An Experimental Analysis of Chinese Poetic Discourse Model in the *Book of Odes (Shijing* 詩經)
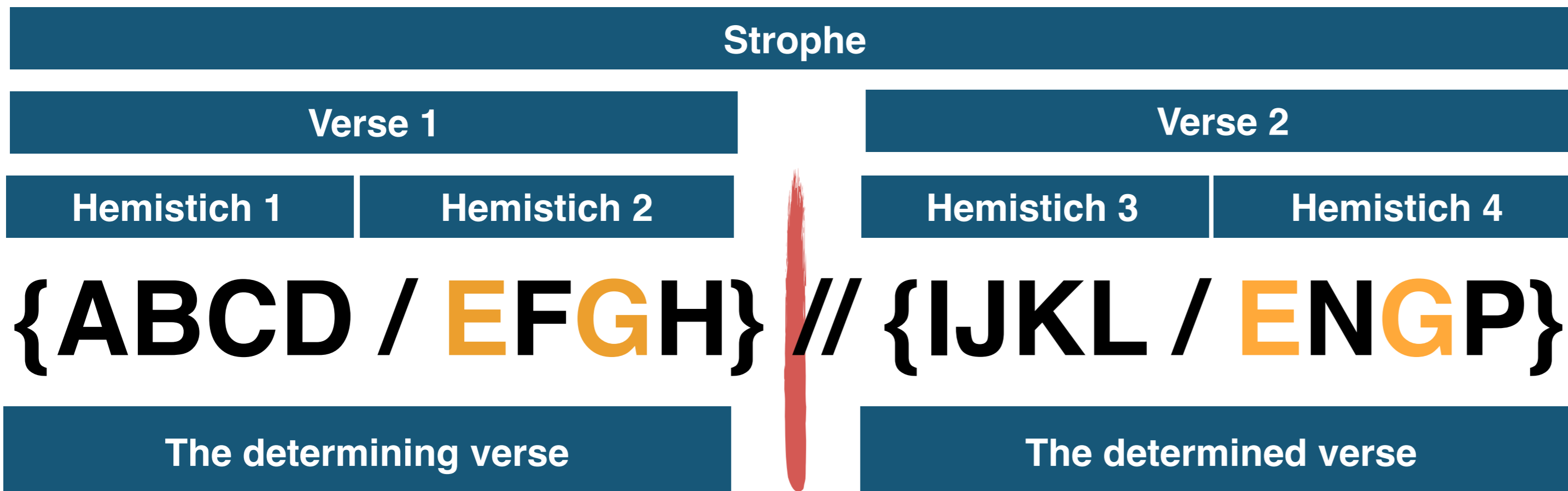
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Question

How do we handle the ambiguous connexion between two verses produced with the *incentive process* (Xing 興)?

Strophe			
Verse 1		Verse 2	
Hemistich 1	Hemistich 2	Hemistich 3	Hemistich 4

{ABCD / EFGH} // {IJKL / ENGP}

The determining verse	The determined verse

1 alphabetic letter
= 1 sinogram
= 1 syllabo-morphemic character

/ = short pause
// = long pause
{} = verse boundary
Colored letter = syntactic formula

The red thread indicates where the exegesis of Xing was typically inserted according to the *Mao Shi Zhuan* 毛詩傳

Hypothesis

We can establish non semantic connexions between verses by literary rhythms: temporal patterns created by frequent combinations of sinograms, phonetics, sounds or lexical categories.

{ABCD / EFGH} // {IJKL / ENGP}

{+ + - - / + - + +} // { + + - - / - + - -}

1 Identical Pattern

2 Complementary Pattern

* Frequent (+)
* Rare (-)

Method: Automatic Simulation of Gradual Reading

Combinatory Analysis

Objet	Model produced by combinatory calculation (= axis of combination)	Position of morpheme considered as a component of the axis of selection of positions	Number of position(s) crossed on the axis of selection of morphemes
ABCD	ABCD	0	0
	◯BCD	1	1
	A◯CD	2	
	AB◯D	3	
	ABC◯	4	
	◯◯CD	1, 2	2
	◯B◯D	1, 3	
	A◯◯D	2, 3	
	◯BC◯	1, 4	
	A◯C◯	2, 4	
	AB◯◯	3, 4	
	◯◯◯D	1, 2, 3	3
	◯◯C◯	1, 2, 4	
	◯B◯◯	1, 3, 4	
	A◯◯◯	2, 3, 4	
	◯◯◯◯	1, 2, 3, 4	4

Distribution Analysis

Sample of a representative model extracted on the 2nd scale

Hemistich	在	河	之	洲	Count	Reference
Model	A	◯	C	◯	18	Shijing
		坰		野	4	Jiong297
		浚		都	2	GanMao053
		渭		涘	1	DaMing236
		河		滸	1	GeLei071
		水		涘	1	JianJia129
		河		洲	1	**GuanJu001**
Series	在	浚	之	郊	1	GanMao053
		河		涘	1	GeLei071
		水		湄	1	JianJia129
		浚		下	1	KaiFeng032
		洽		陽	1	DaMing236
		河		漘	1	GeLei071
		周		庭	1	YouGu280
		渭		將	1	HuangYi241
Tag	+	-	+	-		

Contributions

Qualitative Analysis

Ordre	Rythme	Texte	Traduction	Fonction
1	f-p-f-f	菀彼桑柔	Le mûrier souple et luxuriant	
2	p-f-f-f	其下侯旬	Tombe largement alangui.	
3	f-f-f-f	捋采其劉	Saisir, cueillir enfin dépouiller :	
4	f-p-f-f	瘼此下民	Telle est la peine du petit peuple	Motif initial
xingye 興也				
5	f-f-f-p-	不殄心憂	Indélébile le grief en mon cœur,	
6	f-f-f-p-	倉兄填兮	Détresse, affliction y demeurent.	
7	f-p-f-f	倬彼昊天	Splendeur ! Voici le Ciel immense !	
8	f-f-p-f	寧不我矜	Pourquoi n'a-t-il pitié de moi ?	Motif final

Frequent (+) = commun = *piano* (p) = soft = negative factor for mean idea

Rare (-) = particular = *forte* (f) = strong = positive factor for mean idea

🟩 = Pairing and putting hemistichs in the same hierarchical order

Future Directions

1. Exploring unconventional language rules
2. Characterizing language styles
3. Measuring the language style distance: secular/canonical, south/north, antique/contemporary…etc