>sind(un)</td>
<td>birut</td>
<td>*h₂s-té</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>sind</td>
<td>eru</td>
<td>sind(on)</td>
<td>sind(un)</td>
<td>sint</td>
<td>*h₂s-énti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fut. Ind.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>bēo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td>bist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td>bið</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>bōð</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>bōð</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>bōð</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Pres. Sj.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
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<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>sijáu</td>
<td>sé</td>
<td>sie, bēo</td>
<td>sī</td>
<td>sī</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>sijáis</td>
<td>sēr</td>
<td>sie, bēo</td>
<td>sīs</td>
<td>sīs(t)</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>sijāi</td>
<td>sē</td>
<td>sie, bēo</td>
<td>sī</td>
<td>sī</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>sijáwa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>sijáis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>sijáima</td>
<td>sēm</td>
<td>sien, bōn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-mé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>sijáits</td>
<td>sēū</td>
<td>sien, bōn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>sīt</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-té</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>sijáina</td>
<td>sē</td>
<td>sien, bōn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>sīn</td>
<td>*h₂-s-iēh₁-ént</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Imp.

<table>
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<th></th>
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<th>PIE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td>ver</td>
<td>bēo, wes</td>
<td>wis, wes</td>
<td>wis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>verið</td>
<td>bōð, wesad</td>
<td>wesad</td>
<td>weset</td>
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### Pret. Ind.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>var</td>
<td>wæs</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-h₂-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>wast</td>
<td>vast</td>
<td>wāre</td>
<td>wārī</td>
<td>wāri</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-th₂-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>var</td>
<td>wæs</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>was</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-e</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>wēsu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>wēsuts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>wēsum</td>
<td>várum</td>
<td>wāron</td>
<td>wārun</td>
<td>wārum</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-mé</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>wēsuþ</td>
<td>váruð</td>
<td>wāron</td>
<td>wārun</td>
<td>wārut</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-té</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>wēsun</td>
<td>vāru</td>
<td>wāron</td>
<td>wārun</td>
<td>wārun</td>
<td>*u₂-s₂-os-ént</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Pret. Sj.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>PIE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>wēsjáu</td>
<td>vāra</td>
<td>wāre</td>
<td>wāri</td>
<td>wāri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>wēseis</td>
<td>vārī</td>
<td>wāre</td>
<td>wāris</td>
<td>wāris</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>wēsi</td>
<td>vāri</td>
<td>wāre</td>
<td>wāri</td>
<td>wāri</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 du.</td>
<td>wēseima</td>
<td>vārīm</td>
<td>wāren</td>
<td>wārīm</td>
<td>wārīm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 du.</td>
<td>wēseits</td>
<td>vārīð</td>
<td>wāren</td>
<td>wārīt</td>
<td>wārīt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>wēseina</td>
<td>vāri</td>
<td>wāren</td>
<td>wārin</td>
<td>wārin</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Inf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>wisan</td>
<td>vera</td>
<td>bēon, wesang</td>
<td>wesang</td>
<td>wesan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Pass. Part.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
<th>PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>veriðr</td>
<td>gebēon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OIcel. *es* is an early form, replaced starting in the 13\textsuperscript{th} cent. by *er*. The handbooks assert a 2 sg. form *est* that underwent the same development as *es* > *er*, but Crawford (2012) finds that *est* does not occur in OIcel., and that it is probably not an OWN form.\(^1\) The distinction between the pres. sj. and the future/consuetudinal sj. in OE is purely formal: no distinction in temporal or aspectual meaning is detectable; likewise for the imperative and non-finite forms. To WS *eom* correspond Mercian and Kentish *eam*, Northumbrian *am*; to WS *eart* correspond Mercian *earð* and Northumbrian *ard*; beside *sind(on)*, *sindun* occur Anglian *earon*, *arun*. OE OS *sind* is commonly *sint* as a result of final devoicing under low stress. There occurs once OS 3 sg. pres. sj. *wese*. The stem *wes-* also appears occasionally in the pres. ind. and sj. in OHG, but it more usually has the specific meaning ‘exist’ or ‘occur’.
Many questions about the development of this verb remain unsettled. The pres. forms (excluding those in b-) derive from the PIE root *h₁s, which, as normal in athematic verbs, appears in the full grade in the ind. sg. (*h₁s-ti, hence 3 sg. *h₁s-ti > Skt. āsti, Gk. ἔστι, Lat. est, Lith. ėst) and zero grade elsewhere (*h₁s-, hence 3 pl. *h₁s-ēnti > Skt. sánti; cf. Doric Gk. ἑντί, Lat. sunt). These forms develop regularly in the Go. 1–3 sg. and 3 pl.; the 1 and 2 pl. have adopted the onset si- from the 3 pl. and added the normal endings of pret.-pres. verbs, so that -i- merely fills the intervening hiatus (so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §98); alternatively, sij- here may be borrowed from the sj. (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §75a), or the change may be attributed to the combined force of the 3 pl. and the sj. to suggest a stem si(t)-. Whatever the source of the new forms, the change was well motivated, since PIE 1 pl. *h₁s-mēs > PGmc. *smes and 2 pl. PIE *h₁s-tē > PGmc. *ste would have seemed entirely anomalous within the paradigm; they are in fact eliminated in all the Gmc. languages, though not in uniform fashion. Go. 3 pl. sind is for expected *sinb < PIE *sénti. It may be that the accent shifted, giving PGmc. *sinb > *sinb under Verner’s law (so Prokosch 1939: §75a), but it seems likelier that the voicing arose under the low stress that this verb usually received (so Brugmann in Brugmann & Delbrück 1897–1916: II, 3.2.635, and Bennett 1972: 109), though Brugmann also suggests the possibility of analogy to forms like Go. 3 pl. bairand.

PIE pres. sg. ind. *h₁s-mi, *h₁s-si (> *h₁sći), *h₁s-ti yield PGmc. *izm(i), *iz(i), *ist(i) > *im(m), *iz, *ist, with early loss of *-i and voicing of s to t in the 1 & 2 sg. because of low stress on the verb. Probably already in PGmc. (Ringe & Taylor 2014: 518) the vowel of the sg. was extended to the pl., and the normal inflections of pret.-pres. verbs supplied, resulting in *izum, *izūb, *izūnb. In NGmc., with the development of *z to *r and the lowering of *i before this (§4.9), the plural develops regularly. In the sg., *i- is replaced by *e- in Proto-Norse, probably a paradigm regularization on the basis of the plural (so, e.g., Prokosch 1939: §75a; Heusler 1967: §335; Noreen 1970: §532 Anm. 1), and 2 & 3 sg. es is the usual form until ca. 1200, when it begins to be replaced by er, doubtless again under the influence of the plural. The analogical replacement of Proto-Norse 3 sg. *ist (Runic ist, Vetteland Stone, mid-4th century) involves the elimination of *-i because of the influence of pret.-pres. inflections, in which *-i should be the inflection instead of the 2 singular. In the pret. pl., the stem vōru(-) (later and normalized vōru(-)) changed to vōru(-) by combinative back mutation (§4.8), and v- was then lost before ó (§6.14), giving óru(-), a form required by the alliteration in some early poetry; but ór- was also replaced by vōr- (> văr-), with v- by analogy to the rest of the pret. paradigm and ḣ by analogy to other verbs of the fifth class (the fourth), and this came to be the standard form of the stem.

The OE forms present a number of mysteries. Prokosch (1939: §75a) and many others suppose that WS eom developed by analogy to fut. bēo (Anglian bīom), and Brunner (1965: §427) and Krahe & Meid (1969: II, §98) even assume a long diphthong in the former, hence WS ǣom, though Middle English spellings never suggest a long vocoid, and the parallel between this supposed ǣom and bēo is hardly striking (there is no WS †bēom); moreover, metrical evidence tells against †ēom. The ending on 2 sg.
Mercian *eardh, Northumbrian *ardh, would be the only instance in Gmc. of the regular development of PIE *-th₁e to the pret.(-pres.) ending *-þ (rather than the attested -t: see §12.25), but it may be that it is due instead to reanalysis with an enclitic pronoun. *ar þū (so Lühr 1984: 37, though certainly WS ert must bear the pret.-pres. inflection).

More perplexing is the vocalism of these forms, which derives from *a, a vowel that ought not to have appeared anywhere in the PGmc. paradigm. The most common explanation is that the stem of this form (as well as Old Swedish aru ‘are’) reflects PIE *h₂er-, as in Lat. orior ‘arise’; Gk. ὁρῶν ‘arouse’, formed as a Gmc. pret.-pres. verb of the class IV type, hence with PIE *or- in the pres.4 The replacement of PGmc. 3 sg. *ist by *is in OE (and OS) is perhaps best explained as above—that is, as due to the pervasive influence of pret.-pres. inflection on this verb, since the 3 sg. pres. in that class bears no inflection, and -t would no doubt have been perceived as the inflection proper to the 2 sg.—a change perhaps abetted by sandhi environments in which *ist appeared before a word with an initial dental consonant. In the plural, as usual in Ingvaeonic, the original form of the third person has been extended throughout.5 Here -on may be added to sind by analogy to pret.-pres. verbs (though Shields 1984 argues that -on is an archaism; cf. Whitehead 1990–1). Anglian earon, arun must have its vocalism from the same source as the 2 sg. (as well as 1 sg. non-WS (e)am). Note, however, that the 2 sg. stem agrees with the plural stem, which is characteristic of WGmc. strong preterites but not of pret.-pres. verbs.

The OE future and consuetudinal forms develop from the root seen in Skt. bhāvati ‘is, exists’ (also supplying forms of ‘be’ in Italic, Celtic, and Balto-Slavic), which takes the form PIE *bh₄y₁j- (a perfective present), hence *bh₄y₁j-ō > WS bēo (Anglian bīom) = Lat. fūō ‘shall be’, OIr. bīu ‘am accustomed to being’.6 Inf. bēon may be disyllabic in verse, probably with a heavy initial syllable;7 hence, Anglian bīon (WS bēon) = bī-on. In 2 & 3 sg. WGmc. *bīj-ist, *bīj-īp, intervocalic j was lost, producing, under the low stress usually borne by this verb, the same result as in the 2 & 3 sg. pres. ind. of weak verbs of class 1 with an originally heavy stem (§12.38), hence *bīiᵝt, *bījᵝp > *bīst, *bījp, followed by shortening. Thematic WS bēo is no doubt a regularization of the athematic 1 sg. found elsewhere in WGmc., e.g. Anglian bīom < *bī(ʃ)um < PIE *bh₄y₁j-ᵝm.

OS and OHG show a present paradigm mixing pres. and future/consuetudinal stems, without any distinction in meaning.9 There is similar mixture of paradigms in OFris. and Old Low Franconian. OHG 1 sg. bīm is best explained as the reflex of PGmc. *ezm > *im under low stress, with addition of the future/consuetudinal b-. OS 1 sg. bium may show the same development, assuming original OS *iūm = WS eom, or (perhaps more likely) bium = Anglian bīom. The OHG 1 & 2 pl. are usually assumed to be formed the same way as the 1 sg., i.e. by the addition of b- to assumed WGmc. 1 pl. *izum, 2 pl. *izūp, comparable to the corresponding ON forms: so, e.g., Lühr 1984: 29–30. There is, however, no evidence for such forms in WGmc.10

The PIE optative forms given in the paradigm should have produced a PGmc. sg. sg. stem *s(j)ē-, 1 & 2 pl. *sē- (i.e. before a consonant), 3 pl. *s(j)ē- (before a vowel). In Go. the last of these was extended throughout the paradigm and the pres. sg. inflections of strong verbs added to this. In Olcel., by contrast, the sg. forms may all be regarded as the expected developments of the PGmc. forms (assuming voicing of *s in the clitic 2 sg.), and this stem was then extended to the plural. OE sie(n)11 is frequently disyllabic in poetry, where the meter never requires a heavy initial syllable (Fulk 1992: §115), and so it would appear that OE has generalized the stem *si- (abstracted from the 3 pl.) and added to this the normal pres. sg. inflections 3 sg. *-aið > -e and 3 pl. *-ainð > -en.
§12.57  Historical development of ‘be’  

In that event it is probably safest to assume that the OS and OHG forms are the result of contraction of *es- with the normal sj. inflections.

PIE *es-, being a copula, had no imperative forms. In Go., sj. forms are used for the imperative of the verb ‘be’, whereas the other Gmc. languages have created imp. forms from the future/conditional stem *bī- and/or the pres. stem *wēs- corresponding to pret. *wes- ~ *wēz-.

PIE *hēs- apparently had no perfect stem; various preterites are formed to it in the individual IE languages. It forms its pret. in Gmc. from the verb *wesana, a verb of class V, hence with pret. sg. in *-a- (with loss of the reduplicative syllable) and *-ēr in the dual, the plural (and the 2 sg. in WGmc.), and throughout the subjunctive. The attested forms are entirely in line with those to be expected of a class V preterite. It is striking that whereas the pret.-pres. verbs that align with class V show the -u- expected in the pres. (originally pret.) plural on an etymological basis, the verb ‘be’ has the reflex of Pgmc. *-ēr of mysterious origin that characterizes verbs of class V, suggesting that the Gmc. pret. of ‘be’ was not formed in the earliest stratum of Pgmc., as perhaps implied also by the regularity of the pret. paradigm of a verb as common as this.

None of the non-finite forms in the paradigms given above is to the PIE root *hēs, and thus all are transparent Gmc. derivatives of the future/consuetudinal and class V stems. An original PIE pres. part. *hēs-ont-, however, is probably the basis for Pgmc. *sanþ- > Olc. sammr, OE séód ‘true’.12

1. Assume PIE *hēs-mi > Pgmc. *ezmi > *em(m) and *hēs-si > *es(i). These are stressed forms; see below on unstressed *im(m), *iz.

2. Rather, Lühr (2016: 243) supposes that *-u- originated in the 1 pl., in a variant *-umes < *-mēs (her notation; but Verner’s law!) comparable to *stes beside *st-

3. Since bēon (Anglian bion) may be disyllabic in verse, with a heavy initial syllable, as remarked below, if eom were the result of analogy to bēon it should be expected likewise to scan this way, but it does not: cf., e.g., nū ic þus fēasceaft eom (Genesis A 2176b), where e-om would be unmetrical.


5. It is tempting to think that this verb played a significant role in promoting this change, given the difficulties posed by the original 1 & 2 pl. forms, as pointed out above—an idea supported as well by the replacement of the 1 & 2 pl. with forms from the original future/consuetudinal paradigm in OHG.

6. Bammesberger (1986a) assumes a similar development based on PIE *bhū- (cf., e.g., Skt. aorist abhūt to bhūvat), hence Pgmc. *bhū-i-a- > *b(h)(w)-i-a- > *bīhara. Hill (2012) posits a change *-iH > *-iH. Ringe (2017: 220, 293) reconstructs *bhūH- and argues that the Gmc. forms are perfective presents.

7. Cf. drēamleas bēon (Daniel 557b), though the quantity of the first syllable of bēon is ambiguous: the verse could be like sorhlass swefan (Beowulf 1672a) rather than Hrōðgar lēofa (1483a).

8. It should be noted that -t in OE OS OHG bist is the norm already from the time of the earliest records, whereas in strong and weak verbs the earliest texts have simple -s. Paul (1916–20: II, 192) suggests that bist is apocopated from bistu, though it is also possible that -t is due to the analogical influence of pret.-pres. verbs. Rare OHG bis is explained by Braune (2004a: §379 Anm. 1) not as an archaism but a neologism resulting from reanalysis of bistu ‘you are’.

9. Lühr (2016: 244) argues that the admixture of h-forms originated in the 2 sg., where the addition of the pret.-pres. ending -t to *is would have created a homophone of 3 sg. ist, requiring redifferentiation.

10. Another possibility is that OHG biru(m), birut show the attachment of pret.-pres. inflections to the stem bi- of the singular, with -r- filling the hiatus, just as -r- fills the hiatus in certain OHG verbs of class VII, e.g. -steros < *st-e-aus (§12.20). But r in these preterites is facultative and disappears early, whereas r in these present forms is regular and persists until the thirteenth century.

11. Not ?sige(n); cf. weak verbs of class 2 in -i(g)en (§12.42).
Bammesberger (1986a: 122) proposes a further connection to Go. *sunja* ‘truth’ and OHG *suntea* ‘sin’.

### 12.58 The verb ‘will’

The most usual attested forms of the Gmc. verb ‘will’ (in the original sense ‘be willing, wish’) are these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Go.</th>
<th>OIcel.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Ind.</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>vil</td>
<td>wille</td>
<td>williu</td>
<td>willu</td>
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<td>vill, vilt</td>
<td>wilt</td>
<td>wili(s), wilt</td>
<td>wili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>wili</td>
<td>vill</td>
<td>wile</td>
<td>will(i), will</td>
<td>wili</td>
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<td>2 du.</td>
<td>wileits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>willāp</td>
<td>williad</td>
<td>wellemēs</td>
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<td>vilið</td>
<td>willāp</td>
<td>williad</td>
<td>wellet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>wileina</td>
<td>vilja</td>
<td>willāp</td>
<td>williad</td>
<td>wellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Sj.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
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<td>wille</td>
<td>willie</td>
<td>welle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>vilir</td>
<td>willie</td>
<td>willies</td>
<td>wellēs(t)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>vili</td>
<td>wille</td>
<td>willie</td>
<td>welle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
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<td>willen</td>
<td>willien</td>
<td>wellēm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>vilið</td>
<td>willen</td>
<td>willien</td>
<td>wellēt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>vilièna</td>
<td>willen</td>
<td>willien</td>
<td>wellēn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. Ind.</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>wilda</td>
<td>vilda</td>
<td>wolde</td>
<td>welda</td>
<td>wolta</td>
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<td>wildēs</td>
<td>vildir</td>
<td>woldest</td>
<td>weldes</td>
<td>woltōs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
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<td>vildi</td>
<td>wolde</td>
<td>welda</td>
<td>wolta</td>
</tr>
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<td>vildu</td>
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<td>woltun</td>
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<td>weldi</td>
<td>wolti</td>
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<td>wolde</td>
<td>woltīs</td>
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<td>vildi</td>
<td>wolde</td>
<td>wolti</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
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<td>vildim</td>
<td>wolden</td>
<td>weldin</td>
<td>woltīm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>wildēdeiþ</td>
<td>vildið</td>
<td>wolden</td>
<td>weldin</td>
<td>woltīt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>wildēdeina</td>
<td>vildi</td>
<td>wolden</td>
<td>weldin</td>
<td>woltīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inf.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>wiljan</td>
<td>vilja</td>
<td>willan</td>
<td>willien</td>
<td>wellen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Part.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

OIcel. 1 sg. pres. ind. *vilja* (= Go. *wiljáu*) appears sometimes in poetry. As usual in OE, the 1 sg. pres. ind. may end in -o outside of WS. In Anglian, forms like *walde* (which may or may not co-occur with *wolde*) are the norm. OS has also the stem *well-* in the pret. and *wold-* in the pres. (rarely *wald-*), in addition to normal variation in the endings (e.g. 1 sg. pres. ind. *willeo* beside *williu*). There is a small amount of deviation from the given stems in OHG. In OE there appear some innovative imperatives, e.g. Mercian pl. *willap*, negated sg. *nyl*.

### 12.59 Historical development of ‘will’

The source is the PIE root *h₁el(H)*- reflected in Lat. *volō* ‘wish’ (with traces of athe-matic inflection, e.g. *vuli*), Lith. *vémi* ‘wish’, OCS *veljo*, velēti ‘bid, wish’, Skt. ṃrṝṇē
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‘chooses, prefers’, etc. The present of this verb in Gmc. is etymologically subjunctive (PIE optative), due to polite usage: ‘would like’ rather than ‘want’. The Go. paradigm in particular makes it plain that the pres. inflections are of the pret. sj. (§12.27), even though the root vocalism is not that of a perfect. Use of the pret. sj. inflections is explicable on the basis of the observation that the pret. sj. is associated with conditions and wishes of a particularly hypothetical nature (see, e.g., Heusler 1967: §419; Mitchell 1985: I, §§1679–81), and so it may express an especial degree of politeness; but since they are attached to a present stem, it is more probable that the sj. endings are preterite because analogical to those of pret.-pres. verbs. The Go. pret. is weak and formed like the preterite of irregular verbs of weak class I (§12.37), except that no other verb so constructed in Go. has a stem in -l-, as a result of which the dental suffix is always voiceless in such Go. verbs. Inf. wiljan shows that the verb has a j-present with PIE e-rather than o-grade of the root, like a strong verb (as should be expected on the basis of athematic inflection). Formation of the preterite of ‘will’ without a connecting vowel may be due to creation of the Gmc. preterite at an early date, though it could also be a late PGmc. development on the model of pret.-pres. verbs (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §101).

In OIcel. the pres. sj. forms correspond to the Go. pres. ind. ones, and a new pres. ind. paradigm has been constructed of the weak class I type, hence sg. 1 vil, 2 vill, 3 vill, entirely parallel to 1 frem, 2 fremr, 3 fremr, etc. (§12.35).2 & 3 sg. vill < *vilg show assimilation under low stress (Heusler 1967: §333): cf. telr ‘tell’. The OIcel. pret. likewise bears the same relation to Go. wila, etc., that OIcel. preterites of weak class I bear to the corresponding Go. forms. The root vowel -i- in the Go. pret. is to be expected, whereas OIcel. should have pret. ind. *velda rather than vilda, etc.; but OIcel. weak verbs of class I with -i- in the pres. have also -i- in the pret., e.g. hirda ‘care for’, pret. hirda. At all events, Sievers (1884: 563) may be right that the unlaughted vowel has been extended from the sj.

The WGmc. verbs are somewhat less straightforwardly explained. The pres. ind. 1 sg. shows replacement of the original inflection by the normal thematic pres. *-ā, except that WS, as usual, has -e, which is perhaps etymological (i.e., sj.) rather than a replacement for analogical -ō (§12.24). Beside OHG willu there occurs in some early texts wille, with what appears to be a present sj. inflection (see Boutkan 1995b: 371–2 for discussion). Otherwise, the pres. ind. sg. corresponds well to the Go. sg. forms, though obviously OE OS 2 sg. will has acquired its inflection from the pret.-pres. verbs. Particularly striking are OS OHG wili, since the inflection is entirely anomalous on a 2 sg. form, and yet it is etymologically correct: cf. OHG ni curi (§12.27). In the plural, the OE OS stem will- is not etymological, but in WGmc. verbs with j-presents the 1 sg. and the 1–3 pl. agree in having a stem with gemination (e.g. OE 1 sg. fremme, pl. fremmað), and so the pl. here is refashioned on that ind. pattern. A common assumption is that in addition to the PIE e-grade stem reflected in the pres. ind., there must be assumed a weak grade PIE *u* > PGmc. *wul-* to account for WGmc. *wul-* in OE wolde, OHG wolta (with lowering of *u* before a non-high vowel of the following syllable, §4.3), as well as an o-grade PIE *uol-* to account for various WGmc. forms, including OHG wel- < *wal-j-. Thus, for example, Bammesberger (1986a: 119) reconstructs, in addition to the root aorist mentioned in n. 1, a perfect showing the alternation sg. *(we-)wol– ~ *(we-)wol– (his notation), providing a source for PGmc. *wal– ~ *wul-. Yet if it raises doubts to recognize that no other weak pret. in PGmc. added the dental suffix to a stem other than the pres. stem, it seems even more peculiar that a weak pret. should have been formed to this verb at all if there already existed perfect forms that could serve as a

*Use of the pret. sj. inflections is explicable on the basis of the observation that the pret. sj. is associated with conditions and wishes of a particularly hypothetical nature (see, e.g., Heusler 1967: §419; Mitchell 1985: I, §§1679–81), and so it may express an especial degree of politeness; but since they are attached to a present stem, it is more probable that the sj. endings are preterite because analogical to those of pret.-pres. verbs. The Go. pret. is weak and formed like the preterite of irregular verbs of weak class I (§12.37), except that no other verb so constructed in Go. has a stem in -l-, as a result of which the dental suffix is always voiceless in such Go. verbs. Inf. wiljan shows that the verb has a j-present with PIE e-rather than o-grade of the root, like a strong verb (as should be expected on the basis of athematic inflection). Formation of the preterite of ‘will’ without a connecting vowel may be due to creation of the Gmc. preterite at an early date, though it could also be a late PGmc. development on the model of pret.-pres. verbs (so Krahe & Meid 1969: II, §101).

In OIcel. the pres. sj. forms correspond to the Go. pres. ind. ones, and a new pres. ind. paradigm has been constructed of the weak class I type, hence sg. 1 vil, 2 vill, 3 vill, entirely parallel to 1 frem, 2 fremr, 3 fremr, etc. (§12.35).2 & 3 sg. vill < *vilg show assimilation under low stress (Heusler 1967: §333): cf. telr ‘tell’. The OIcel. pret. likewise bears the same relation to Go. wila, etc., that OIcel. preterites of weak class I bear to the corresponding Go. forms. The root vowel -i- in the Go. pret. is to be expected, whereas OIcel. should have pret. ind. *velda rather than vilda, etc.; but OIcel. weak verbs of class I with -i- in the pres. have also -i- in the pret., e.g. hirda ‘care for’, pret. hirda. At all events, Sievers (1884: 563) may be right that the unlaughted vowel has been extended from the sj.

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pret., since the purpose of weak suffixation was to provide preterites to verbs that otherwise had none. And yet without the assumption of a perfect, the seeming ablaut alternations are difficult to explain. But perhaps it is unnecessary to assume either PGmc. *wal- or *wul-. Bammesberger supposes that the former is demanded by Anglian *walde, but this is the result of a regular Anglian phonological development between a labial consonant and covered l or r, as in Anglian *warhite ‘created’, margen ‘morning’ (Hogg 1992: §5.34). Sievers (1884: 563–4) argues that Early WS negated nelle ic ‘I do not want’ (beside more usual nylle ic) demands the reconstruction *niwaljai (beside *niwiljai > nylle), but there is no parallel to such a development, and 2 sg. nelit cannot be explained this way. Rather, since *y > OE e in unstressed syllables, it is safer to assume that nelle is a normal variant of nylle under the low stress that such auxiliaries commonly received: cf. y > e in gædeling ‘companion’ < *gedyling- < *jaduling-. Neither is it necessary to derive the OHG pres. pl. stem well- from *wal- (so, e.g., Krahe & Meid 1969: II §101, Euler 2013: 177), since lowering of *will- (as in OE OS) to well- in OHG may have originated in the sj. before -ē- of the inflection, parallel to the situation in weak classes 2 & 3, e.g. lebēn ‘live’ (cf. OE libban, Anglian lifgan, and OS pret. sj. lebdin beside libdī). As for OE wolde, OHG volta, these do not necessarily demand derivation from PGmc. *wul-ō-, since they may be the result of rhyming attraction to OE solde, OHG skota (and cf. the transfer of o from the pret. of other pret.-pres. verbs, replacing *u in OHG onda, konda, OS gi-onsta, konsta, for-monsta, §12.54 ad fin.). OS has usually pret. welda, with the stem to be expected from dental suffixation of the present stem *wel-, since the pret. stem did not have the *-i/j- of the pres. For thorough discussion of the development of this verb, see Flasdieck 1937b; see also Birkmann 1987: 116–18, 157–61, etc., Ringe & Taylor 2014: 73–5; and for a discussion of related issues that support the account suggested here, see Fertig 1999.

1. Bammesberger (1986a: 117–18) thus explains the present forms as derived from a PIE root aorist. Striking is the correspondence between Go. wileis, wili, etc., and Lat. velīs, velīt.

2. The alternative 2 sg. vilt, with a pret.-pres. inflection, is actually a later form. Although this was a perfectly regular paradigm comparable to that of fremja at the time of the change, the modal use of vilja may be assumed to have continued to invite the influence of pret.-pres. inflection on the verb.

3. It is noteworthy that Northumbrian shows a pres. sj. stem well-, well-, beside ind. will-, which Sievers thinks demands *wal-j-, though this seems just one of several possibilities, including a development like that seen in OHG. One possible source of a stem *well- in WGmc. is confusion with the semantically similar verb PGmc. *waljanu ‘choose’ (> OHG welten). Such mixture of the two verbs could explain why ‘choose’ is not preserved in Ingvaenic.

12.60 The verb ‘do’

The verb ‘place, cause, do’ is found as such only in WGmc.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>Ofris.</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pres. Ind.</td>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>dō</td>
<td>dwē</td>
<td>dōm, duom</td>
<td>tōm, tuam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>dēst</td>
<td>dēst</td>
<td>dōs, duos</td>
<td>tōs, tuos(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>dēd</td>
<td>dēd(h)</td>
<td>dōd, duod</td>
<td>duot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>dōd</td>
<td>dwāt(h), dwā</td>
<td>dōd, duod, duad</td>
<td>tōmes, tuamēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>dōd</td>
<td>dwāt(h), dwā</td>
<td>dōd, duod, duad</td>
<td>tōt, tuat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>dōd</td>
<td>dwāt(h), dwā</td>
<td>dōd, duod, duad</td>
<td>tōnt, tuant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
§12.60 The verb ‘do’ 331

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Sj.</th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OFris.</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>dō</td>
<td>dwē, dwā</td>
<td>dōe, duo, dua, -e</td>
<td>tō, tue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>dō</td>
<td>dwē, dwā</td>
<td>duas</td>
<td>duos</td>
<td>tōs, tuēs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>dō</td>
<td>dwē, dwā</td>
<td>dōe, duo, dua, -e</td>
<td>duo</td>
<td>tō, tue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>dōn</td>
<td>dwē, dwā</td>
<td>dōen, duon, -an</td>
<td>duon</td>
<td>tūen, tuoēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>dōn</td>
<td>dwē, dwā</td>
<td>dōen, duon, -an</td>
<td>tōt, tuēt</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>dōn</td>
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<td>tōn, tuoēn</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imp.</th>
<th>OE</th>
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<th>OHG</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>dō</td>
<td>dō, duo</td>
<td>dō, duo</td>
<td>tō, tua</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>dōd</td>
<td>dwāt(h)</td>
<td>dō, duo, duad</td>
<td>duot</td>
<td>tōt, tuat</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pret. Ind.</th>
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<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>dyde</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dēda, -e</td>
<td>tēta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>dydest</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dēda, -e</td>
<td>tātī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>dyde</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dēda</td>
<td>teta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>dydon</td>
<td>dēden</td>
<td>dādun, dēdun</td>
<td>tātum, -un</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>dydon</td>
<td>dēden</td>
<td>dādun, dēdun</td>
<td>tātut</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>dydon</td>
<td>dēden</td>
<td>dādun, dēdun</td>
<td>tātun</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pret. Sj.</th>
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<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>dyde</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dādi, dēdi</td>
<td>tātī</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>dyde</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dādīn, dēdīn</td>
<td>tātīm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>dyde</td>
<td>dēde</td>
<td>dādīn, dēdīn</td>
<td>tātīt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>dyden</td>
<td>dēden</td>
<td>dādīn, dēdīn</td>
<td>tātīn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
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<td>dēden</td>
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<td>dēden</td>
<td>dādīn, dēdīn</td>
<td>tātīn</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inf.</th>
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<tr>
<td>dōn</td>
<td>dwā(n)</td>
<td>dōn, duon, duan</td>
<td>duon, duen</td>
<td>tōn, tuan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pres. Part.</th>
<th>OE</th>
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<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dōnde</td>
<td>dwān(d)e</td>
<td>dōn, duan</td>
<td>duon, duen</td>
<td>tōn, tuan</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pass. Part.</th>
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<th>OFris.</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>OLF</th>
<th>OHG</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gedōn</td>
<td>(e)dēn, đēn</td>
<td>gidōn, -duan, -dān</td>
<td>gedan</td>
<td>gitān</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The OE forms given are WS. In Anglian there occur pret. pl. forms with the stem 〈ded〉 (on which see below), and in poetry a pp. 〈-dēn〉, which can only show umlaut (see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.155), and thus it reflects the pp. suffix 〈*-in-〉 (§12.30). In OS the forms with 〈ō〉 and 〈uo〉 are phonological variants (§4.15), whereas the other forms require explanation. There is the usual variation in inflections, e.g. final 〈-t〉 beside 〈-d〉. The OHG forms are exceptionally various, with the phonological variants 〈ō〉 and 〈ua〉, but also 〈uo〉, 〈ue〉, and 〈ui〉, at least some of which must be regarded as disyllabic. See Braune 2004a: §380 for a conspectus of forms.

12.61 Historical development of ‘do’

Although IE cognates to this verb are not in short supply (cf., e.g., Gk. τίθημι ‘place’, Lith. dėti, OCS děti), outside of Germanic it is only in nominal forms that 〈ō〉-vocalism occurs, e.g. Gk. θομός ‘heap’, Lat. ab-dōmen. The normal PIE vocalism of verbal forms is 〈*ē〉, which in Gmc. is reflected only in pp. OS gidān, OHG gitān (and probably OE gedōn: see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.155), and probably in the OS and OHG pret. stems dād-, tā-. Hill (2004: 281–6, idem 2010: 446–8) offers an ingenious explanation: 〈ō〉 originates in Pre-Gmc. aorist sj. forms (reanalyzed as pres. ind.) with back vowels in the inflection, subsequently undergoing contraction. Thus, for example, PIE 1 pl. *déhēomes > *dhēomes > Pre-PGmc. *dhēmes, as opposed to 3 sg. *dhēheti > *dhēeti > Pre-PGmc. *dhēti. The assumption that 〈ē〉 and 〈ō〉 alternated in the PGmc. pres. paradigm furnishes a possible solution to certain problems pertaining to how the Gmc.
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weak preterite is to be explained (§12.33). Ringe rejects Hill’s account, arguing instead that Gmc. ‘do’ does, after all, reflect a PIE stem *dhóh₂-: cf. Hittite 3 sg. dāi ‘put’ < *dhóh₂-i- (so Jasanoff 1979: 88–9).

Among the peculiarities of the development of this verb in Gmc., perhaps the oddest is its metrical treatment in verse. In OE poetry the inf. and pres. forms are frequently treated in the meter as disyllabic, but never with a heavy initial syllable. It must be concluded that in the conservative language of OE poetry, dōn is equivalent to dōan. A similar scansion is demanded for the gān ‘go’ (§12.63), the anaphoric pronoun hie (§8.7), and the verb sie ‘be’ (§12.57). This metrical evidence is reinforced by the four-stress meter of Otfrid’s Evangelienbuch (863–71; on the meter, see Somers 2009: 72–82), in which duan is usually equivalent to a single stressed position, but at other times to a trochee. OS dōn, duan, duon, doen, duoan does not conform to the pattern of spellings of other words containing the reflex of PGmc ो (Gallée 1993: §86 Anm. 3). Forms like the last two may show analogical re-addition of the inf. ending, but duan is anomalous, and the supposition that it is to be explained as due to Frisian influence (Holthausen 1921: §95) is unpersuasive. Rather, duan may result from the disyllabic form demanded in OE and OHG poetry (though there does not appear to be any evidence for disyllabicity in OS poetry). These observations are suggestive as regards the analysis of the OE pret. (see below), and they forbid the supposition that the OE pres. directly reflects an athematic paradigm 1 sg. *dōmi, 2 *dōsi, etc. (so, e.g., Ringe & Taylor 2014: 369), which, in any event, would raise the expectation of umlaut throughout the present. Rather, it has been proposed (Fulk 1993) that at some point in time (in the Ingvaenic period?) after the PGmc. thematization of most athematic verbs in PGmc., there was shortening of antevocalic long vowels. Certainly, when antevocalic long vowels arose later in OS, they were shortened (see §4.15). Thematization and antevocalic shortening thus explain both the metrical peculiarities of the present of ‘do’ and the restriction of umlaut in the pres. ind. to the 2 and 3 sg.: cf. thematized Pre-OE 1 sg. *do-u, 2 *do-is, 3 *do-i₢, 3 pl. *do-a₢p. This appears to be the only explanation offered to date for the disyllabic scansion of ‘do’ in OE poetry with a light initial syllable. The problem no doubt bears further study.

The anomalous OE pret. dyde, so unlike the other WGmc. preterites, has provoked a variety of fairly desperate explanations. If, however, the Pre-OE pres. had a shortened stem in *dō- to which thematic inflections were added, it may be supposed that before the time of umlaut this stem was extended to the pret., since the pres. and pret. stems (before the addition of *-id- to the pret.) were usually identical in weak verbs. The usual preterite suffix plus inflections of weak class 1 were added to this, producing, e.g., 3 sg. *do-id-ā. If this happened at a sufficiently early date, *do- should be expected to have been realized as *du-, since as late as the time of umlaut there was no o before i or j in native words except by analogy (A. Campbell 1977: §196). Reconstructed *du-id-ā might be expected to have produced a heavy stem, though poetic meter shows dyde to have a light initial syllable; but *-ui- produces a light syllable also in the form dryas ‘wizards’ < Old Irish drui-, as shown by poetic meter. In Anglian the pret. stem is usually dydt-, but in the plural there is a minority stem dēd-, as well, comparable to the plural forms employed elsewhere in WGmc. These WGmc. pl. stems (OFris. dēd-, OS dād-, OHG tāt-) appear to reflect PGmc. *dēd-, with the vowel (ē) of the pp. OS gidān, OHG gitān and the IE cognates, Lith. dēti, etc. In the 1 & 3 sg. pret. ind., however, OS and OHG have a short vowel, and OE poetry (almost all of Anglian origin) agrees with this pattern, inasmuch as the pret. sg. never scans with a heavy first syllable, whereas pl. dydon (substituted for Anglian dēdon by WS scribes) frequently
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scans so (Sievers 1885b: 498–9). Given the close correspondence between the OS and OHG periterites and the pret. inflections of weak verbs in Gothic (§12.33), these forms must be old, and yet it is difficult to perceive in them any pattern inherited from PIE without much analogical disruption. The short vowel in the 1 & 3 sg. ind. is most commonly explained on the assumption that these forms represent reduplicated perfects, PIE 1 *dhe-dhohₕ-a, 3 *dhe-dhohₜ-e: so, e.g., Bammesberger 1991c. Flasdieck (1937a: 52) and Prokosch (1939: §75b) object that these should have produced a final trimoric vowel that would have been reflected as a long vowel in OHG.11 The alternative is to assume an augmentless imperfect (= injunctive, thus with secondary endings) 1 sg. *dhe-dhē-m, 3 *dhe-dhēt (so Wilmanns 1893–1906: 3:61; Bammesberger 1986a: 112–13; Ringe 2006b: 179–96), which would correctly result in OHG teta, OS deda, though there is no secure evidence for any reflex of a PIE imperfect in Gmc.12 The vocalism of the pret. stem OS dād-, OHG tä- is even more difficult to account for convincingly. Prokosch (1939: §75b), Ringe (2017: 182–6), Euler (2013: 172), and Lühr (2016: 255) regard it as analogous to corresponding pret. stems in strong class V, e.g. OS 2 sg. gābī, pl. gābun (cf. 1, 3 sg. gaf) ‘gave’. Bammesberger (1986a: 113–14) instead derives the long vowel in this stem from a root aorist *dhēₕ-m, *dhē-s, etc., existing beside the injunctive and the perfect paradigms already assumed, though it is not plain why the vowel of the root aorist should have been extended to the perfect, and why not to the 1 & 3 singular. Flasdieck (1937a: 50–3, with a brief conspectus of the relevant proposals) explains the long vowel in the OS and OHG pret. as due to rhythmic lengthening, comparable to that seen in Skt. 3 pl. perfect vā-vṛt-ūḥ ‘turn’ (: 3 sg. va-vārt-a), avoiding a sequence of three light syllables. None of the analyses offered to date is unassailable.13

1. Cf. the explanation of Ringe (2017: 173), self-described as phonologically improbable, whereby ō originates in 1 sg. imperfect *dedē (i.e. dedē³), with lowering, backing, and rounding of the final vowel.

2. See Ringe & Taylor 2014: 112–13. Ringe finds the development *-ghōr > *-ō- and the analogical replacement of *-ē- by *-ō- within the paradigm unlikely. His other objection is more telling: if the pres. ind. reflects a root subjunctive, it is difficult to explain how it acquired the ending on 1 sg. *dōmi. But note that Hill is dealing with changes in the Pre-PGmc. period, when a greater number of verbs in *-mi would have been preserved.

3. Examples from Beowulf: swā sceal man dōn (1172b, scanned like Wax sēo hwil micel 146b), but never ḏōn mihte (which would require a scansion like lange fraège 1257b), rather only gedōn wolde (2090b, like ond dracan fellum 2088b); cf. also swā hē nū gīt dēð (1058b, like ac wīt on niht sculon 683b). See Fulk 1993a.

4. Spelling like (doan) are in fact common in texts of non-WS origin, but it is impossible in any given instance to be certain that such spellings do not represent analogical re-addition of inflections to the contracted stem dō-. A few uncontracted spellings occur in Early WS, however, and these almost certainly are archaic rather than innovative: see Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.154 for discussion; but cf. Flasdieck (1937a: 48), who attributes them to Anglian influence.

5. For example, the word is equivalent to a single stressed position in ōba th duan so sāmālēh (III, 16.48) but to two positions in nub ēr es duan scělti ēnti (V, 9.36) and thaz drūhtin ēnan duan hiāz (II, 5.16).

6. By comparison, in Notker (ca. 1000) there are OHG forms that plainly show a long vowel or diphthong plus analogically re-added inflection, e.g. 2 sg. pres. sj. tiūst, tuōest.

7. To explain athematic Anglian dōm, without umlaut, it might be assumed that, as with ‘be’, final *-i was lost because of low stress on the verb: see Flasdieck 1937a: 46–8. In that event, however, there should be no umlaut in the pres. paradigm.

8. Prokosch (1939: §75b) supposes that dye is by analogy to pret.-pres. subjunctives like dyge, scyle, though that pres. subjunctives should have induced such a change in pret. forms (ind. & sj.) is dubitable. Bammesberger (1986a: 113) derives ind. dye from a pret. sj. *du-dъ̄, with *du as an analogical replacement for *da- < *da-. Prokosch objects to similar derivations on the ground that forms comparable to OE dye
might be expected outside of OE if dyde were not a late analogical creation. He would thus no doubt have rejected the argument of R.I. Kim (2009) that there was already in PGmc. substitution of u (from the 3 pl. infection) for e, regarded as a reduplicative vowel, comparable to the substitution in Skt. perf. bu-bhód-a ‘awaken’. There is no parallel to the development of unstressed e to y posited by Hill (2004: 280–1); the usual development is the reverse of this, as in PGmc. *gæduling- > *gædylings- > gædeling ‘companion’.

9. So sægde hȳ dryas wǣron (Juliana 301b), to be scanned like þāra ðe cwice hwyrfaþ.


11. Alternatively, since the stem might be either *dō- or *do-, the paradigm could have arisen on an analogical basis using the stem *dedo- after the loss of the endings *-a, *-e, hence with zero inflection in the 1 & 3 sg. There are too many uncertainties involved to establish any firm probabilities.

12. This is supposed to explain as well archaic OS 2 sg. pret. ind. dedos (beside dādi, both in poetry), though if it is to be derived from * dhe-*dēs it must have its vowel by analogy, perhaps to the present, or to an assumed perfect (so Bammesberger).

13. The account of Hill (2010) concerning the rise of the weak preterite (see §12.33) deals with a number of issues pertaining to the development of ‘do’, and it has much to recommend it, though it does not specifically address the issue of how the alternation *ded- ~ *dēd- arose in the pret. ind. of ‘do’. Hill’s is surely the strongest case yet for credited a Pre-PGmc. imperfect as a source. See also Lühr 2016: 250–60.

12.62 The athematic verb ‘go’

All the older Gmc. languages attest to a PGmc. verb *zangana ‘go’ (Go. gaggan, Olcel. ganga, OE gangan, etc.), a strong verb of class VII (but with a weak pret. in Go.), its PIE root probably reflected also in reduplicated Gk. κίχημι ‘reach’ < *ghi-gheh-mi. Primarily in WGmc. there are found, beside this, reflexes of a non-derived athematic paradigm to a PIE root that some regard as the same:¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OE</th>
<th>OHG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Ind.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>gā</td>
<td>gām, gān, gēm, gēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>gāst</td>
<td>gāst(t), gēst(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>gāt</td>
<td>gāt, gēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>gād</td>
<td>gāmēs, gān, gēmēs, gēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>gād</td>
<td>gāt, gēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>gād</td>
<td>gānt, gēnt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Sj.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sg.</td>
<td>gā</td>
<td>gē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>gā</td>
<td>gēst(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 sg.</td>
<td>gē</td>
<td>gē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pl.</td>
<td>gān</td>
<td>gēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>gān</td>
<td>gēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pl.</td>
<td>gān</td>
<td>gēn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imp.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sg.</td>
<td>gā</td>
<td>gāt, gēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pl.</td>
<td>gād</td>
<td>gāt, gēt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inf.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gān</td>
<td>gān, gēn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. Part.</strong></td>
<td>gānde</td>
<td>gānti, gēnti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pass. Part.</strong></td>
<td>gegān</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ofris. has the forms 3 sg. pres. ind. gēt(h), g(h)eet, pl. gāt, gaet, pp. (e)gēn. In OS the only forms attested are 3 sg. pres. ind. be-gēd, inf. (-)gān, and inflected inf. te gānde; otherwise all forms are to gangan. Similarly, in OLF there is only inf. gān, beside forms of gangan. Although this stem is not attested in Wulfilian Gothic, Crimean Gothic attests to geen; and Old East Norse gā produces Swedish and Danish gå. As with OE dōn,
Anglian forms frequently show analogical re-addition of the endings to the stem, e.g. 1 sg. ind. gaa, 2 sg. gæs (listed by Flasdieck 1937a: 59). There is no inherited preterite to this stem: the strong pret. to gangan is used (e.g. OHG giang), except in OE, where there is a suppletive weak pret. ēode, which is usually thought to be cognate with Go. iddja, the usual weak pret. (beside gaggida 1×) to gaggan. Go. iddja is unusual in that it is the only verb to which the weak preterite inflections are added directly to the stem, without a stem-final dental consonant, hence 3 sg. iddja, 3 pl. iddžedum, etc.

1. If the two are related, they are only distantly so: to PGmc. *ʒēna* < PIE *ǵheh₂*- cf. PGmc. *ʒangana* < PIE *ǵhongh₂*-; cf. Lith. žengiu, žengti ‘stride’. The similarity nonetheless led to mixed paradigms in Gmc.

12.63 Historical development of ‘go’

Forms like OE inf. gān appear to present a problem, inasmuch as WGmc. *ʒēn (< PGmc. *ʒēn) should have produced OE and OFris. *gōn (§4.12). Accordingly, there is usually reconstructed a stem *ʒai- beside WGmc. *ʒē- to account for OE gān, OFris. *gān; so, e.g. Mottausch 1997, 1998a, with references; Ringe 2017: 295. Yet there is no very plausible parallel to this *ʒai- outside of Anglo-Frisian.¹ The non-pret. inflection of ‘go’ obviously closely parallels that of ‘do’, and just as with ‘do’, in OE poetry the stem is disyllabic, with, apparently, a light initial syllable (Fulk 1992: §§107–11).² Accordingly, the prehistoric OE pres. ind. may be reconstructed as thematized sg. 1 *ʒa-ē, 2 *ʒa-iš, 3 *ʒa-iḥ, pl. *ʒa-aḥ. After Anglo-Frisian fronting of *a, umlaut, and contraction, 3 sg. *ʒa-iḥ (for example) might be expected to have developed to *gēð rather than the attested gēd; but it may be assumed that just as in class VI, fronted *æ was replaced by *a for the sake of paradigm regularity before umlaut applied,³ the result then being *ʒa-iḥ > *ʒæ-iḥ > gēd. The assumption of a short root vowel also affords the opportunity to account for the cooccurrence of the stems gā- and gē- in OHG: gā- arose in forms like inf. *ʒa-an, and gē- in forms like 3 sg. *ʒa-it, umlauted to *ʒe-it and then contracted to gēt, with levelling of the two variants throughout the ind. to create parallel paradigms (Hogg & Fulk 2011: §6.157 & n. 2).⁴

OE pret. ēode appears to be cognate with Go. iddja, as remarked above, both of them weak preterites, and in the relevant literature the two are most commonly associated with the PIE root *hēj- seen in Skt. ēti, Gk. κινεῖ (Doric κινεῖ), Lat. eō < *eij-ō. The etymology is complicated by the observation of Sievers (1900: 52) that the verb is never *tōde or *tāde in Northumbrian but ēode or ēade, with about equal frequency in the gloss on the Lindisfarne Gospels,² suggesting either a stem ē- plus preterite inflections of weak class 2 or (more likely) *ēo- plus preterite inflections of weak class 3.⁵ A plausible explanation was devised by Cowgill (1960), arguing that although no perfect was formed to the root *hēj- in PIE, perfects were created in the post-PIE period (Skt. iy-dāy-a, Lat. iī), and in Pre-PGmc. there arose a perfect with the expected alternation between sg. *e-oj- and pl. *e-iļ- ā. A form like 3 pl. *e-iļ-ŋt then yielded PGmc. *iijum, which would have developed to Go. *iddjum, but instead weak inflections were substituted for the perfect ones. What makes this explanation particularly attractive is that it plausibly explains why iddja is the only Go. verb to bear weak inflections without a stem-final dental consonant: the implication is that the stem was already perceived to be preterite, without the addition of the dental suffix, and that is explicable only if the verb represents a remodeling of an earlier preterite of a different sort. As for OE ēode, this may be derived from the Pre-PGmc. sg. stem *e-oj- on the assumption that PGmc. *-j- (from
*ʔē) once again would have been lost between the unstressed vowels, resulting in a stem *e-o- > OE ēo-, to which preterite endings like those of weak class 3 were added.\(^7\) Why the present forms of this verb should have died out and been replaced by forms of *ʒēna* and *ząngana* is explained by Mottausch (1994) as the result of a tendency to replace excessively short words, those with much grammatical information compacted in unanalyzable forms, with longer ones, as happened to Lat. ēo when some forms were replaced by those of vādō in late Latin, and in French, with the substitution of forms derived from Lat. *ambulāre* (*allons, allez*).\(^8\) Alternative analyses rely on the reconstruction of unlikely forms in PIE and/or unlikely phonological developments, e.g. the equation of Go. *iddja* and the Skt. augmented aorist āvām to the root yā- (as first argued by Möller 1879: 432 n. 1 and Kluge 1879: 124–7) and the reconstruction of an augmented, zero-grade aorist *hē-e-ydh-gt* to the root seen in Lat. vādō ‘go’, with the result that Go. *iddja* and OE ēode must not be regarded as close cognates (Holthausen 1903: 342): for critiques of these and other views, see Flasdieck 1937a, Cowgill 1960, and Mottausch 1994, the last with some proposed refinements to Cowgill’s analysis. A subsequent study is Schumacher 1998, proposing that to the PGmc. stem *ēj- ‘go’ was formed a pret. ēj- by analogy to *ēst- ‘ate’, and to this stem OE added endings of weak class 2 (but cf. n. 5 infra). See also Eichner 2005.

1. This posited *gai- is assumed to have originated in the athematic pres. sj. (opt.), PIE *gʰē-gjēh- and spread to the ind. and inf.: so, e.g., Euler 2013: 174.

2. Kortlandt (1990: 8–9) earlier proposed that the OE monosyllables can best be explained as derived from disyllables, though he did not assume a light initial syllable.

3. Hence, e.g., 3 sg. ferō ‘goes’ beside etymological and less usual ferō: so A. Campbell (1977: §8160, 194). The cause of this variation is actually disputed (see Hogg 1992: §5.80.2, with references), but the variation itself is undeniable and thus may be expected in forms of gān under this explanation.

4. Note that the variation of the originally athematic verb is required by this explanation, as OE gāð, for example, cannot be derived directly from PIE *(gʰe)-gʰe-h-, which would produce OE *gēð. The failure of any 1 sg. form in -m to be preserved in Anglian (in contrast to dúm ‘do’) is perhaps attributable to the observation that PGmc. *gı-mi would have produced Anglian 1 sg. *gām or (with early loss of *-i under low stress) *gān, a notable paradigm irregularity.


6. The reason that ē- + -ode is less likely than ēo- + de is that -ode shows the usual vowel of the suffix in Northumbrian, next to which -ode is rare. By contrast, in the Northumbrian dialect of the gloss on the Lindisfarne Gospels, where ēode and ēade are about equally frequent, ēo very commonly develops to ēa except before w or before o or u in the next syllable, whereas in the dialect of the Northumbrian portion of the gloss on the Rushworth Gospels, where the proportion of ēod- to ēad- is 98 : 9 (Lindelöf 1901: 150), the development of ēo to ēa is relatively infrequent.

7. Cowgill is at great pains to argue that Pre-Gmc. *e-o- would not have contracted to *ē or *ō, and although many of his points are incompatible with the analysis of NWGmc. preterites of class VII offered above (§12.20), that analysis renders it plausible enough that *e-o- would not have contracted at an early date, and that the uncontracted PGmc. *e-a- implicit in his account would have resulted in OE ēo. The discussion in the preceding note, however, shows that contraction must have taken place by the time of OE itself, as the analysis of class VII would lead one to expect.

8. See also the remark above (§8.7 n. 1) on Einlautigkeit.

12.64 The athematic verb ‘stand’

PGmc. *standana* ‘stand’, a nasal-infixed present (cf. Lat. stāre), has reflexes in all the older Gmc. languages, but in a few of them there is reflected an athematic stem entirely comparable in its inflection to OHG gān, gēn and its cognates (§12.62). The verb is best
attested in OHG (inf. stān, stēn, 1 sg. ind. stām, stēm, etc.), though forms are also infrequently attested in OFris. (3 sg. pres. ind. stēt, pl. stāt, pp. stēn), OS (inf. stān, 2 sg. pres. ind. stēs, 3 sg. stēd, stād, steid, pl. stād), OLF (inf. stān, 2 sg. imp. up-stā) and Old East Norse (cf. Danish, Swedish stā), with other forms supplied by *standana*. The historical development of this verb may be assumed to parallel exactly that of PGmc. *ʒē(-a)nan* (§12.63). For references to relevant literature, see Braune 2004a: §382 Anm. 1.
References

For the purpose of alphabetization, diacritics on the Roman alphabet are ignored. Inessential subtitles of books have been omitted. Journal titles have been abbreviated as follows:

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Title</th>
<th>Journal Title</th>
</tr>
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<td>AbäG</td>
<td>Amsterdamer Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik</td>
<td>Deutschen, Griechischen und Lateinischen (1852–74), Beiträge zur vergleichenden Sprachforschung auf dem Gebiete der arischen, celtischen und slawischen Sprachen (1858–76), and Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung (1968–87). The journal is continued by HS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AfdA</td>
<td>Anzeiger für deutsches Altertum</td>
<td>LB Leuvene Bijdragen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJGLL</td>
<td>American Journal of Germanic Linguistics and Literatures</td>
<td>MGS Michigan Germanic Studies</td>
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<td>APS</td>
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<td>Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft</td>
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<td>ELL</td>
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<td>NOWELE North-Western European Language Evolution</td>
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<td>FLH</td>
<td>Folia Linguistica Historica</td>
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<td>GL</td>
<td>General Linguistics</td>
<td>PBB Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur (‘Pauls und Braunes Beiträge’). From 1955 to 1979 two journals with the same title were published in Halle (PBB(H)) and Tübingen (PBB(T)), the latter continuing to the present.</td>
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<td>Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie</td>
<td>ZfdA Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum und deutsche Literatur</td>
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</table>


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PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN (p. 376).

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Fulk’s *Comparative Grammar* offers an overview of and bibliographical guide to the study of the phonology and the inflectional morphology of the earliest Germanic languages, with particular attention to Gothic, Old Norse / Icelandic, Old English, Old Frisian, Old Saxon, and Old High German, along with some attention to the more sparsely attested languages. The sounds and inflections of the oldest Germanic languages are compared, with a view to reconstructing the forms they took in Proto-Germanic and comparing those reconstructed forms with what is known of the Indo-European protolanguage. Students will find the book an informative introduction and a bibliographically instructive point of departure for intensive research in the numerous issues that remain profoundly contested in early Germanic language history.