

**Extending Parametric Comparison: Some Preliminary Results**  
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The basic goal of the research reported here is to further develop the Parameter Comparison Method (PCM) by constructing a database of clausal parameter values in the form of a “parametric grid” of the kind developed in extensive research on variation in nominals by Cristina Guardiano, Giuseppe Longobardi, and others (see in particular Ceolin et al 2020, Guardiano & Longobardi 2017, Longobardi & Guardiano 2009, 2017). A parametric grid arranges data on parameter values across languages, putting the values associated with each parameter in rows and those associated with each language in columns. This permits the pair-wise calculation of parametric distances between languages, which can then be input to phylogenetic tree-optimisation programs to give a representation of the distances among the languages. This representation can take the form of a traditional *Stammbaum*, making possible a comparison with the results of traditional comparative reconstruction.

The longer-term goal of the project of which this research is a part is to determine the values of 87 clausal parameters in 42 languages from 7 families, along with the isolate Basque and the possible isolates Japanese and Korean. In this presentation, however, we limit our discussion to the results of a preliminary survey of thirteen languages. The parameters are connected to the VP/vP and TP domains with just a small number of CP-related parameters.

In our presentation we first describe the PCM, then briefly discuss our choice of clause-level parameters. We then present preliminary results. These are: (a) we can isolate the main language families of Europe (Romance, Germanic, Slavic); (b) the anomalies in relation to traditional family trees based on comparative reconstruction concern three main cases, English, Greek and Afrikaans, and in each of these cases language contact is clearly playing a role; (c) following on from (b), clear heuristics are needed in order to identify the exact nature of the role played by contact. We close with some speculative comments on this last point.