

Akkadian Paradigm File

Version 1

The following diachronic paradigm charts, which address eight dialects of Akkadian (Old Akkadian, OB, OA, SB, MB, MA, Late Babylonian and NA), were assembled by a student with the aim of providing a study aid for learners of Akkadian. To my knowledge, no set of published Akkadian paradigms attempt to lay bare the extent of diachronic variation for the reader, that is, none present forms from all eight dialects side by side.

There are reasons for this lack of (what seems like) an obvious and basic learning tool. In certain periods we lack complete data, attestations of a verb in a given stem, in a given person, etc. This would be enough for any careful scholar to refrain from making a complete paradigm. The below charts do not share the aims or practices of an Assyriological grammar. I intend to provide ****HYPOTHETICAL**** complete paradigms, built by sustaining known forms from one period to another *unless published grammars or language sketches can provide data and proof of a required form modification*. The intent, then, is simply to provide the learner with a visual summary of the current state of the field so that a mental model of Akkadian morphology can more easily be acquired. Hence, the charts below do not intend to represent new information. Version 1 contains fourteen paradigms; this will be expanded in version 2.

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Conventions:

- - indicates continuity with the form of the preceding period.
- x - indicates that a form is no longer productive in a given period.
- red lettering - intended to draw attention to a change. Not systematically applied.

Bibliography:

Various:

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Tablet of Contents:

- Nominal Paradigm..... P. 4
- G Strong Preterite.....P. 5
- G Strong Durative.....P.6
- N Strong Preterite.....P.7
- I-W Strong Preterite.....P.8
- D Strong Preterite.....P.9
- D Strong Duratve.....P.10

Development of the Nominal Paradigm: Babylonian

Oakk. case endings specified in Hasselbach p. 236; OB Streck 2011 p. 363; MB Streck 2011 p. 374; LB Streck 2011 p. 385

	Old Akkadian	Old Babylonian	Middle Babylonian	1st Mill. Babylonian
M. Nom. Sg.	tuppum	●	tuppu	tuppu > tupp
M. Gen. Sg.	tuppim	●	tuppi	tuppi > tupp
M. Acc. Sg.	tuppam	●	tuppa	tuppa > tuppu > tupp
F. Nom. Sg.	našpertum	●	našpertu	našpertu > našpert
F. Gen. Sg.	našpertim	●	našperti	našperti > našpert
F. Acc. Sg.	našpertam	●	našperti	našperta > našpertu > našpert
M. Nom. Pl.	tuppū	●	●	tuppū > tuppē (var.
M. Obl. Pl.	tuppē	●	●	tuppī > tuppē tuppānu/i/e)
F. Nom. Pl.	našperātum	●	našperātu	našperātu > našperāti > našperātu
F. Obl. Pl.	našperātīm	●	našperāti	našperāti > našperāt
M. Nom. D.	tuppān	●		X
M. Obl. D.	tupp(ēn)	●	tuppīn	X
F. Nom. D.	našpertān	●		X
F. Obl. D.	našper(tēn)	●	našpertīn	X

Development of the Nominal Paradigm: Assyrian

Oakk. case endings specified in Hasselbach p. 236; OA Kouwenberg p. 102; MA de Ridder p. 167 - Reckling p. 7; NA: a compromise between Haemeen-Anttila p. 77 and Streck p. 379 (tentative).

	Old Akkadian	Old Assyrian	Middle Assyrian	Neo Assyrian
M. Nom. Sg.	tuppum	●	tuppu	●
M. Gen. Sg.	tuppim	●	tuppe	●
M. Acc. Sg.	tuppam	●	tuppa	tuppu
F. Nom. Sg.	našpertum	●	našpertu	●
F. Gen. Sg.	našpertim	●	našperte	●
F. Acc. Sg.	našpertam	●	našperta	našpertu
M. Nom. Pl.	tuppū	●	●	tuppē/tuppāne
M. Obl. Pl.	tuppē	●	●	
F. Nom. Pl.	našperātum	●	našperātu	našperāte
F. Obl. Pl.	našperātīm	●	našperāte	
M. Nom. D.	tuppān	●	●	X
M. Obl. D.	tupp(ēn)	●	●	X
F. Nom. D.	našpertān	●	●	X
F. Obl. D.	?	●	našpertēn	X

G Strong Preterite Paradigm: Babylonian

**Oakk. Hasselbach 2004 p. 254; Sketches indicate no changes in MB and SB (no paradigms available: Aro p. 169, Worthington p. 110, Huehnergard p. 569). The 3FS form reappears in late Babylonian (Woodington p. 95, Streck 2011 p. 386).

	Old Akkadian	Old Babylonian	Middle Babylonian	Standard Babylonian	1st Mill. Babylonian
3MS 3FS	yiprus taprus	iprus	●	●	iprus taprus
2MS 2FS	taprus N/A				
1CS	'aprus	aprus	●	●	●
3MP 3FP	yaprusū N/A	iprusū iprusā	●	●	●
2CP	N/A	taprusā	●	●	●
1CP	niprus	●	●	●	●

G Strong Preterite Paradigm: Assyrian

**Oakk. from Hasselbach p. 254. OA - Kouwenberg p. 294. MA - de Ridder p. 349. NA: Hameen-Antila p. 29, p. 142.

***Note: Assyrian vowel harmony occurs in A class verbs (iplah but ipluhū - Kouwenberg p. 69). Not applicable to parasum.

	Old Akkadian	Old Assyrian	Middle Assyrian	Neo Assyrian
3MS 3FS	yiprus taprus	iprus	●	●
2MS 2FS	taprus N/A	taprusī	●	taprus
1CS	'aprus	aprus	●	●
3MP 3FP	yaprusū N/A	iprusū iprusā	●	iprusu iprusa
2CP	N/A	taprusā	●	taprusa
1CP	niprus	●	●	●

G Strong Durative Paradigm: Babylonian

**Oakk adapted from Hasselbach p. 286; MB and late Babylonian are extrapolations (no published paradigms available).

	Old Akkadian	Old Babylonian	Middle Babylonian	Standard Babylonian	1st Mill. Babylonian
3MS 3FS	yiparras N/A	} iparras	●	●	} iparras taparras
2MS 2FS	taparras taparrasī		●	●	
1CS	'aparras	aprus	●	●	●
3MP 3FP	yiparrasū N/A	} iprusū iprusā	●	●	●
2CP	N/A		taprusā	●	●
1CP	niparras	●	●	●	●

G Strong Durative Paradigm: Assyrian

**Oakk adapted from Hasselbach p. 286; while long final vowels had shortened in the NA period (Hameen-Anitila p. 29), this change remains uncertain in MA (de Ridder p. 354).

***** Assyrian VA applies to 2FS and 3MP providing that the theme vowel is a (as in a/u verbs).

	Old Akkadian	Old Assyrian	Middle Assyrian	Neo Assyrian
3MS 3FS	yiparras N/A	} iparras taparras	●	●
2MS 2FS	taparras taparrasī		taparras taparrisī/ē	●
1CS	'aparras	aparras	●	●
3MP 3FP	yiparrasū N/A	} iparrusū iparrasā	●	● iparrusu iparrasa
2CP	N/A		taparrasā	●
1CP	niparras	niparras	●	●

N Strong Preterite Paradigm: Babylonian

**Note: Vowel syncope is in effect for N preterite verbal forms with vocalic endings.

	Old Akkadian	Old Babylonian	Middle Babylonian	Neo Babylonian
3MS	N/A	ipparis	●	ipparis
3FS	N/A			tapparis
2MS	N/A	tapparis	●	●
2FS	N/A	tapparsī	●	●
1CS	N/A	apparis	●	●
3MP	N/A	ipparsū	●	●
3FP	N/A	ipparsā	●	●
2CP	N/A	tapparsā	●	●
1CP	N/A	nipparis	●	●

N Strong Preterite Paradigm: Assyrian

**Due to Assyrian vowel harmony, the stem vowel is always i for OA (Kouwenberg p. 316); this occurs even in forms with vocalic endings where vowel syncope occurs (p. 69). In MA, VH does not occur with elided vowels however (de Ridder p. 375).

**Final long vowels are shortened in the NA period (Haemeen-Anttila p. 27).

	Old Akkadian	Old Assyrian	Middle Assyrian	Neo Assyrian
3MS	N/A	ippiris	●	●
3FS	N/A	tappiris	●	●
2MS	N/A	tappiris	●	●
2FS	N/A	tappirsī	tapparsī	tapparsi
1CS	N/A	appiris	●	●
3MP	N/A	ippirsū	ipparsū	ipparsu
3FP	N/A	ippirsā	ipparsā	ipparsa
2CP	N/A	tappirsā	tapparsā	tapparsa
1CP	N/A	nippiris	●	●

I-W G Preterite Paradigm: Babylonian

**Oakk adapted from Hasselbach p. 286; MB and NB are partial extrapolations (no complete paradigms available).

**** Unlike the I/voc verbs, forms with a vocalic ending are affected by vowel syncope. Note: stative I-W verbs (watārum / itar) are declined differently than the active I-W given below (G stem only - Huehnergard p. 78). For the ambiguity concerning the vowel length of the u prefix, see Worthington p. 173.

	Old Akkadian		Old Babylonian		Middle Babylonian		1st Mill. Babylonian
3MS	yušib	↘	ušib	●		↙	ūšib
3FS	N/A	↗					tūšib
2MS	N/A	—	tušib	●			tūšib
2FS	N/A	—	tušbī	●			tūšibī
1CS	yušib	—	ušib	●			ūšib
3MP	yušbū	—	ušbū	●			ūšibū
3FP	N/A	—	ušbā	●			ūšibā
2CP	N/A	—	tušbā	●			tūšibā
1CP	nušib	—	nušib	●			nūšib

I-W G Preterite Paradigm: Assyrian

**Oakk adapted from Hasselbach p. 286; OA from Kouwenberg p. 322; MA and NA are partial extrapolations (full paradigms not available).

**** Unlike the I/voc verbs, forms with a vocalic ending are affected by vowel syncope. This is easily explained by the conclusion that prefixed u- is short, thus resulting in two successive open syllables u/bi/lū > ub/lū (de Ridder p. 387). Final long vowels are shortened in NA (Haemeen-Anttila p. 27).

	Old Akkadian		Old Assyrian		Middle Assyrian		Neo Assyrian
3MS	yušib	—	ušib	●			●
3FS	N/A	—	tušib	●			●
2MS	N/A	—	tušib	●			●
2FS	N/A	—	tušbī	●			tušbi
1CS	yušib	—	ušib	●			●
3MP	yušbū	—	ušbū	●			ušbu
3FP	N/A	—	ušbā	●			ušba
2CP	N/A	—	tušbā	●			tušba
1CP	nušib	—	nušib	●			●

D Strong Preterite Paradigm: Babylonian

**Oakk Hasselbach p. 274. MB vowel change follows Kouwenberg 2010 p. 269 'a > e if the following syllable contains 'i'; this rule seems only partially applicable in SB (Huehnergard p. 597 states it "sometimes" occurs; it is entirely absent in the examples from Groneberg p. 145). NB shows no signs of this rule.

	Old Akkadian		Old Babylonian		Middle Babylonian		Standard Babylonian		1st Mill. Babylonian
3MS	yuparris	}	uparris	}	uperris	}	up ^e / _a rris	}	uparris
3FS	N/A		tuparris		tuperris		tup ^e / _a rris		tuparris
2MS	N/A		tuparris		tuperris		tup ^e / _a rris		tuparris
2FS	N/A		tuparrisī		tuperrisī		tup ^e / _a rrisī		tuparrisī
1CS	N/A		uparris		uperris		up ^e / _a rris		uparris
3MP	yuparrisū		uparrisū		uperrisū		up ^e / _a rrisū		uparrisū
3FP	N/A		uparrisā		uperrisā		up ^e / _a rrisā		uparrisā
2CP	N/A		tuparrisā		tuperrisā		tup ^e / _a rrisā		tuparrisā
1CP	N/A		nuparris		nuperris		nup ^e / _a rris		nuparris

D Strong Preterite Paradigm: Assyrian

**Relevant grammars tend to provide only the 3MS and 3MP forms. In the case of MA, for example, this is all that is attested in the texts. Unlike MB, MA does not undergo e vowel coloring. For shortened NA final vowels see Haemeen-Anttila p. 29.

	Old Akkadian		Old Assyrian		Middle Assyrian		Neo Assyrian
3MS	yuparris		uparris		●		●
3FS	N/A		tuparris		●		●
2MS	N/A		tuparris		●		●
2FS	N/A		tuparrisī		●		tuparrisī
1CS	N/A		uparris		●		●
3MP	yuparrisū		uparrisū		●		uparrisū
3FP	N/A		uparrisā		●		uparrisā
2CP	N/A		tuparrisā		●		tuparrisā
1CP	N/A		nuparris		●		●

D Strong Durative Paradigm: Babylonian

**Oakk Hasselbach p. 274, 288, 284 - inferred from extant weak forms.

***** MB, NB and SB paradigms are extrapolations based on available language sketches; not all forms are attested in the texts.

	Old Akkadian	Old Babylonian	Middle Babylonian	Standard Babylonian	1st Mill. Babylonian
3MS	yuparras	uparras	●	●	uparras
3FS	N/A				
2MS	N/A	tuparras	●	●	●
2FS	N/A	tuparrasī	●	●	●
1CS	N/A	uparras	●	●	●
3MP	yuparrasū	uparrasū	●	●	●
3FP	N/A	uparrasā	●	●	●
2CP	N/A	tuparrasā	●	●	●
1CP	N/A	nuparras	●	●	●

D Strong Durative Paradigm: Assyrian

***Oakk Hasselbach p. 274, 288, 284 - inferred from extant weak forms. Kouwenberg 2013 p. 69 for Assyrian VA in forms with vocalic endings (2FS, 3MP). See Haemeen-Anttila p. 29 for the NA final vowel length.

**Relevant grammars consulted for the below tend to provide only the 3MS and 3MP forms.

	Old Akkadian	Old Assyrian	Middle Assyrian	Neo Assyrian
3MS	yuparras	uparras	●	●
3FS	N/A	tuparras	●	●
2MS	N/A	tuparras	●	●
2FS	N/A	tuparrisī	●	tuparrisi
1CS	N/A	uparras	●	●
3MP	yuparrasū	uparrusū	●	uparrusu
3FP	N/A	uparrasā	●	uparrasa
2CP	N/A	tuparrasā	●	tuparrasa
1CP	N/A	nuparras	●	●