

Implementing Urdu Grammar as Open Source Software

اردو

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LAMA



Introduction

- *Indo-European* → *Indo-Iranian* → *Indo-Aryan*
- Written from **right to left** using **Perso-Arabic** Script.
- **Grammar** and **Vocabulary** influenced by Arabic, Persian and the native languages of South Asia
- Widely Spoken in Pakistan, Jammu & Kashmir and India
- Also spoken all over the world due to big South Asian Diaspora
- **Urdu-Hindi**: share grammar, almost all phonology and lot of vocabulary
- Urdu-Hindi together is the **second most widely spoken language**
(Native + second language)

Contribution

- **Orthography component:** A Unicode Infrastructure to accommodate Perso-Arabic script of Urdu
- **Morphology component :**
 - A **type system** that covers the language abstraction completely
 - An **inflection engine** that covers word-and-paradigm morphological rules for all word classes
- **Lexicon:** Automatically extracted, **4,816 words** generating 137,182 word forms.
- **Grammar component :** A small fragment of syntax

Plan

- Urdu Orthography
- Urdu Morphology
- The Lexicon
- Urdu Syntax
- A complete example
- Conclusion & Future Work

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Urdu Orthography

- An alphabet of 57 letters and 15 diacritic marks
- The use of diacritic marks: optional
- **Morphology** and the **lexicon** saved in ASCII characters
 - **Reusability** for Hindi in future, by adding a lexicon and the transliteration scheme
 - Easy manipulation on different platforms

Urdu Orthography

- Transliteration scheme (Transliterator)
 - Unicode value of each letter is mapped with a unique ASCII string
 - **Clear**, **strict** and **reversible**
- Useful tools
 - Urdu Extractor
 - Keyboard input method
- A GUI application
- Implemented in Java by using ICU4J and Swing packages

Urdu Orthography - Transliteration

```
public class UrduUnicode
{
    public static final char alif = '\u0627';
    public static final char bay = '\u0628';
    public static final char pay = '\u067e';
    .....
}
```

```
public class UrduRoman
{
    public static final String alif = "a";
    public static final String bay = "b";
    public static final String pay = "p";
    ....
}
```

```
private static final String unicode_to_Roman_rules =
    UrduUnicode.alif + ">" + UrduRoman.alif + ";" +
    UrduUnicode.bay + ">" + UrduRoman.bay + ";" +
    .....
```

```
public static final Transliterator unicode_to_roman =
    Transliterator.createFromRules("RomanUrdu-Unicode", unicode_to_Roman_rules, 0);
```

```
String romanText =
    Transliterator_ur.unicode_to_roman.transliterate("Unicode Text");
```


Urdu Orthography - Transliteration

Examples:

کتاب	Kiṭāb	k(i)tab	book
کوشش	koshish	k(a)wX(i)X	struggle
بلاؤ	bulaʔu	b(o)law^	to call

ک	→	k	َ	→	(a)
ِ	→	(i)	ش	→	X
ت	→	t	ُ	→	(o)
ا	→	a	ؤ	→	w^
ب	→	b			

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Morphology Development

Current state of art

- Special-purpose languages based on finite-state technology
- The most well-known among others: **XFST**, **LexC (Xerox)**
 - Implementation: regular expressions, string types
 - Complexity: linear runtime, advance compilation techniques
 - Efficiency: fast, but large networks
- Non-regular formalisms might be difficult to implement efficiently enough

Some open questions

- Does the direct coding allow to implement one's linguistic abstraction adequately?
 - Expressiveness
- Is such model extensible and reusable?
 - How much cost to add a lexical item?
 - Will refinement of information require global re-design
 - Will it cause inconsistencies
- How can it be integrated into applications
 - API and user Interfaces, Software Localization, modularity?

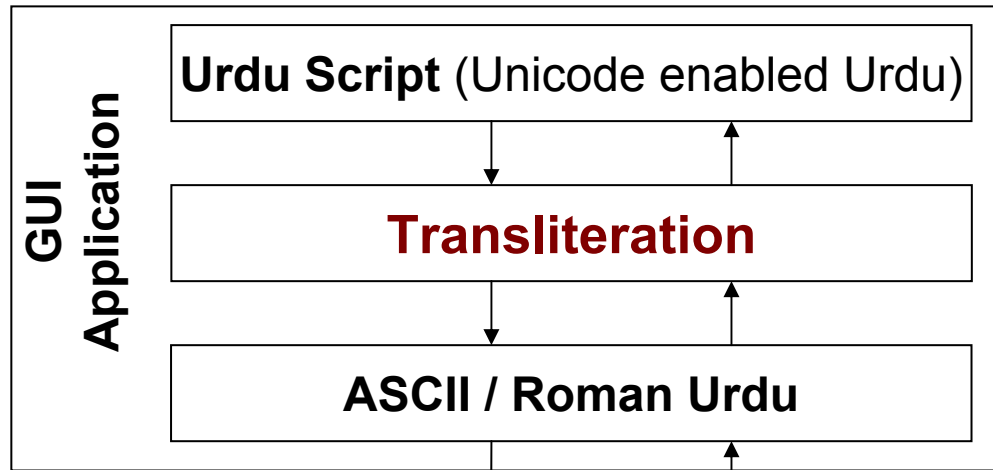
Functional Morphology

- Morphology is implemented in **Functional Morphology (FM)**
- An open source toolkit or domain embedded language for morphology development in Haskell
- Designed by Markus Forsberg & Aarne Ranta
 - Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
 - Sept 2004, International Conference on Functional Programming
- Inspired by Gérard Huet's Zen toolkit
 - Computational processing of Sanskrit, 2002
- Idea: Dealing with grammars as reusable software libraries

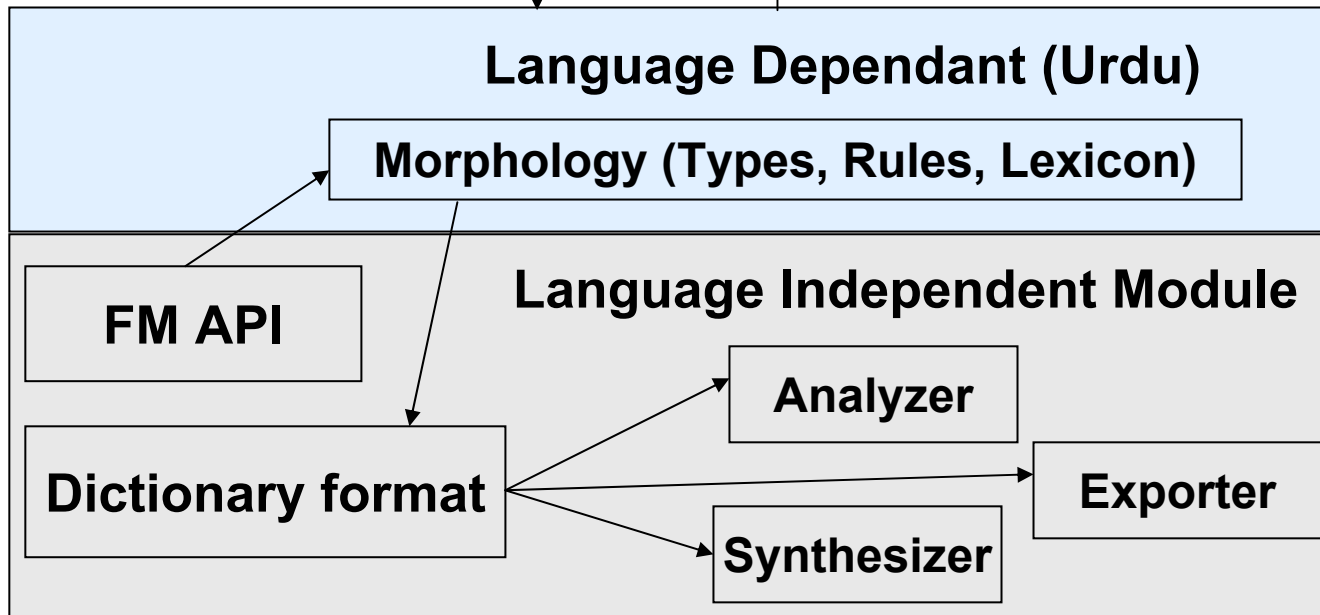
Functional Morphology (cont)

- Haskell: a functional programming language
 - High level of abstraction
 - Higher-order functions
 - Type classes
 - Polymorphism
 - These features: good for capturing linguistic generalizations
- Functional Morphology treats
 - The part of speech (word classes) as **data types**
 - Their Inflection as **finite functions**
- Tools (API functions, Analyzer, Synthesizer, Exporter)

Morphology + Orthography



- XFST and LexC
- GF (Grammatical Framework)
- XML
- SQL
- Full-form lexicon, tables and LATEX



Functional Morphology Toolkit

Nouns in Urdu: type system

- Urdu Noun Inflects in **Number** (*Singular, Plural*) and **Case** (*Nominative, Oblique, Vocative*)

```
data Number      = Singular | Plural
                  deriving (Show, Eq, Enum, Ord, Bounded)
```

```
data Case       = Nominative | Oblique | Vocative
```

....

```
data NounForm  = NF Number Case
```

....

```
type Noun      = NounForm → Str
```

....

- Inherent parameter: **Gender** (*Masculine, Feminine*)

```
data Gender    = Masculine | Feminine
                  deriving (Show, Eq, Enum, Ord, Bounded)
```


Nouns in Urdu

- Nouns are divided into **15 groups** based on their inflection
- Masculine & Feminine proper names: 1 group for each
- **A group as running example:**
 - Singular **masculine** nouns ending with (ا, a), (ہ, h) and (ع, e / ? / ə)
- **Making:**
 - If a word ends with letter (ا, a) or (ہ, h) then:
 - **Plural nominative, singular oblique:** last letter is replaced by (ے, e)
 - **Plural oblique:** the last letter is replaced by (وں, on)
 - **Plural vocative:** last letter is replaced by (و, o)
 - If a word ends with (ع, e / ? / ə): above mentioned letters will be added at the end without replacing any existing letter

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

Example Noun: (laṛka, لڑکا, boy)

	<i>Nominative</i>	<i>Oblique</i>	<i>Vocative</i>
<i>Singular</i>	laṛka لڑکا	laṛke لڑکے	laṛke لڑکے
<i>Plural</i>	laṛke لڑکے	laṛkon لڑکوں	laṛko لڑکو

noun_IRka :: DictForm → Noun

noun_IRka IRka nf = **mkNoun** sg pl sg_obl pl_obl sg_voc pl_voc nf

where

```

sg      = IRka
pl      = IRk ++ "E"
sg_obl  = pl
pl_obl  = IRk ++ "wN"
sg_voc  = pl
pl_voc  = IRk ++ "w"
IRk     = if (end == "e") then IRka else (tk 1 IRka)
end     = dp 1 IRka

```

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

- An general function for the Inflection table of nouns

mkNoun::String→String→String→String→String→String→Number→Case → String

mkNoun sg pl sg_Obl pl_Obl sg_Voc pl_Voc n c =

case n of

Singular → case c of

Nominative → sg

Oblique → sg_Obl

Vocative → sg_Voc

Plural → case c of

Nominative → pl

Oblique → pl_Obl

Vocative → pl_Voc

	<i>Nom</i>	<i>Obl</i>	<i>Voc</i>
<i>Sg</i>	laɾka لڑکا	laɾke لڑکے	laɾke لڑکے
<i>Pl</i>	laɾke لڑکے	laɾkon لڑکوں	laɾko لڑکو

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

- An interface function for this group of nouns

n1 :: DictForm → Entry

n1 df = masculine (noun_IRka df)

DictForm: a string type

masculine: a function for masculine words

- Defined in the Lexicon:

n1 l(a)r'ka (ləɾka, لَٹْڪَا)

n1 b(o)r'q(a)e (bʊrka, بُرَقَ)

n1 p(a)r'd(a)h (pəɾɖɑ, پَرْدَه)

...

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

- An interface function for this group of nouns

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n1 b(o)r'q(a)e (bʊrka, بَرَقَ)

n1 p(a)r'd(a)h (pərdə, پَرْدَه)

...

laʁka

N

Masc

NF Sg Nom: laʁka

NF Sg Obl: laʁke

NF Sg Voc: laʁke

NF Pl Nom: laʁke

NF Pl Obl: laʁkon

NF Pl Voc: laʁko

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

Some other noun-groups in the Lexicon

- Singular masculine nouns ending with (اں, an)

n2 k(o)n'waN (Well, کھناں, کنواں)

n2 d(o)|hwaN (smoke, دھناں, دھواں)

....

	Singular	Plural
Nom	کھناں کنواں	کھنوں کنویں
Obl	کھنوں کنویں	کھنوں کنووں
Voc	کھنوں کنویں	کھنوں کنووں

- Singular masculine nouns not ending with (ا, a), (ہ, h), (ع, e / ے / ۛ) and (اں, an)

n3 m(a)r'd (Man, مرّد)

n3 Aftab (Sun, آفتاب)

	Singular	Plural
Nom	مرّد	مرّدوں
Obl	مرّد	مرّدوں
Voc	مرّد	مرّدو

Nouns in Urdu: inflection engine

Some other noun-groups in the Lexicon

- Singular feminine nouns ending with (ی, y)
n4 k(o)r'sy (Chair, kūr̥si, کرسی)
- Singular feminine nouns ending with (ا, a), (ان, an), (وں, on)
n5 maN (Mother, maṅ, ماں)
- Singular feminine nouns ending with (یا, ya)
n6 g(o)R'ya (Doll, guṛiya, گڑیا)
- ... n7 n14
- Worst-case function for Noun
n15 **singular** singular_obl **singular_voc** plural **plural_obl** plural_voc

Urdu Verbs

	Root	Infinitive	Oblique
Intransitive / Transitive / Ditransitive etc	bən بن	bəna بننا <i>to build (by unknown)</i>	bəne بننے
Direct Causative	bəna بنا	bəna بنانا <i>to build (by self)</i>	bəne بنانے
Indirect Causative	bəna بناوا	bəna بنوانا <i>to build (by third person)</i>	bəne بنوانے

We divide verbs in the following categories:

- Basic stem form, direct & indirect causatives exist
- Only Basic stem form exists
- Basic stem form & direct causative form exist
- Basis stem form & indirect causative form exist
- **6 groups** have been implemented for verbs

Urdu Verbs

- Urdu verb inflects in:
 - Gender, Number
 - Person
 - First
 - Second {*casual, familiar, respectful*}
 - Third {*near, distant*}
 - Tense
 - Subjunctive
 - Perfective
 - Imperfective

Urdu Verbs: type system

- Category: *Basic stem form, direct & indirect causatives exist*

```
type Verb = VerbForm → Str
```

```
data VerbForm =
```

```
  VF Tense Person Number Gender |
```

```
  Caus1 Tense Person Number Gender |
```

```
  Caus2 Tense Person Number Gender |
```

```
  Inf          | Caus1_Inf          | Caus2_Inf          |
```

```
  Inf_Fem      | Caus1_Inf_Fem      | Caus2_Inf_Fem      |
```

```
  Inf_Obl      | Caus1_Inf_Obl      | Caus2_Inf_Obl      |
```

```
  Root         | Caus1_Root         | Caus2_Root         |
```

```
data Person = Pers1 |
```

```
                Pers2_Casual | Pers2_Familiar | Pers2_Respect |
```

```
                Pers3_Near | Pers3_Distant
```

```
data Tense = Subj | Perf | Imperf
```

Urdu Verbs: inflection engine

```
mkVerbCaus12 :: String -> String -> String -> Verb
mkVerbCaus12 vInf caus1_inf caus2_inf =
  mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vInf caus1_inf caus2_inf
  where
    root      = (tk 2 vInf)
    r1        = (tk 2 caus1_inf)
    r2        = (tk 2 caus2_inf)
```

■ An general function for the Inflection table

```
mkGenVerb::DictForm → DictForm → DictForm → DictForm → DictForm → DictForm → Verb
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Root) = root
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Inf)= vf
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Inf_Obl)= (tk 1 vf)++"E"
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Inf_Fem)= (tk 1 vf)++"y"
.....
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (VF t p n g) = mkVAnalysis root t p n g
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Caus1 t p n g) = mkVAnalysis r1 t p n g
mkGenVerb root r1 r2 vf caus1 caus2 (Caus2 t p n g) = mkVAnalysis r2 t p n g
```

Urdu Verbs: inflection engine

mkVAnalysis :: String → Tense → Person → Number → Gender → String

mkVAnalysis root tense p n g =

case tense of

Subjunctive → case p of

Pers1 → case n of

Singular → case g of

 _ → mkEnding b root "w^N" "wN"

Plural → case g of

 _ → mkEnding1 b root "y^yN" "yN"

 _ → mkSubjunctive root p n g

where

 t = dp 1 root

 b = inStr t ["A","a","w"]

Perfective → mkPerfective root p n g

Imperfective → case p of

Pers2_Familiar → case n of

Singular → case g of

 Masc → root ++ "tE"

 Fem → root ++ "ty" ++ " " ++ root ++ "tyN"

.....

.....

Urdu Verbs: in lexicon

■ v4 **bnna bnana bnwana**

(bənnā بننا , bənanā بنانا , bənvāna بنوانا)

Root: **bən** بن

Inf: **bənnā** بننا

Inf_Obl: **bənnē** بننے

Inf_Fem: **bənnī** بننی

Caus1_Root: **bəna** بنا

Caus1_Inf: **bənanā** بنانا

Caus1_Inf_Obl: **bənanē** بنانے

Caus2_Root: **bənvā** بنوا

Caus2_Inf: **bənvānā** بنوانا

Caus2_Inf_Obl: **bənvānē** بنوانے

VF Subj Pers1 Sg Masc/ Fem : **bənʊn** بنوں

VF Subj Pers1 Pl Masc/ Fem : **bənən** بنیں

VF Subj Pers2_Casual Sg Masc/ Fem : **bən** بن

VF Subj Pers2_Casual Pl Masc/ Fem : **bənʊ** بنو

....

Caus1 Subj Pers1 Sg Masc/Fem: **bənaʔʊn** بناؤں

Caus1 Subj Pers1 Pl Masc/Fem: **bənaʔən** بنائیں

Caus1 Subj Pers2_Casual Sg Masc/Fem: **bəna** بنا

Caus1 Subj Pers2_Casual Pl Masc/Fem: **bənaʔo** بناؤ

.....

Caus2 Subj Pers1 Sg Masc/Fem: **bənvāʔʊn** بنواؤں

Caus2 Subj Pers1 Pl Masc/Fem: **bənvāʔən** بنوائیں

Caus2 Subj Pers2_Casual Sg Masc/Fem: **bənvā** بنوا

Caus2 Subj Pers2_Casual Pl Masc/Fem: **bənvāʔo** بنواؤ

.....

Other word classes

■ Adjectives

■ Marked (Inflects in number, case and gender)

■ Ends with (ا , a): nīla نیلا, nīlī نیلی, nīle نیلے : Blue

■ Ends with (ان , an): ḍayaṅ دایاں, ḍaʔeṅ دائیں: Right

■ Unmarked

■ No inflection : khūsh خوش: Happy

■ Ends with (ی , i), made from nouns or Adjectives

■ desi دیسی from noun des دیس : local

■ Inflects in degree (Persian's style)

■ bəḍ بد, bəḍṭr بدتر, bəḍṭrīn بدترین : bad, worse, worst

■ Adverbs

■ The closed classes

■ Pronouns, PostPositions, Particles, Interjunctions, Conjunctions, Negations, Questions and Numerals

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The Lexicon

- A wide-coverage lexicon is a key part of any morphological implementation
- Aim: to build a lexicon automatically with minimal human efforts
- A tool **extract** is used which is provided with the Functional Morphology
- It requires a **paradigm file** and a **corpus**
- To build a **corpus**:
 - A reasonable amount of Urdu Unicode text was collected from the web (news and literature domain)
 - All the html tags & other non-related information were thrown away by a tool (developed with this work) and save the file as text file
 - Urdu Unicode text is then converted into **ASCII Urdu** by transliteration tool
- **The lexicon**: extracted by applying paradigms on corpus

The Lexicon – Example Paradigm(1)

- Singular Feminine nouns not ending with (ا , a), (ن , N), (و , w)

(كتاب , Kiṭab, book), (گاجر , gadʒər, carrot)

```
regex Not_awN = char* (char- ("a" | "N" | "w"));
```

```
paradigm n9 [x:Not_awN] =
  x { (x &
      (x+"yN" | x+"wN" | x+"w")
    )
  };
```

```
n9 k(i)tab
n9 gajr
n9 kRwahT
n9 kar
.....
```

	Nom	Oblique	Voc
Sg	كتاب Kiṭab		
Pl	كتابين Kiṭaben (yN)	كتابون Kiṭabon (wN)	كتابو Kiṭabo (w)

The Lexicon – Example Paradigm(2)

- Verbs that has basic, direct & indirect causative forms:

paradigm v4 =

x + "na" x + "ana" x + "wana"

{

x + "na" & (x + "ana" | x + "wana")

};

v4 dyk|hna d(i)k|hana d(i)k|hwana (دیکھوانا , دیکھانا , دیکھنا)

v4 bnna bnana bnwana (بنوانا , بنانا , بننا)

The Lexicon: Problems

- Urdu is commonly written without or with a variant number of diacritic marks
 - A fundamental limitation to get a fully vocalized corpus
- Problem: having **more versions per word** with different diacritics
 - e.g. (كِتَاب, kīṭab) and (کتاب, kṭab) for word (kīṭab, book)
 - **Point**: We should save only one version per word with full diacritics
- Tokens with different diacritics are **not always same words**
 - e.g. (تیر, ṭīr, to swim) and (تیر, ṭīr, arrow)
 - **Point** : We should save all such words with full diacritics

The Lexicon Extraction - Results

- To assure the correctness:
 - Manually re-checking of the lexicon from word to word
 - Incorrect entries thrown away
- A fundamental limitation
 - The missing diacritics on partly vocalized words are not applied

Corpus	
Size (Words)	1,520,000 (1.5 million)
Words containing Diacritics:	23,696
Unique tokens:	63,700 (4.1%) **

Lexicon	
Extracted lexicon	9,126
Words containing Diacritics:	632
Clean lexicon	4,816 (52.8%)
Words containing Diacritics:	415

This conforms well to our intuition that **high frequent items (postpositions, auxiliaries, particles and pronouns), account for most tokens in Urdu text.

The Lexicon Extraction - Results

- Why so many incorrect entries?
- The strictness of rules in paradigm file: normal
 - Trade-off: quality vs. coverage
- Spelling mistakes:
 - Original Typos
 - Lack of spaces between words
 - Extra spaces inside words
 - **Possible Reason**: The use of Urdu on web is relatively new
- Foreign words:
 - Arabic – The verses of Holy Quran in religious text
 - Persian – Poetry in slightly old literary text
 - Lot of **proper nouns** and **English words** in the news domain

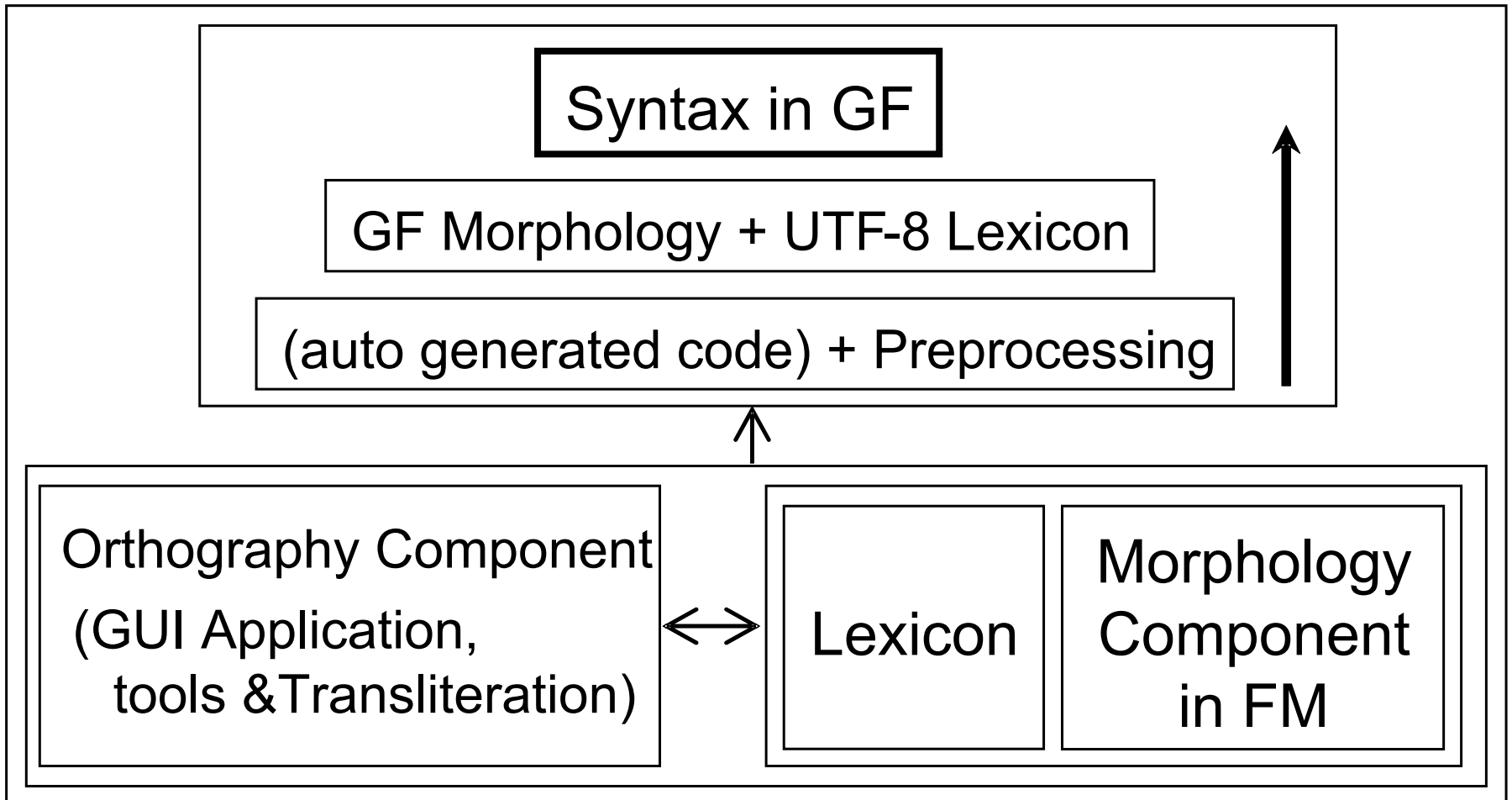
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The Syntax

- Urdu an **SOV** (Subject Object Verb) language
- Relatively **free word order**
- A small fragment of syntax as a separate component on top of morphology by using Grammatical Framework
- **Grammatical Framework (GF):**
 - Grammar formalism based on type theory
 - Programming language for defining grammars (formal + natural)
 - Grammar = The Abstract syntax and Concrete syntax
 - **Abstract syntax** = semantic conditions (correct syntactic structures / trees of a language)
 - **Concrete syntax** = mapping abstract syntax into strings along-with the grammatical features for a language (and back, by reversibility)

The Overall Picture



The Syntax

- In our Implementation: A sentence:
 - Combination a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP)
 - Combination of two sentences by adding a conjunction in between

The Syntax

■ Abstract Syntax:

fun UsePresS: NP → VP → S;

■ Concrete Syntax:

UsePresS np vp =

{s = np.s ! Nom ++ vp.s ! Present ! np.p ! np.n ! np.g}

is ko kṛṭabeṇ leni heṇ, اس کو کتابیں لینی ہیں, He/she is suppose to take the books

DemPron → Num → CN → NP	ye do kṛṭabeṇ, یہ دو کتابیں, these two books
DemPron → PN → NP	vo Ali, وہ علی, that Ali
NP → PostP → CN → NP	is ko kṛṭabeṇ, اس کو کتابیں, to him the books

Verb_Aux → VP	heṇ, ہیں, are
Verb → Verb_Aux → VP	leni thiṇ, لینی تھیں, was suppose to take

[More examples sentences](#)

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A Complete Example

is ko ktābeṅ leni hen) اس کو کتابیں لینی ہیں

Transliteration: a(i)s kw ktabyN lyny hyN

< اس, a(i)s >

yih_6 یہ +DemPron - Sg Obl - Pers3_Near

mayN_8 میں +PersPron - Sg Pers3_Near Obl

< کو, kw >

kw_18 کو +PostP

< کتابیں, ktabyN >

ktab_824 کتاب +N - Pl Nom - Fem

< لینی, lyny >

lyna_2 لینا +Verb - Inf_Fem

< ہیں, hyN >

hwana_0 ہونا +Verb_Aux - Present Pers1 Pl Masc

hwana_0 ہونا +Verb_Aux - Present Pers1 Pl Fem

...

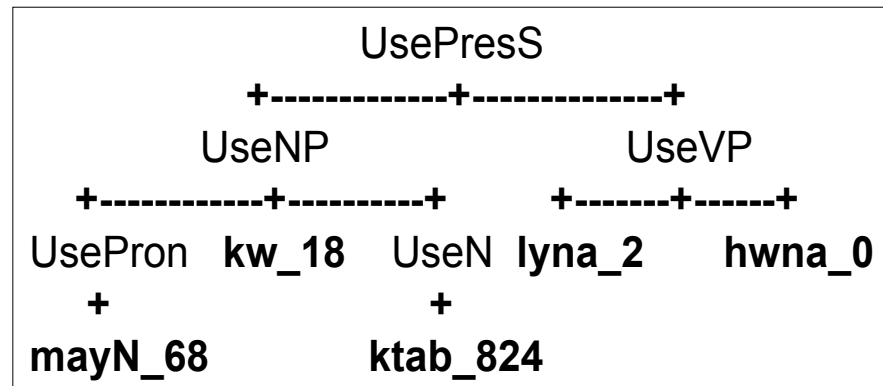
Syntactic parsing:

UsePresS

(UseNP (UsePron mayN_68) kw_18

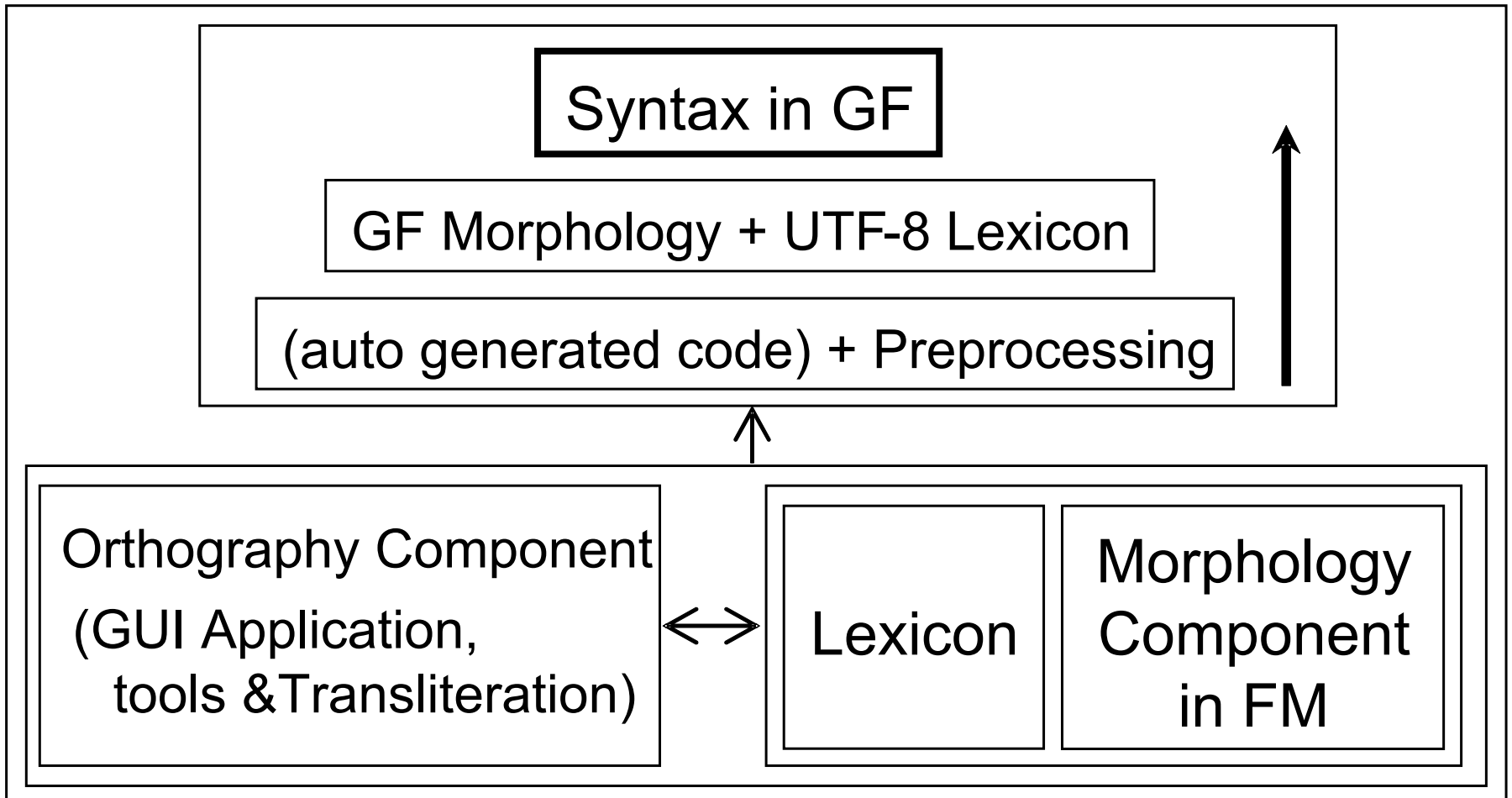
(UseN ktab_824))

(UseVP lyna_2 hwana_0)



Syntax tree

The Overall Picture



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Conclusion

■ Merits:

- Functional Morphology proved to be a very good choice for implementing Urdu morphology
- A comprehensive, reusable & elegant implementation for Urdu that covers the linguistic abstraction (morphology) adequately

■ Limitations:

- Can't deal with words that have spaces in between
- A partly vocalized Lexicon
- Run time system requires an exact match:
 - One cannot check if there exist orthographically different versions of a word

Future Work

- **A component** that matches the partly vocalized input words with the canonical words in the lexicon
- **Algorithms** to add missing diacritics on partly vocalized words
- A bigger lexicon
- Analysis of words that contains spaces in between
- A comprehensive implementation for **syntax**
- **Implementation of Hindi**, by adding a lexicon and a transliteration scheme
- The Next Big Step: Urdu-English Machine Translation

Some screen shots

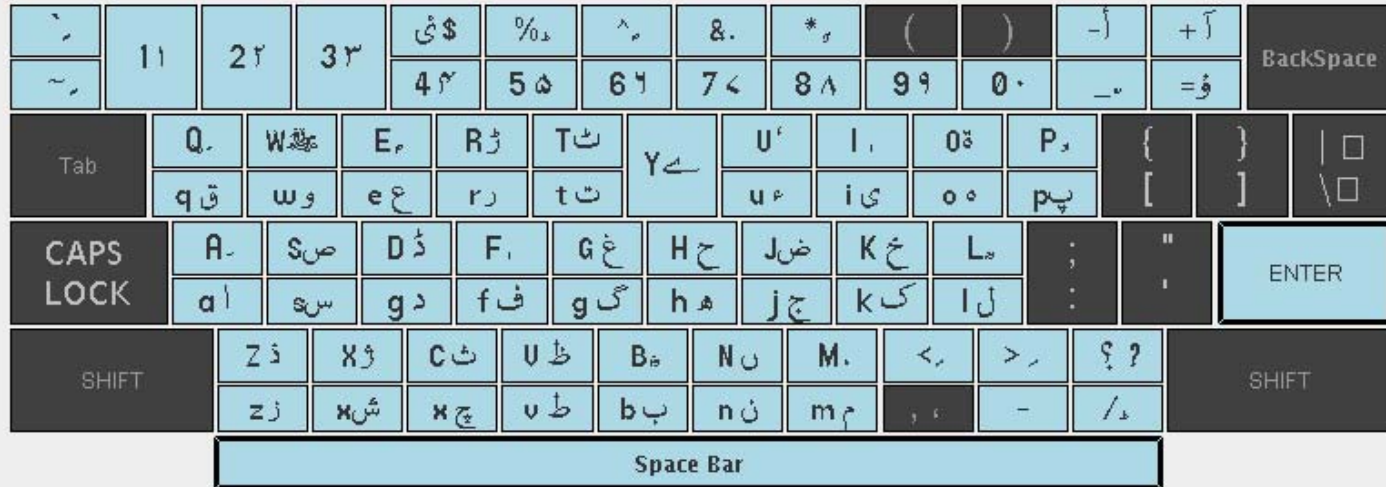
کتاب

k(i)tab

Show Analysis

Hide Urdu keyboard

Clear



Dictionary loaded: DF = 4807 and WF = 137078.

[<کتاب, k(i)tab>

14. {کتاب, k(i)tab} (1074) N - NF Sg Nom - Fem

15. {کتاب, k(i)tab} (1074) N - NF Sg Obl - Fem

16. {کتاب, k(i)tab} (1074) N - NF Sg Voc - Fem

]

Show Analysis

Display Urdu keyboard

Clear

* Urdu Morphology *

* Functional Morphology v1.10 *

* (c) Markus Forsberg & Arne Ranta 2004 *

* under GNU General Public License. *

* Implementation for Urdu *

* (Muhammad Humayoun 2006) *

* Chalmers University of Technology *

Dictionary loaded: DF = 4807 and WF = 137078.

[<کتاب, k(i)tab>

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16. {کتاب, k(i)tab} (1074) N - NF Sg Voc - Fem

]

Tagger Mode: Please be patient! It will take some time to build the data sturcture first time...

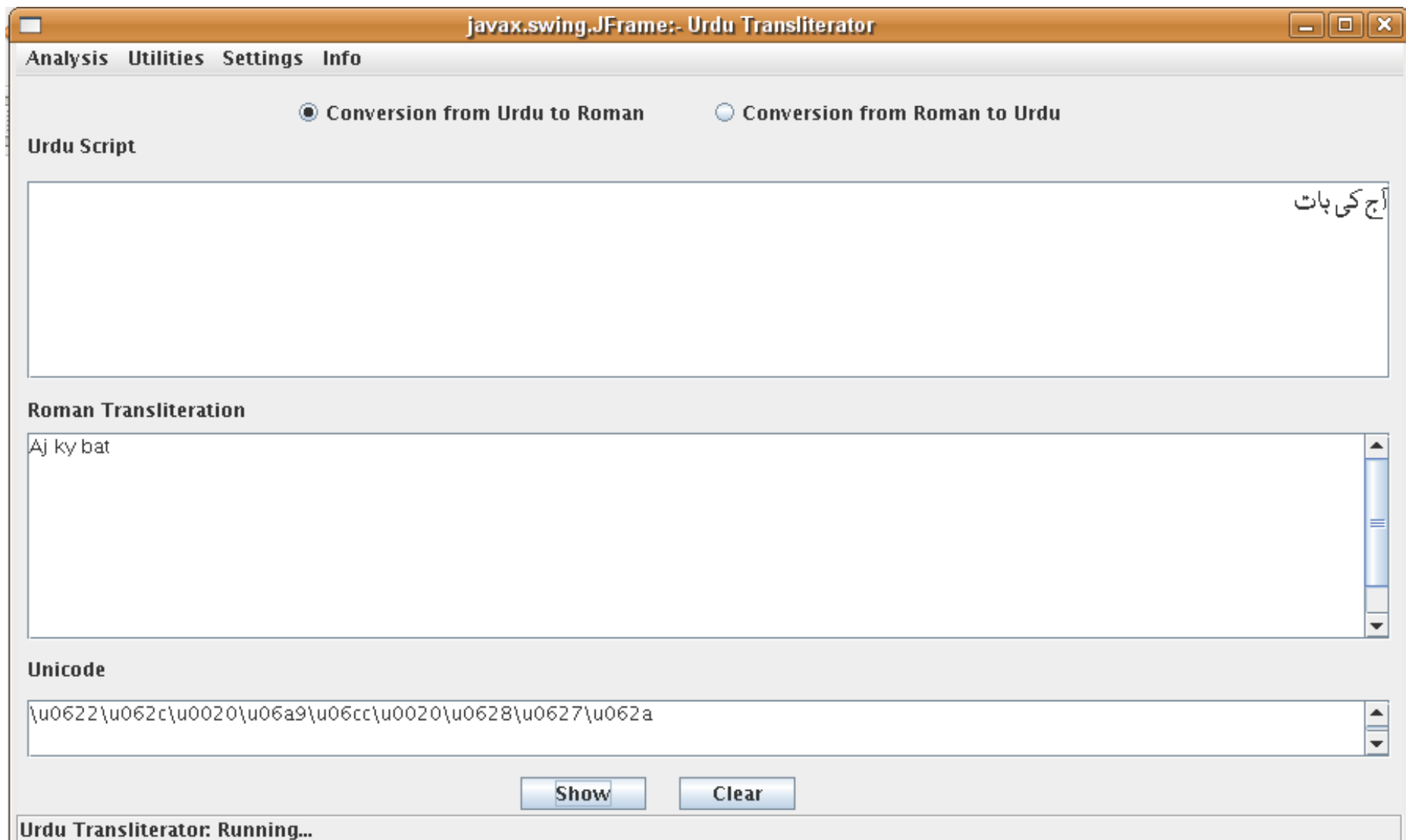
C-Trie program

Tagger Mode

Synthesiser Mode

Inflection Mode

Exit



Thanks for your attention

Questions / Comments



Homepage of the project

<http://www.lama.univ-savoie.fr/~humayoun/UrduMorph/>