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Overlapping subjunctive forms in Gallo- and Ibero-Romance verb paradigms

Abstract

In several varieties of Catalan, Valencian and Occitan, inflectional exponents originating in the imperfect subjunctive (reflex of Latin pluperfect subjunctive) are analogically extended into the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms, resulting in syncretism between present and imperfect subjunctive forms for the relevant persons. The scope and directionality of such extensions are remarkably consistent, and are indicative of a change driven by the structure of the inflectional paradigm in the relevant varieties. A significant consequence of this development, which fits into a general Romance tendency for analogical remodelling of first and second person plural forms, is alignment between previously overlapping distributions of stem allomorphs and stress placement, and thus greater predictability of inflected forms.

Keywords

syncretism, analogical change, verb inflection, Occitan, Catalan, Valencian

1. Introduction¹

In varieties of Catalan, Valencian, Occitan, and the *Croissant linguistique*,² inflectional material originating in the preterite and/or imperfect subjunctive (i.e. in the continuants of Latin *perfectum* forms) is extended into other areas of the verb paradigm: almost exclusively, the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms. The highly constrained nature of the extension, both with respect to directionality of change and with respect to the resulting paradigmatic distributions, is remarkable, and indicative of a change driven by the structure of the inflectional paradigm in the relevant varieties: that is to say, that there are structural properties of the inflectional paradigm which consistently and uniquely identify the set of cells {PRS.SBJV.1PL, PRS.SBJV.2PL} as a suitable target for analogy from the reflexes of Latin *perfectum* forms, and in particular from the imperfect subjunctive. Based on data drawn from linguistic atlases and dialect descriptions, as well as recent fieldwork data, this paper offers a detailed typology of the observed developments, and discusses the factors which motivate them.

The paper opens with a brief sketch of relevant theoretical background on the structure and behaviour of Romance verb inflection in diachrony (section 2), with particular attention to recurrent patterns in the paradigmatic distribution of exponents, and to groupings of paradigm cells which behave as consistent blocks in analogical change. These patterns and groupings constitute ‘morphemes’ in the sense of Aronoff (1994, pp.22–29) and Maiden (2009a, 2016a, 2018, pp.9–24); the present study refers to them by the more specific term ‘metamorphemes’ (Round, 2015), which exclusively denotes distributions of exponents within an inflectional paradigm, as distinct from other morphomic phenomena such as inflectional classes.³

The core of the paper examines the developments observed, which cluster into two main strands. In the first strand (section 3), only a subset of verb lexemes are affected, all of which present established root allomorphy: for each affected lexeme, a root or thematic element present across all reflexes of Latin *perfectum* forms in the lexeme is copied to the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms. In the second strand (section 4), usually affecting all verb lexemes, entire imperfect subjunctive wordforms are imported into the first and second person plural present subjunctive, ousting the etymological present subjunctive forms; such developments result in systematic, symmetrical

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² The *Croissant linguistique* (literally, ‘Linguistic Crescent’ in reference to its crescent-like shape when plotted on a map) is an area comprising central Gallo-Romance varieties transitional between northern (Oïl) and southern (Occitan) groupings; see Brun-Trigaud (1990).

³ The term ‘metamorpheme’ will be used throughout for consistency. Note, however, that the majority of cited authors use the more general term ‘morpheme’ (Maiden, 2018, p.3), with some variance as to its definition and scope (O’Neill, 2014, pp.31–32; Maiden, 2018, pp.9–24).

syncretism between present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive for the relevant person and number values.

The common theme across both strands is of analogical change targeting paradigm cells which constitute a coherent block (share one or more exponents with each other), and which also share one or more exponents with *perfectum* reflexes. Framed in more theoretical terms, the first and second person present subjunctive cells constitute an area of overlap (termed ‘clash’ by Maiden, 2009a, 2018, pp.288–289) between metamorphemes; the analogical developments observed are a means of resolving the overlap by increasing the consistency of alignment between the paradigmatic distributions of distinct exponents. Thus, the overall finding of the paper is that analogical change (in this case, redistribution of stem exponents) preferentially occurs in cells which constitute the locus of clash between established paradigmatic distributions of inflectional exponents, and that the effect of such change is to reinforce the mutually predictive relationship between distinct inflectional exponents (in this case, root allomorphs and stress placement). The scope and substance of the developments discussed here further illustrate the empirical reality and explanatory relevance of structured, paradigmatic relationships between inflectional forms.

2. Present and imperfect subjunctives in the diachrony of Romance metamorphemes

Work in morphology seeking to characterise the structure and organisation of inflectional systems has repeatedly identified recurrent and systematic patterning in the paradigmatic distribution of inflectional exponents (see e.g. Aronoff, 1994; Bonami & Boyé, 2002, 2003; Baerman et al., 2005; Ackerman et al., 2009; Stump & Finkel, 2013; Bonami, 2014; Round, 2015; Blevins, 2016; Stump, 2016). Within this research programme, Maiden’s investigation of stem distribution (e.g. 2009a, 2016a, 2016b, 2018) firmly establishes the value of diachronic data in demonstrating the psychological reality of paradigmatic distribution patterns: the persistence and (analogical) productivity of many such patterns indicates that they are real and relevant to speakers. Existing research on the shape and behaviour of Romance metamorphemes relevant to the categories discussed in the paper is outlined in this section.

2.1. Romance metamorphemes involving the present and imperfect subjunctives

The inflectional paradigm of Latin verbs conventionally divides into three consistent groupings of cells, each characterised by a distinct stem: the ‘third stem’ which is among the first identified metamorphemes (Aronoff 1994, pp.31–59), the *infectum* or ‘present’ stem, and the *perfectum* or ‘perfect’ stem. The paradigmatic distribution of *infectum* and *perfectum* stems is partially correlated with, but technically independent of, the aspectual contrast between imperfective and perfective values, and will be treated here as metamorphomic (see also Meul, 2013, pp.30–31; Maiden, 2013, 2018, pp.81–82, 247).

In the varieties under discussion here, the present and imperfect subjunctive originate within the *infectum* and *perfectum* distributions respectively: the modern present subjunctive continues the Latin present subjunctive, e.g. CANTEM ‘sing.PRS.SBJV.1SG’, FACIAM ‘do.PRS.SBJV.1SG’ (*infectum* stem); while the modern imperfect subjunctive continues the Latin pluperfect subjunctive in some varieties, e.g. CANTÄUISSEM ‘sing.PLPF.SBJV.1SG’, FĒCISSEM ‘do.PLPF.SBJV.1SG’ (*perfectum* stem),

and the Latin pluperfect indicative in others, e.g. CANTĀUERAM ‘sing.PLPF.IND.1SG’, FĒCERAM ‘do.PLPF.IND.1SG’ (*perfectum* stem).

The reflexes of *perfectum* forms constitute a well-documented metamorphome, given the abstract label ‘PYTA’⁴ by Maiden (2001, 2018, p.48), and usually comprising the preterite (reflex of Latin perfect indicative: CANTĀŪI ‘sing.PFV.IND.1SG’, FĒCĪ ‘do.PFV.IND.1SG’, etc.), and the imperfect subjunctive. Comparative Romance data indicate strong tendencies for all constituent cells of PYTA to maintain perfect interpredictability, undergoing analogical change as a coherent block (Maiden, 2005, 2018, pp.48–62; O’Neill, 2014), and for exponents within PYTA to acquire a characteristic phonological shape across cells and lexemes: for instance, in Castilian, almost all distinctive PYTA roots are characterised by a high root vowel (Maiden, 2001, 2005), while in both Occitan and Catalan PYTA forms commonly present a thematic velar element /sk/ or /g/ (Wheeler, 2011; Esher, 2016). PYTA may also act as a domain constraining the analogical extension of exponents associated with particular morphosemantic or morphosyntactic values: for example, in Daco-Romance, some personal desinences are harmonised across all and only TAM (tense, aspect, mood) categories within PYTA (Maiden, 2009b).

The set of reflexes of *inflectum* forms (present indicative, present subjunctive, imperfect indicative) undergoes substantial fragmentation due to context-sensitive sound changes which introduce novel alternation patterns (for illustrative examples of these patterns, see Tables 1–4 in section 2.2). Two distinct sound changes with identical paradigmatic distribution (palatalisation and affrication of root-final consonants before yod, and affrication of root-final velars before front vowels) introduce distinctive root allomorphs in the cells {PRS.SBJV, PRS.IND.1SG, (PRS.IND.3PL)}, a distributional pattern which subsequently persists as a productive metamorphome (Maiden’s ‘L/U-pattern’, 2009a, 2018, pp.84–90).⁵ In an unrelated change, the rhizotonic (root-stressed) forms found in the singular and third person plural cells of the present indicative and subjunctive develop root allomorphs distinct from the arrhizotonic (non-root-stressed) forms found elsewhere, an alternation pattern which is subsequently morphologised by speakers; the set of cells {PRS.SG, PRS.3PL, IMPV.2SG} is identified as a diachronically productive metamorphome, the ‘N-pattern’, by Maiden (2009a, 2018, pp.167–192).⁶ For both these patterns, as for PYTA, there is widespread and abundant evidence for ‘coherence’ (all constituent cells of a given metamorphome are subject to the same analogical changes; Maiden, 2005) and ‘convergence’ (across lexemes, the exponents of a given metamorphome tend towards a consistent phonological shape; Maiden, 2005).

Historically, therefore, the present and imperfect subjunctives of modern Romance originate with formally distinct exponents, and are expected to display stems distinct from one another.

⁴ ‘PYTA’ is an acronym for the expression *perfecto y tiempos afines* ‘perfect and related tenses’ conventionally used in the Spanish grammatical tradition to designate reflexes of *perfectum* forms.

⁵ Within a tabular presentation of the paradigm, the constituent cells form a shape resembling the letter L (for varieties in which the context relevant to the sound changes only occurred in present subjunctive and first person singular present indicative forms) or the letter U (for varieties in which the third person plural present indicative also presented the relevant context).

⁶ Within a tabular presentation of the paradigm, the singular and third person plural cells form a shape resembling a dash and dot, corresponding to the letter N in Morse code.

2.2. Clash, coalescence and shared exponents

Romance inflectional forms involve multiple exponents, the paradigmatic distributions of which typically overlap to some degree. For example, the paradigmatic distribution of lexically specified stress alternations does not necessarily coincide with the paradigmatic distribution of lexically specified stem alternations; and the paradigmatic distribution of an alternation concerning stem consonants (e.g. the L/U-pattern) may differ from the paradigmatic distribution of an alternation concerning stem vowels (e.g. the N-pattern). Furthermore, not all metamorphic patterns are visible to speakers in all lexemes. Thus, in standard Catalan *sortir* ‘go out’ (Table 1), there is no exponent unique to all and only L-pattern and PYTA forms, while the N-pattern is realised by both stress patterns and root vowel alternation: in this verb, non-root stress and a root vowel [o] occur in the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms (i.e. a proper subset of the L-pattern) and in all PYTA forms; whereas root stress and a root vowel [u] distinctively occur in all N-pattern cells, including the singular and third person plural present subjunctive forms (a further subset of the L-pattern). In standard Catalan *poder* ‘be able’ (Table 2), the L-pattern and PYTA share a thematic velar consonant, but differ in their root vowels, while an N-pattern-shaped stress contrast is retained between different persons of the present subjunctive.

In cases where two exponent distributions overlap in the same lexeme, speakers may alter the distribution of one exponent, aligning it with the distribution of the other, as observed in the ‘reinforcement’ of inflectional class exponents described by Enger (2014). This strategy, which increases the predictability and systematicity of exponent-distributions, has been documented for stress and stem alternations in the history of Italo-Romance and Gallo-Romance preterites (Maiden, 2000; Esher, 2015), as well as in the history of present subjunctive forms in some Ibero-Romance, Raeto-Romance and Italo-Romance varieties (Maiden, 2012, 2018, pp.117–122). In the present subjunctive, such changes typically affect the first and second person plural forms, which may remain arrhizotonic (non-root-stressed) and lose the characteristic L-pattern root, or become rhizotonic (root-stressed) and retain the characteristic root.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'surto	soɾ'tia	'surti	soɾ'tí	soɾ'tís	soɾti're	soɾti'ria
2SG	'surts	soɾ'ties	'surtis	soɾ'tires	soɾ'tissis	soɾti'ràs	soɾti'ries
3SG	surt	soɾ'tia	'surti	soɾ'tí	soɾ'tís	soɾti'rà	soɾti'ria
1PL	soɾ'tim	soɾ'tíem	soɾ'tim	soɾ'tírem	soɾ'tíssim	soɾti'rem	soɾti'riem
2PL	soɾ'tiu	soɾ'tíeu	soɾ'tiu	soɾ'tíreu	soɾ'tíssiu	soɾti'reu	soɾti'rieu
3PL	'surten	soɾ'tien	'surten	soɾ'tiren	soɾ'tissin	soɾti'ran	soɾti'rien

Table 1. Finite synthetic forms of *sortir* ‘go out’, standard Catalan. Standard orthography, with the addition of an IPA stress mark to indicate primary stress.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>puc</i>	<i>po'dia</i>	<i>'pugui</i>	<i>po'guí</i>	<i>po'gués</i>	<i>po'dré</i>	<i>po'dria</i>
2SG	<i>pots</i>	<i>po'dies</i>	<i>'puguis</i>	<i>po'gues</i>	<i>po'guessis</i>	<i>po'dràs</i>	<i>po'dries</i>
3SG	<i>pot</i>	<i>po'dia</i>	<i>'pugui</i>	<i>po'gué</i>	<i>po'gués</i>	<i>po'drà</i>	<i>po'dria</i>
1PL	<i>po'dem</i>	<i>po'diem</i>	<i>pu'guem</i>	<i>po'guérem</i>	<i>po'guéssim</i>	<i>po'drem</i>	<i>po'driem</i>
2PL	<i>po'deu</i>	<i>po'dieu</i>	<i>pu'gueu</i>	<i>po'guéreu</i>	<i>po'guéssiu</i>	<i>po'dreu</i>	<i>po'drieu</i>
3PL	<i>'poden</i>	<i>po'dien</i>	<i>'puguin</i>	<i>po'guéren</i>	<i>po'guessin</i>	<i>po'dran</i>	<i>po'drien</i>

Table 2. Finite synthetic forms of *poder* ‘be able’, standard Catalan. Standard orthography, with the addition of an IPA stress mark to indicate primary stress.

The data in Table 2 also illustrate a tendency characteristic of both Catalan and Occitan, in which the L-pattern and PYTA share stem exponents, particularly a thematic velar element /sk/ or /g/. For Catalan, Wheeler (2011, p.183) analyses the set of cells with a thematic velar as a single metamorpheme; in Maiden’s terms, this is a case of ‘coalescence’ (i.e. fusion) between the L-pattern and PYTA (2018, pp.294–295). As Wheeler demonstrates, most modern instances of the velar are of analogical origin: from the few verbs in which a velar element is etymological in the preterite and/or present subjunctive, this element has been spread throughout PYTA and the L-pattern, and to many additional verb lexemes.

Extensive analogical spread of thematic velar elements, and close formal parallelism between the constituent cells of the L-pattern and PYTA, is also found in Occitan (Table 3; Esher, 2016, p.279), though in most Occitan varieties, due to regular sound change the L-pattern is now coextensive with the present subjunctive, and no longer includes the first person singular present indicative (Maiden, 2018, pp.145–148). The major differences between the exponents of the L-pattern and PYTA now concern theme vowels (typically, all and only PYTA forms display stressed /ɛ/) and stress assignment (a subset of L-pattern forms are rhizotonic, whereas all PYTA forms are arrhizotonic); for verbs with a mid vowel or diphthong in their root, the contrast between rhizotonic and arrhizotonic forms also involves a contrast of vowel quality, as shown in Table 4.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>fau</i>	<i>fa'siá</i>	<i>'faga</i>	<i>fa'guèri</i>	<i>fa'guèsse</i>	<i>fa'rai</i>	<i>fa'riá</i>
2SG	<i>fas</i>	<i>fa'siás</i>	<i>'fagas</i>	<i>fa'guères</i>	<i>fa'guèsses</i>	<i>fa'ràs</i>	<i>fa'riás</i>
3SG	<i>fa</i>	<i>fa'siá</i>	<i>'faga</i>	<i>fa'guèt</i>	<i>fa'guèsse</i>	<i>fa'rà</i>	<i>fa'riá</i>
1PL	<i>fa'sèm</i>	<i>fa'siam</i>	<i>fa'guem</i>	<i>fa'guèrem</i>	<i>fa'guèssèm</i>	<i>fa'rem</i>	<i>fa'riam</i>
2PL	<i>fa'sètz</i>	<i>fa'siatz</i>	<i>fa'guetz</i>	<i>fa'guèretz</i>	<i>fa'guèssetz</i>	<i>fa'retz</i>	<i>fa'riatz</i>
3PL	<i>fan</i>	<i>fa'sián</i>	<i>'fagan</i>	<i>fa'guèron</i>	<i>fa'guèsson</i>	<i>fa'ràn</i>	<i>fa'rián</i>

Table 3. Finite synthetic forms of *far* ‘do’, normative Occitan (Alibèrt, 1976, p.161). Standard orthography, with the addition of an IPA stress mark to indicate primary stress: <á> and post-tonic <a> represent [ɔ]; <i> preceding a vowel represents [j].

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'vòli	vo'liá	'vòlga	vol'guèri	vol'guèsse	vol'rai	vol'riá
2SG	vòls	vo'liás	'vòlgas	vol'guères	vol'guèsses	vol'ràs	vol'riás
3SG	vòl	vo'liá	'vòlga	vol'guèt	vol'guèsse	vol'rà	vol'riá
1PL	vo'lèm	vo'liam	vol'guem	vol'guèrem	vol'guèsssem	vol'rem	vol'riam
2PL	vo'lètz	vo'liatz	vol'guetz	vol'guèretz	vol'guèssetz	vol'retz	vol'riatz
3PL	'vòlon	vo'lián	'vòlgan	vol'guèron	vol'guèsson	vol'ràn	vol'rián

Table 4. Finite synthetic forms of *voler* ‘want’, normative Occitan (Alibèrt, 1976, pp.196–197). Standard orthography, with the addition of an IPA stress mark to indicate primary stress: <ò>, <á> and post-tonic <a> represent [ɔ]; unstressed <o> represents [u]; <i> preceding a vowel represents [j].

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG							
2SG							
3SG							
1PL							
2PL							
3PL							

Table 5. Schematic representation of exponent distributions in Occitan verbs. Arrhizotonic forms are shaded; rhizotonic forms are unshaded; *perfectum* reflexes are crosshatched; forms with a thematic velar are enclosed by a broken line.

Within a single variety, different lexemes instantiate subtly differing distributional patterns; within a single lexeme, differing distributional patterns can be inferred according to different inflectional exponents. The varied patterns inferrable from the stem exponents of a lexeme such as *voler* ‘want’ (Table 4) are schematised in Table 5. As can be seen, the cells {PRS.SBJV.1PL, PRS.SBJV.2PL} occur at the intersection of stem and stress distributions: within the set of forms which can display a thematic velar, they share the property of arrhizotonicity and the associated root variant with the *perfectum* reflexes, but share the lack of thematic /ɛ/ with the other present subjunctive cells. These two cells thus constitute the locus of clash between exponent distributions; it will be argued here that analogical change redistributing stem exponents preferentially occurs in these two cells, ‘reinforcing’ the mutually predictive relationship between stem exponents and stress via redistribution of stem exponents.

3. Analogical extension of root allomorphs and stem formatives

3.1. Spread of a thematic velar consonant

As discussed by Wheeler (2011) and Esher (2016), and illustrated in Tables 2–4, the extension of the thematic velar in Occitan and Catalan ordinarily affects all present subjunctive cells. However, in some

varieties or conjugational classes, the extension is clearly limited to the first person plural and second person plural present subjunctive forms only.

For Occitan, this development is attested particularly in historical varieties of the Provence region. In the nineteenth-century grammars of Savinian (1978[1882], pp.48–49) and Koschwitz (1973[1894], pp.128–135), third-conjugation *rèndre* ‘give back’, displaying exactly this pattern (Table 6), is used as an exemplar. The representativity of this lexeme is unclear in Savinian’s grammar, which gives only three fully conjugated verbs (*avé/agué* ‘have’, *èstre* ‘be’, *rèndre* ‘give back’; 1978[1882], pp.44–49); but Koschwitz’ description, which provides a complete exemplar paradigm for each of the three major conjugations, as well as principal parts for a number of additional verbs, indicates that *rèndre* exemplifies the ordinary pattern for regular third-conjugation verbs. The generality of the pattern among such verbs is explicitly confirmed for literary and colloquial varieties of the Rhône valley by Ronjat (1937, p.62), using the example of *vèndre* ‘sell’: ‘[I]es verbes normaux de II⁷ insèrent *-egu-* devant la désinence des 1. et 2. p[ersonnes]. pl[uriel]. en prov[ençal] litt[éraire] r[h]od[anien] pop[ulaire], ex. *vèndre* < vend(e)re, subj[onctif]. *vènde*, [vènd]-es, [vènd]-e, *vendeguen*, [vend]-egués, *vèndon*’ (1937, p.62).⁸ More recently, a similar distributional pattern is given for the varieties of the southern Gévaudan (north-east Languedoc) by Camproux (1962, p.417), who notes that first and second person plural present subjunctive forms in *-’ègen*, *-’èges* are repeatedly attested (‘la zone sud offre régulièrement aux première, deuxième personnes du pluriel une désinence *-’ègen*, *-’èges* ajoutée au radical’),⁹ giving the illustrative examples *respundègen* ‘reply.PRS.SBJV.1PL’, *reskundègen* ‘conceal.PRS.SBJV.1PL’, *rumpègen* ‘break.PRS.SBJV.1PL’, *perdègen* ‘lose.PRS.SBJV.1PL’.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>’rènde</i>	<i>ren ’diéu</i>	<i>’rènde</i>	<i>rende ’guère</i>	<i>rende ’guèsse</i>	<i>ren ’drai</i>	<i>ren ’driéu</i>
2SG	<i>’rèndes</i>	<i>ren ’diés</i>	<i>’rèndes</i>	<i>rende ’guères</i>	<i>rende ’guèsses</i>	<i>ren ’dras</i>	<i>ren ’driés</i>
3SG	<i>rènd</i>	<i>ren ’dié</i>	<i>’rènde</i>	<i>rende ’guè</i>	<i>rende ’guèsse</i>	<i>ren ’dra</i>	<i>ren ’drié</i>
1PL	<i>ren ’dèn</i>	<i>ren ’dian</i>	<i>rende ’guen</i>	<i>rendegue ’rian</i>	<i>rendegue ’ssian</i>	<i>ren ’dren</i>	<i>ren ’drian</i>
2PL	<i>ren ’dès</i>	<i>ren ’dias</i>	<i>rende ’gués</i>	<i>rendegue ’rias</i>	<i>rendegue ’ssias</i>	<i>ren ’drés</i>	<i>ren ’drias</i>
3PL	<i>’rèndon</i>	<i>ren ’dien</i>	<i>’rèndon</i>	<i>rende ’guèron</i>	<i>rende ’guèsson</i>	<i>ren ’dran</i>	<i>ren ’drien</i>

Table 6. Finite synthetic forms of *rèndre* ‘give back’ (Savinian, 1978[1882], pp.48–49; Koschwitz, 1973[1894], pp.128–135; data consistent with Ronjat, 1937, p.62). Orthography as in source, with addition of IPA stress mark.

In Provence, this pattern is not attested for first-conjugation verbs (continuants of Latin conjugation I, which do not have a thematic velar anywhere in the paradigm), or for regular second-

⁷ Ronjat adopts the Catalan convention, in which reflexes of Latin conjugation III are labelled II.

⁸ ‘Regular verbs of class II insert *-egu-* before the desinence of the first and second person plural in literary and Rhône valley vernacular Provençal, e.g. *vèndre* < vend(e)re, [present] subjunctive *vènde*, [vènd]-es, [vènd]-e, *vendeguen*, [vend]-egués, *vèndon*’ [my translation].

⁹ ‘The southern area regularly displays, in the first and second person plural, a desinence *-’ègen*, *-’èges* added to the root’ [my translation]. Note that the source indicates stress by means of an apostrophe; on the recommendation of an anonymous reviewer, the IPA stress mark has been substituted here for clarity.

conjugation verbs (continuants of Latin conjugation IV, with thematic vowel /i/), in which a thematic velar occurs throughout the present subjunctive, imperfect subjunctive and preterite (e.g. *punir* ‘punish’, Table 7; see also Ronjat, 1937, p.224).

However, the pattern is attested in a subset of second-conjugation verbs, namely those which lack the thematic ‘augment’ continuing Latin ingressive -ISC- (for the history of this item in Romance see Maiden, 2004; Meul, 2010, 2013, pp. 52–70; Esher, 2016; Maiden, 2018, pp.175–192), as exemplified by *dormir* ‘sleep’ in Table 8. For augmentless second-conjugation verbs, Ronjat (1937, p.224) lists only velarless present subjunctive forms in the singular and third person plural, but gives concurrent variants (with and without a velar) in the first and second person plural (*parte*, [*part*]es, [*part*]e, [*part*]en/[*part*]iguen, [*part*]és/[*part*]igués, [*part*]on), and comments that in colloquial or non-literary varieties, the velar forms predominate: ‘les formes pop[ulaires] sont plutôt *iguen igués*’.¹⁰ Ronjat’s data corroborate those of Savinian (1978[1882], pp. 54–55).

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>pu'nisse</i>	<i>puni'ssiéu</i>	<i>pu'nigue</i>	<i>puni'guère</i>	<i>puni'guèsse</i>	<i>puni'rai</i>	<i>puni'riéu</i>
2SG	<i>pu'nisses</i>	<i>puni'ssiés</i>	<i>pu'nigues</i>	<i>puni'guères</i>	<i>puni'guèsses</i>	<i>puni'ras</i>	<i>puni'riés</i>
3SG	<i>pu'nis</i>	<i>puni'ssié</i>	<i>pu'nigue</i>	<i>puni'guè</i>	<i>puni'guèsse</i>	<i>puni'ra</i>	<i>puni'rié</i>
1PL	<i>puni'ssèn</i>	<i>puni'ssian</i>	<i>puni'guen</i>	<i>punigue'rian</i>	<i>punigue'ssian</i>	<i>puni'ren</i>	<i>puni'rian</i>
2PL	<i>puni'ssès</i>	<i>puni'ssias</i>	<i>puni'gués</i>	<i>punigue'rias</i>	<i>punigue'ssias</i>	<i>puni'rés</i>	<i>puni'rias</i>
3PL	<i>pu'nisson</i>	<i>puni'ssien</i>	<i>pu'nigon</i>	<i>puni'guèron</i>	<i>puni'guèsson</i>	<i>puni'ran</i>	<i>puni'rien</i>

Table 7. Finite synthetic forms of *punir* ‘punish’ (Koschwitz 1973[1894], pp.128–135). Orthography as in source, with addition of IPA stress mark.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>'dorme</i>	<i>dour'miéu</i>	<i>'dorme</i>	<i>dourmi'guère</i>	<i>dourmi'guèsse</i>	<i>dourmi'rai</i>	<i>dormi'riéu</i>
2SG	<i>'dormes</i>	<i>dour'miés</i>	<i>'dormes</i>	<i>dourmi'guères</i>	<i>dourmi'guèsses</i>	<i>dourmi'ras</i>	<i>dourmi'riés</i>
3SG	<i>'dorm</i>	<i>dour'mié</i>	<i>'dorme</i>	<i>dourmi'guè</i>	<i>dourmi'guèsse</i>	<i>dourmi'ra</i>	<i>dourmi'rié</i>
1PL	<i>dour'mèn</i>	<i>dour'mian</i>	<i>dourmi'guen/ dour'men</i>	<i>dourmigue'rian</i>	<i>dourmigue'ssian</i>	<i>dourmi'ren</i>	<i>dourmi'rian</i>
2PL	<i>dour'mès</i>	<i>dour'mias</i>	<i>dourmi'gués/ dour'més</i>	<i>dourmigue'rias</i>	<i>dourmigue'ssias</i>	<i>dourmi'rés</i>	<i>dourmi'rias</i>
3PL	<i>'dormon</i>	<i>dour'mien</i>	<i>'dormon</i>	<i>dourmi'guèron</i>	<i>dourmi'guèsson</i>	<i>dourmi'ran</i>	<i>dourmi'rien</i>

Table 8. Finite synthetic forms of *dormir* ‘sleep’ (Savinian, 1978[1882], pp.54–55), data consistent with Ronjat (1937, p.224). Orthography as in source, with addition of IPA stress mark.

¹⁰ ‘The vernacular forms are more usually *iguen igués*’ [my translation].

More recent data, for both Provence and the Gévaudan, suggest that the distributions illustrated in Tables 7 and 8 are vulnerable to levelling across present subjunctive forms. In the Gévaudan, the thematic velar is generalised from the first and second person plural to all present subjunctive forms: Camproux (1962, p.417) observes that ‘dans la zone sud, il existe une tendance à unifier le subjonctif des verbes en question d’après l’analogie d’un radical à gutturale’, giving the example of *pèdre* ‘lose’ conjugated ‘*perdège, perdèges, perdège, perd’ègen, perd’ègès, perdègu*’.¹¹ For Provence, the modern standard grammar of Martin & Moulin (2007) does not mention the patterns illustrated in Tables 7 and 8 at all, instead recommending forms without a velar for third-conjugation and augmentless second-conjugation verbs, and offering a choice between forms in *-igu-* or *-iss-* for all persons in second-conjugation verbs with the augment (2007, p.94fn.119, p.95fn.120)

There is robust historical and morphological precedent for the contrast between the two subtypes of second-conjugation verbs. In most Occitan varieties of the Languedoc and Provence, verbs of the *punir* type would historically have presented an augment *-isc-* or *-iss-*, continuing Latin *-ISC-*, throughout the present subjunctive; thus, in Provence, the established distribution template was for the presence of a thematic vowel /i/ and one or more thematic consonants occurring in all person forms, and thematic *-igu-* could be introduced into all or none. By contrast, for verbs of the *dormir* type, like verbs of the *rèndre* type, there is contrast between first and second person plural and all other present subjunctive forms, via stress alternation and (for a subset of lexemes) stem vowel alternation. This contrast furnishes a precedent for the introduction of *-igu-* into the first and second person plural forms only, on analogy with the *rèndre* type in which the velar appears more established. The preference for extension of the velar to the first and second person plural rather than singular and third person plural reflects the fact that the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms share arrhizotonicity with the *perfectum* reflexes from which the velar spreads.

An instructive comparison is afforded by second-conjugation verbs in the Occitan varieties of the Val d’Aran. In these varieties, the augment continuing *-ISC-* is traditionally confined to the singular and third person plural forms of the present subjunctive, as illustrated by *servir* ‘serve’ in Table 9; the *-igu-* augment originating in PYTA is introduced into the first and second person plural present subjunctive, but does not progress further.

	PRS.IND	IPF.PST.IND	PRS.SBJV	PFV.PST.IND	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	<i>ser'visqui</i>	<i>ser'via</i>	<i>ser'visca</i>	<i>servi'guí</i>	<i>servi'guessa</i>	<i>servi'rè</i>	<i>servi'ria</i>
2SG	<i>ser'visses</i>	<i>ser'vies</i>	<i>ser'visques</i>	<i>servi'guéres</i>	<i>servi'guesses</i>	<i>servi'ràs</i>	<i>servir'ies</i>
3SG	<i>ser'vís</i>	<i>ser'vie</i>	<i>ser'visque</i>	<i>servi'guc</i>	<i>servi'guesse</i>	<i>servi'rà</i>	<i>servi'rie</i>
1PL	<i>ser'vim</i>	<i>ser'viem</i>	<i>servi'gam</i>	<i>servi'guérem</i>	<i>servi'guéssem</i>	<i>servi'ram</i>	<i>servi'riem</i>
2PL	<i>ser'vitz</i>	<i>ser'viétz</i>	<i>servi'gatz</i>	<i>servi'guéretz</i>	<i>servi'guéssetz</i>	<i>servi'ratz</i>	<i>servi'riétz</i>
3PL	<i>ser'vissen</i>	<i>ser'vien</i>	<i>ser'visquen</i>	<i>servi'guéren</i>	<i>servi'guessen</i>	<i>servi'ràn</i>	<i>servi'rien</i>

Table 9. *servir* ‘serve’, Val d’Aran (Carrera, 2007, p.189). Orthography as in source, with addition of IPA stress mark.

¹¹ ‘In the southern area, there is a tendency to level the [present] subjunctive forms of the verbs in question, on the analogy of a velar root’ [my translation].’

Finally, it should be noted that similar distributions are attested in some Balearic Catalan varieties: Wheeler et al. (1999, p.305) and Maiden (2018, p.111) both mention introduction of a thematic velar into only the first and second person plural forms of the present subjunctive, e.g. arrhizotonic *dormiguen*, *dormigueu* ‘sleep.PRS.SBJV.1PL,2PL’ (contrasting with rhizotonic *dormi*, *dormis*, *dormin* in the corresponding singular and third person plural forms).

3.2 Summary

The Occitan and Catalan data discussed in this section all involve the extension of inflectional formatives characteristic of *perfectum* reflexes into the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms. The inflectional exponents which undergo extension are either roots or stem formatives, found throughout both the preterite and the imperfect subjunctive; they replace the etymological stem of the present subjunctive, whereas the desinences of the present subjunctive remain unchanged. The development affects a subset of verb lexemes, characterised by the presence of a distinctive root in their *perfectum* reflexes. In some varieties (Catalan, Val d’Aran) the novel distribution remains stable, while in others (Gévaudan, Provence) it is eliminated in favour of a uniform stem throughout the present subjunctive. In all cases, the paradigmatic scope of the change exactly corresponds to a set of cells at the intersection of multiple existing patterns of exponent distribution (i.e. a set of cells defined by the overlap between patterns of stem and/or stress distribution); and following the change, alignment between patterns is increased.

4. Importation and syncretism

In a number of Gallo- and Ibero-Romance varieties, the modern first and second person plural present subjunctive forms are reflexes not of the Latin present subjunctive (CANTEM, FACIAM, etc.) but of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive (CANTÄUISSEM, FĒCISSEM, etc.); singular and (usually) third person plural present subjunctive forms in these varieties continue the Latin present subjunctive as expected. These examples are due to the analogical replacement of etymological present subjunctive forms by reflexes of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive.

The development is reminiscent of the phenomenon termed ‘incursion’ (Corbett, 2007, p.13; Juge, 2013, p.177), a type of suppletion in which inflectional forms originating in a lexeme L₁ are analogically extended into an etymologically distinct lexeme L₂, replacing the corresponding etymological forms of L₂. As in cases of incursion, the data under discussion involve the replacement of one set of forms (i.e. a subset of present subjunctive forms) by a set of forms analogically introduced from an external source (i.e. imperfect subjunctive forms). However, a key distinction between the two is that incursion is specifically defined as involving forms from two distinct lexemes, whereas in the case at hand the forms are members of distinct TAM categories within the inflectional paradigm of the same lexeme. Hinzelin (2011a, p.306) uses the term ‘intrusion’ for such paradigm-internal cases, but ‘importation’ more accurately reflects the systematic nature of the developments described here.

In many of the examples adduced in this section, importation results in syncretism (Baerman, 2007) between the present and imperfect subjunctives in the first and second person plural. In other varieties, where the modern imperfect subjunctive is a continuant of the Latin pluperfect indicative

(CANTĀUERAM, FĒCERAM, etc.), the importation of reflexes of the pluperfect subjunctive into the present subjunctive does not result in syncretism.

4.1. Importation with syncretism, affecting PRS.SBJV.1PL and PRS.SBJV.2PL

4.1.1 Overview of importation with syncretism

Syncretism between present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive in the first person plural and second person plural is attested in two substantial clusters of varieties: in the transitional zone between southern Catalan and northern Valencian (Wheeler, 1993, citing data from Alcover & Moll, 1929–1933), and in northern Occitan (Camproux, 1962, pp.420–421; Casagrande, 2011, pp.201–202, citing data from ALLOc; Sibille, 2015, pp.135–150, 156). Unlike the sporadic extensions of roots or thematic elements described in section 3, which are limited to a few lexemes or specific inflectional classes, this development is widely generalised across verb lexemes, with few or no exceptions in any given variety: illustrative examples from the northern Occitan variety of Concots (ALLOc survey point 46.33, in the département Lot), covering reflexes of Latin conjugations I, III and IV and the reflex of FACERE ‘do’ are shown in Tables 10–13.

In all cases, the syncretism results from replacement of etymological present subjunctive forms by continuants of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive, recognisable by their distinctive exponent /Vs/. From a diachronic perspective, the direction of change is plain. However, in synchrony, for the relevant varieties, the contrast between present and imperfect subjunctive is entirely neutralised in the first person plural and second person plural, across all conjugational classes and all lexemes: as the syncretism is symmetrical (see Baerman et al., 2005, pp.133–134), the original directionality is not accessible to speakers.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'kanti	kən'taβi	'kanti	kən'təri	kən'təsi	kəntə'raj	kəntə'rjə
2SG	'kantəs	kən'taβəs	'kantes	kən'terəs	kən'tesəs	kəntə'ras	kəntə'rjəs
3SG	'kantə	kən'taβə	'kante	kən'tət	kən'tes	kəntə'rə	kəntə'rjə
1PL	kən'ten	kən'taβen	kən'tesen	kən'teren	kən'tesen	kəntə'ren	kəntə'rjan
2PL	kən'tas	kən'taβes	kən'teses	kən'teres	kən'teses	kəntə'res	kəntə'rjas
3PL	'kantu	kən'taβu	'kantu	kən'teru	kən'tesu	kəntə'rəw	kəntə'rjəw

Table 10. *cantar* ‘sing’ in the Occitan variety of Concots (ALLOc survey point 46.33). IPA, converted from original Gilliéron-Rousselot transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	bəs'tisi	bəsti'sjə	bəs'tie	bəsti'eri	bəsti'esi	bəsti'raj	bəsti'rjə
2SG	bəs'tises	bəsti'sjəs	bəs'ties	bəsti'erəs	bəsti'esəs	bəsti'ras	bəsti'rjəs
3SG	bəs'tis	bəsti'sjə	bəs'tie	bəsti'ət	bəsti'es	bəsti'rə	bəsti'rjə
1PL	bəsti'sen	bəsti'sjan	bəsti'esen	bəsti'eren	bəsti'esen	bəsti'ren	bəsti'rjan
2PL	bəsti'ses	bəsti'sjan	bəsti'eses	bəsti'eres	bəsti'eses	bəsti'res	bəsti'rjas
3PL	bəs'tisu	bəsti'sjəw	bəs'tiu	bəsti'eru	bəsti'esu	bəsti'rəw	bəsti'rjəw

Table 11. *bastir* ‘build’ in the Occitan variety of Concots (ALLOc survey point 46.33). IPA, converted from original Gilliéron-Rousselot transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'bendi	ben'djɔ	'bende	ben'dɛri	ben'dɛsi	ben'draj	ben'drjɔ
2SG	'bendes	ben'djɔs	'bendes	ben'dɛrɔs	ben'dɛsɔs	ben'dras	ben'drjɔs
3SG	ben	ben'djɔ	'bende	ben'dɛt	ben'dɛs	ben'drɔ	ben'drjɔ
1PL	ben'dɛn	ben'djan	ben'dɛsen	ben'dɛren	ben'dɛsen	ben'dren	ben'drjan
2PL	ben'dɛs	ben'djan	ben'dɛses	ben'dɛres	ben'dɛses	ben'dres	ben'drjas
3PL	'bendu	ben'djɔw	'bendu	ben'dɛru	ben'dɛsu	ben'drɔw	ben'drjɔw

Table 12. *bastir* ‘build’ in the Occitan variety of Concots (ALLOc survey point 46.33). IPA, converted from original Gilliéron-Rousselot transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	faw	fɔ'zjɔ	'fahke	'fɛri	fɔh'kɛsi	fɔ'raj	fɔ'rijɔ
2SG	fɔs	fɔ'zjɔs	'fahkɔs	'fɛrɔs	fɔh'kɛsɔs	fɔ'ras	fɔ'rijɔs
3SG	fɔ	fɔ'zjɔ	'fahke	'fɛt	fɔh'kɛs	fɔ'rɔ	fɔ'rijɔ
1PL	fɔ'zɛn	fɔ'zjan	fah'kɛsen	'fɛren	fɔh'kɛsen	fɔ'ren	fɔ'rjan
2PL	fɔ'zɛs	fɔ'zjas	fah'kɛses	'fɛres	fɔh'kɛses	fɔ'res	fɔ'rjas
3PL	fɔw	fɔ'zjɔw	'fahku	'fɛru	fɔh'kɛsu	fɔ'rɔw	fɔ'rijɔw

Table 13. *far* ‘do’ in the Occitan variety of Concots (ALLOc survey point 46.33). IPA, converted from original Gilliéron-Rousselot transcription.

In the variety of Concots, forms in *-/'ɛsen/*, *-/'ɛses/*, recognisable as reflexes of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive due to the formative */'ɛs/*, have replaced the expected forms in *-/'ɛn/*, *-/'ɛs/*. For many verbs, the change simply amounts to the introduction of */'ɛs/*, since the etymological first and second plural present subjunctive forms (*kɔn'tɛn*, *bɔs'ti.ɛn*, *ben'dɛn*, etc.) already shared their root and arrhizotonic stress pattern with the corresponding reflexes of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive (*kɔn'tɛsen*, *bɔs'ti.ɛsen*, *ben'dɛsen*, etc.); the same extent of formal commonality is found for verbs with stem consonant alternations, since the same thematic consonant is found throughout the subjunctives and preterite, with the exception of *far* ‘do’ (Table 13).¹² The formal proximity identifies the first and second person plural present subjunctive as favourable targets for analogy from PYTA; in this case, the substance of the change allows the source form to be specifically identified as the imperfect subjunctive. The choice of the imperfect subjunctive in preference to the preterite may be favoured by the present and imperfect subjunctives sharing the morphosyntactic value ‘subjunctive’ (compare Maiden, 2018, p.291).

In contrast to the spread of root or thematic material, the syncretism of imperfect subjunctive and present subjunctive forms is highly systematic across lexemes for all Occitan varieties in which it is attested. In the absence of cases in which the development affects only a subset of inflectional classes, it is difficult to ascertain the diachronic progression of this syncretism through the lexicon, and correspondingly to isolate the motivation and process causing it to arise.

¹² The forms */fah'kɛsen/*, */fah'kɛses/* are anomalous since all other verbs in this variety present systematic realisation of atonic /a/ as [ɔ], but are included for completeness. A further unusual characteristic of *far* ‘do’ in the variety of Concots is the stem asymmetry between the preterite and imperfect subjunctive.

4.1.2 Interaction with conjugation class and root allomorphy

For Valencian, illustrative examples from the variety of Alcalà de Xivert (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 98, in the comarca Baix Maestrat) are shown in Tables 14–16.¹³ In this variety, syncretism is near-systematic, but the forms of the present and imperfect subjunctive in first-conjugation verbs remain differentiated by theme vowel (Table 14). These data raise the possibility that, like the developments discussed in section 3 (and the spread of velar augments in Occitan; Esher, 2016), importation of imperfect subjunctive forms into present subjunctive cells initially occurred in non-first-conjugation verbs. The forms of the first-conjugation present subjunctive are suggestive of analogical influence both from first-conjugation imperfect subjunctive forms and from non-first-conjugation present subjunctive forms.

A further point of interest in the data from Alcalà de Xivert is the wide lexical extension of velar roots, which is much greater than in Concots (Tables 10–13) and indeed most Occitan varieties, including all present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive forms of typical second- and third-conjugation verbs. The data in Tables 14–16 illustrate the productivity of Wheeler’s ‘Catalan velar morpheme’ (2011); the widespread velars of Table 16 most plausibly originate in the present subjunctive (compare Wheeler, 2011, p.208).¹⁴ Comparison with data from Occitan and other Catalan and Valencian varieties nevertheless indicates that the presence of a thematic velar throughout the present and imperfect subjunctive forms of many lexemes is not a necessary precondition for importation of the type examined in this section; indeed, importation is more likely to precede widespread generalisation of the velar beyond lexemes with significant inherited root allomorphy.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'kanto	kan'taβa	'kanto	—	kan'tas	kanta're	kanta'ria
2SG	'kantes	kan'taβes	'kantos	—	kan'tases	kanta'ras	kanta'ries
3SG	'kante	kan'taβa	'kanto	—	kan'tas	kanta'ra	kanta'ria
1PL	kan'tem	kan'taβem	kan'tesem	—	kan'tasem	kanta'rem	kanta'riem
2PL	kan'tew	kan'taβew	kan'tesew	—	kan'tasew	kanta'rew	kanta'riew
3PL	'kanten	kan'taβen	'kanton	—	kan'tasu	kanta'ran	kanta'rien

Table 14. Finite synthetic forms of *cantar* ‘sing’ in Alcalà de Xivert (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 98). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

¹³ In this and many other Catalan varieties, the synthetic preterite is no longer in common usage.

¹⁴ Wheeler (2011, p.208) notes sporadic cases in which a thematic velar has undergone analogical extension from the L-pattern to PYTA, suggesting that this directionality occurs when the existing PYTA root is not of readily extendable phonological shape; these data concern the spread of a root already present in all present subjunctive cells into all imperfect subjunctive cells, without distinction of person.

Esher, Louise. 2022. Overlapping subjunctive forms in Gallo- and Ibero-Romance verb paradigms. *Revue Romane* 57(1). 86–115. <https://doi.org/10.1075/rro.20009.esh>.
 Author accepted version. For published version see <https://www.jbe-platform.com/content/journals/10.1075/rro.20009.esh>
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	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	ʎu'isk	ʎu'ia	ʎu'iska	—	ʎuis'kes	ʎui're	ʎui'ria
2SG	ʎu'ises	ʎu'ies	ʎu'iskes	—	ʎuis'keses	ʎui'ras	ʎui'ries
3SG	ʎu'is	ʎu'ia	ʎu'iska	—	ʎuis'kes	ʎui'ra	ʎui'ria
1PL	ʎu'im	ʎu'iem	ʎuis'kesem	—	ʎuis'kesem	ʎui'rem	ʎui'riem
2PL	ʎu'iw	ʎu'iew	ʎuis'kesew	—	ʎuis'kesew	ʎui'rew	ʎui'riew
3PL	ʎu'isen	ʎu'ien	ʎu'isken	—	ʎuis'kesen	ʎui'ran	ʎui'rien

Table 15. Finite synthetic forms of *lluir* ‘shine’ in Alcalà de Xivert (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 98). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	bat	ba'tia	'batiga	—	bati'ges	bat're	bat'ria
2SG	baʃ	ba'ties	'batiges	—	bati'geses	bat'ras	bat'ries
3SG	bat	ba'tia	'batiga	—	bati'ges	bat'ra	bat'ria
1PL	ba'tem	ba'tiem	bati'gesem	—	bati'gesem	bat'rem	bat'riem
2PL	ba'tew	ba'tiew	bati'gesew	—	bati'gesew	bat'rew	bat'riew
3PL	'baten	ba'tien	'batigen	—	bati'gesen	bat'ran	bat'rien

Table 16. Finite synthetic forms of *batre* ‘beat’ in Alcalà de Xivert (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 98). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

4.1.3. Existing approaches to the actuation and directionality of importation with syncretism

Somewhat ironically given the prevalence of syncretism resulting directly from importation, there are repeated attempts in the literature to propose ‘syncretism avoidance’ as a factor motivating importation. The most serious account is developed by Wheeler (1993) for Catalan varieties, within the framework of Natural Morphology. Wheeler tracks the analogical remodelling and redistribution of personal desinences throughout the present indicative and present subjunctive of all three major conjugations. In the course of these developments, the reassertion of contrasts such as that between first-conjugation and non-first conjugation verbs, via morphological analogy, leads to syncretism between indicative and subjunctive.

In eastern Catalan varieties, Wheeler observes that syncretism between present indicative and present subjunctive forms is lexically and geographically widespread for the first person plural and second person plural forms, so much so that he describes it as a ‘persistent structural property of the regular verbs’ (1993, p.194). In several north-western Catalan varieties, though, he notes a different distribution: the etymological first and second person plural present subjunctive forms have been replaced by the corresponding reflexes of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive (i.e. the development here termed ‘importation’). Wheeler’s interpretation is that the innovation in north-western varieties occurs as a form of repair, ‘to reestablish contrast ‘S[ubjunctive] distinct from I[ndicative]’ in persons 4 and 5’ (1993, p.195); though he concedes that it ‘remains rather surprising’ (1993, p.195), since the comparative data which he adduces as evidence for the existence of mood syncretism in the relevant persons show precisely that such syncretism is a well-established and entirely tolerable property of the inflectional system.

The Catalan data call into question the fundamental assumptions of the syncretism-avoidance hypothesis, since in these varieties, syncretism across TAM categories is not intrinsically problematic or dispreferred, and importation does not reduce the overall incidence of syncretism within the paradigm. A separate concern emerges from Gévaudan Occitan data adduced in earlier work by Camproux (1962, pp.420–421): these data illustrate paradigmatic mismatch between forms subject to importation and forms originally participating in mood syncretism, indicating that pre-existing syncretism is not a reliable predictor of vulnerability to importation. Firstly, there are cases in which some syncretic forms escape importation: second person plural present subjunctive forms are subject to importation, e.g. *parlesyas* ‘speak.PRS/IPF.SBJV.2PL’, while the corresponding first person plural forms are unaffected, e.g. *parlen* ‘speak.PRS.IND/SBJV.1PL’. Secondly, there are cases in which non-syncretic forms undergo importation: both first and second person plural present subjunctive forms are subject to importation, although the first person plural form of the present indicative retains a distinctive theme vowel [ɔ] < /a/, which would contrast with an etymological present subjunctive form in *-en* (e.g. *parlon* ‘speak.PRS.IND.1PL’ vs. *parlen* ‘speak.PRS.SBJV.1PL’). Thus, at least in the Gévaudan, pre-existing mood syncretism is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for importation to occur.

Camproux suggests an alternative hypothesis based on existing formal similarities between present and imperfect subjunctive forms. Firstly, the present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive shared a second person plural desinence which is rare within the paradigm (*-at/-as*, as opposed to *-et/-es* in other TAM categories; 1962, p.420); and secondly, the present subjunctive forms of second-conjugation verbs with the augment (e.g. *fenissyat* ‘finish.PRS.SBJV.2PL’) shared the sequence /’Vs/ with imperfect subjunctive forms (e.g. *parlesyat*, *parlasyat* ‘speak.IPF.SBJV.2PL’, 1962, p.421).

Camproux’ comment on rarity chimes with the recent findings of Milizia (2016), who observes that in central Italo-Romance varieties, the desinences of first and second person plural forms are commonly subject to analogical influence from other TAM categories. Milizia explains the development in terms of the relatively lower token frequency of first and second person plural forms compared to other person/number combinations within a single TAM category: in these low-frequency areas, rare or unique exponents are not sustainable, and are vulnerable to replacement by exponents of higher paradigmatic type frequency.

Aside from the question of motivation, Camproux’ data provide additional evidence for the directionality of the change within the paradigm. In the Gévaudan, the innovation begins with the second person plural, a person/number combination attested with lower token frequency than the first person plural, and in which there is stronger formal commonality between present and imperfect subjunctive forms. The innovation is subsequently propagated to the first person plural, which in Romance reliably and consistently shares stem exponents with the second person plural for a given TAM category (see e.g. the stem space analyses of Bonami & Boyé, 2002, 2003; Stump & Finkel 2013, p.190; Guerrero, 2011, 2014, p.161).

4.2. Importation without syncretism, affecting PRS.SBJV.1PL and PRS.SBJV.2PL

In a development restricted to parts of northern Valencia, the etymological first and second person plural present subjunctive forms are replaced by continuants of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive, but this development does not involve syncretism, since the modern imperfect subjunctive forms are instead continuants of the Latin pluperfect indicative. This study found no examples in which the first and

second person plural present subjunctive forms were syncretic with continuants of the Latin pluperfect indicative.

This distribution is illustrated in Tables 17–19 for the variety of Calaceit (Alcover & Moll 1929–33, survey point 93, in the comarca Matarranya). In this variety, the L-pattern is well conserved, as is the etymological three-way conjugational distinction of theme vowels in reflexes of *perfectum* forms; however, the synthetic preterite has fallen from use due to replacement by the periphrasis *anar* ‘go’ + infinitive.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'kanto	kan'taβa	'kanta	—	kan'tara	kanta're	kanta'ria
2SG	'kantes	kan'taβes	'kantos	—	kan'tares	kanta'ras	kanta'ries
3SG	'kante	kan'taβe	'kanto	—	kan'tare	kanta'ra	kanta'rie
1PL	kan'tam	kan'taβem	kan'tasem	—	kan'tarem	kanta'rem	kanta'riem
2PL	kan'taw	kan'taβew	kan'tasew	—	kan'tarew	kanta'rew	kanta'riew
3PL	'kanten	kan'taβen	'kanton	—	kan'taren	kanta'ran	kanta'rien

Table 17. Finite synthetic forms of *cantar* ‘sing’, Calaceit (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 93). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	ʎu'ijko	ʎu'ia	ʎu'ijka	—	ʎu'ira	ʎui're	ʎui'ria
2SG	ʎu'ifes	ʎu'ies	ʎu'ijkes	—	ʎu'ires	ʎui'ras	ʎui'ries
3SG	ʎu'ij	ʎu'ie	ʎu'ijke	—	ʎu'ire	ʎui'ra	ʎui'rie
1PL	ʎu'im	ʎu'iem	ʎu'isem	—	ʎu'irem	ʎui'rem	ʎui'riem
2PL	ʎu'iw	ʎu'iew	ʎu'isew	—	ʎu'irew	ʎui'rew	ʎui'riew
3PL	ʎu'ijfen	ʎu'ien	ʎu'ijken	—	ʎu'iren	ʎui'ran	ʎui'rien

Table 18. Finite synthetic forms of *lluir* ‘shine’, Calaceit (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 93). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	'meto	me'tia	'metiga	—	me'tera	me'tre	me'tria
2SG	'mej	me'ties	'metiges	—	me'teres	me'tras	me'tries
3SG	'met	me'tie	'metige	—	me'tere	me'tra	me'trie
1PL	me'tem	me'tiem	me'tesem	—	me'terem	me'trem	me'triem
2PL	me'tew	me'tiew	me'tesew	—	me'terew	me'trew	me'triew
3PL	'meten	me'tien	'metigen	—	me'teren	me'tran	me'trien

Table 19. Finite synthetic forms of *metre* ‘put’, Calaceit (Alcover & Moll, 1929–33, survey point 93). IPA, converted from original Romanist transcription.

While detailed investigation of the chronology of these developments falls outside the scope of the present study, two hypotheses may be entertained based on the comparative data considered here. One possibility is that importation occurred at an early stage, while the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive still functionally contrasted with the reflex of the Latin pluperfect indicative (i.e. fifteenth century or earlier; Moll, 2006, p.215), in a development comparable to the data in section 4.1. Another

is that importation occurred precisely during the period at which the reflex of the Latin pluperfect indicative came to supplant the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive in the function of imperfect subjunctive.

The second hypothesis is appealing in the Valencian context, because the proposed development would be congruent with existing cases of analogical redistribution following the loss of a functional distinction. For lexical suppletion, such as is observed in Romance verbs meaning ‘go’, which typically conflate reflexes of three distinct Latin lexemes, Maiden claims that:

speakers’ systematic inability to make a clear functional distinction between lexemes, is a precondition for the emergence of suppletion [...] between formerly semantically distinct lexemes (2018, p.310)

In the Valencian case, one can imagine a systematic inability to make a clear functional distinction not between lexemes, but between TAM categories: historically, speakers were exposed to three formal series (the reflexes of the Latin present subjunctive, pluperfect subjunctive and pluperfect indicative) but only two clearly distinguishable functional categories (present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive). Just as lexical suppletive alternants (and the thematic augment -ISC- bleached of its original ingressive content) are distributed within the paradigm according to existing patterns of exponent distribution, each of the three subjunctive series is assigned to a particular subpart of the paradigm. The reflexes of the present subjunctive are maintained in the cells where the N-pattern overlaps with the present subjunctive; reflexes of the pluperfect subjunctive occupy the cells originally filled by arrhizotonic present subjunctive forms; and reflexes of the pluperfect indicative fill all the cells associated with the category of imperfect subjunctive. Such a development might also be considered an instance of refunctionalisation (Lass, 1990; Smith, 2013¹⁵), in which a formal distinction associated with an obsolescent functional or distributional distinction is mapped onto an alternative functional or (as here) distributional distinction; it is not anodyne that the importation of (etymologically arrhizotonic) pluperfect subjunctive reflexes applies precisely to cells associated with etymologically arrhizotonic forms.

4.3. Importation and category loss

In the central Gallo-Romance varieties of the *Croissant linguistique* (‘Linguistic Crescent’, see Brun-Trigaud 1990), the functional distinction between present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive is significantly eroded (see e.g. Guérin, 2019, pp.137–139): subjunctive forms are confined to subordinate clauses, and tense and aspect instruction is provided by the matrix verb. Correspondingly, most varieties maintain only one series of subjunctive forms, either the former present subjunctive (as in French) or, more often, the former imperfect subjunctive (i.e. reflex of Latin pluperfect subjunctive).¹⁶

¹⁵ Smith’s discussion of suppletion in the Romance verb is concerned with lexical suppletion, for which he argues that the novel mappings of forms to functional contrasts is determined by vestigial semantic content. In the absence of such content, though, the phonological shape of exponents or their previous distribution offers a plausible basis for novel mappings.

¹⁶ The Croissant data thus give the lie to the popular French conception of the imperfect subjunctive as intrinsically difficult to acquire.

The stepwise nature of the change is directly observable in the Croissant variety of Azéables,¹⁷ where some verbs retain only reflexes of the pluperfect subjunctive (Table 20), while others retain reflexes of the present subjunctive in singular forms (Table 21).

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	j a	j a'vø	j ɔ'gɛs	j ɔ'gi	j ɔ'gɛs	j ɔ're	j ɔ'rø
2SG	t a	t a'vø	t ɔ'gɛs	t ɔ'gi	t ɔ'gɛs	t ɔ'ra	t ɔ'rø
3SG	oz/al a	oz/al a'vø	oz/al ɔ'gɛs	oz/al ɔ'gi	oz/al ɔ'gɛs	oz/al 'ɔr	oz/al ɔ'rø
1PL	n a'vẽ	n a'vjẽ	n oge'sjẽ	n oge'rijẽ	n oge'sjẽ	n ɔ'rẽ	n o'rijẽ
2PL	w a've	w a'vjẽ	w oge'sjẽ	w oge'rije	w oge'sjẽ	w ɔ'rẽ	uz o'rije
3PL	j/al a'vẽ	j/al a'vjẽ	j/al oge'sjẽ	j/al oge'rijẽ	j/al oge'sjẽ	j/al ɔ'rẽ	j/al o'rijẽ

Table 20. Finite synthetic forms of *avèr* ‘have’, Azéables (Quint, ms.). IPA transcription.

	PRS.IND	IPF.IND	PRS.SBJV	PRT	IPF.SBJV	FUT	COND
1SG	i 'fe	i fə'zø	i 'fas	i fə'zi/i fə'gi	i fə'gɛs	i 'fre	i 'frø
2SG	ti 'fe	ti fə'zø	ti 'fas	ti fə'zi	ti fə'gɛs	ti 'fra	ti 'frø
3SG	o/al 'fe	o/al fə'zø	o/al 'fas	o/al fə'zi	o/al fə'gɛs	o/al 'fer	o/al 'frø
1PL	n fə'zẽ	n fə'zjẽ	n fəge'sjẽ	n fəge'rijẽ	n fəge'sjẽ	n 'frẽ	n fə'rijẽ
2PL	u fə'zɛ	u fə'zjɛ	u fəge'sjɛ	u fəge'rije	u fəge'sjɛ	u 'frɛ	u fə'rije
3PL	i/al fə'zẽ	i/al fə'zjẽ	i/al fəge'sjẽ	i/al fəge'rijẽ	i/al fəge'sjẽ	i/al 'frẽ	i/al fə'rijẽ

Table 21. Finite synthetic forms of *faire* ‘do’, Azéables (Quint, ms.). IPA transcription.

To the extent that there is importation in the variety of Azéables, its distribution differs from that described in the previous sections of this study: importation affects either all plural present subjunctive forms, or all present subjunctive forms (conceivably, in the context of change, first all plural forms and then all forms).

The inclusion of the third person plural present subjunctive in the first stage of the development is linked to another distributional property of verb paradigms in the variety of Azéables. In this variety, ‘complete’, i.e. exceptionless, syncretism (Baerman et al., 2005, p.59) obtains between first person plural forms and third person plural forms within each TAM category and for all lexemes. Established, systematic syncretism patterns in Gallo-Romance consistently act as productive templates for analogy (Hinzelin, 2011a, 2011b, 2012; Esher, 2020): thus, any analogical change affecting a first person plural form in the variety of Azéables, including importation of imperfect subjunctive forms, is expected to affect the corresponding third person plural form as well.

The interest of the data from Azéables resides in the fact that, even in a situation of reduction of paradigm categories for syntactic reasons, change progresses in a stepwise, structured fashion, according to established patterns of paradigmatic distribution.

¹⁷ Inflectional forms for the variety of Azéables (département Creuse) are reproduced from unpublished transcriptions (Quint, ms.) of fieldwork data obtained via bilingual elicitation, within the framework of the ANR and LabEx projects documenting speech varieties of the Croissant. Recordings of the fieldwork interviews are archived at <<http://parlersducroissant.huma-num.fr/corpus/>>.

4.4. Summary

The data discussed in this section illustrate the analogical introduction of both roots and desinences from the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive into the Latin present subjunctive. In all cases, the desinences are distinctively identifiable as originating in the Latin pluperfect subjunctive, and this form is thus unequivocally the source of the analogy.¹⁸

In Occitan, Catalan and Valencian, importation is strictly confined to the first person plural and second person plural forms; in the Croissant, the third person plural is also included due to its complete syncretism with the first person plural. The result is systematic syncretism between the present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive for the relevant persons, except in Valencian where the modern imperfect subjunctive series is a reflex of the Latin pluperfect indicative. Because importation is highly systematic, affecting all verb lexemes, the resulting syncretisms cannot be treated as directional in synchrony, since speakers do not have access to evidence from which directionality could be inferred.

Two distinct scenarios for change are attested in these data. In the Valencian and Croissant examples, there is robust evidence for the loss of a functional category distinction between multiple series of forms: in the history of Valencian, three series of inflectional forms were available, but the syntax ultimately distinguishes only two categories; while for the Croissant, two series of forms are available for what is becoming a single functional category. In both these examples, sets of inflectional forms which are no longer reliably mapped to functional distinctions are remapped onto metamorphic distributions, with members of each series occupying a defined set of paradigm cells.

In the Catalan and Occitan examples, present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive remain distinct TAM categories: an explanation in terms of category loss is not supported, nor are the data consistent with syncretism avoidance. These examples are more plausibly accounted for in terms of aligning existing patterns of exponent (stem and stress) distribution, increasing the predictability of exponent distribution and co-occurrence.

Both scenarios may also form part of a more general Romance tendency in which TAM syncretism in first and second person plural forms is favoured over the presence of unique or low type frequency exponents in these low token frequency forms (Milizia, 2016).

5. Conclusions

This paper examines comparative evidence for the analogical extension of exponents characteristic of reflexes of Latin *perfectum* forms into the first and second person plural present subjunctive. Such developments are recurrent in Gallo- and Ibero-Romance varieties, including varieties of Catalan, Valencian, Occitan and the *Croissant linguistique*; some varieties cluster geographically, while others are isolated from each other.

The developments attested are tightly constrained: the changes consistently affect specific sets of paradigm cells, paradigm categories and lexemes. Some developments involve the extension of

¹⁸ In the Catalan and Valencian varieties discussed, the synthetic preterite is no longer in use. This does not of itself preclude influence from the preterite, because it is possible that the developments investigated in section 4 of this study occurred at a period when the preterite was still in use. The phonological form of the exponents, however, indicates the primacy of the reflex of the Latin pluperfect indicative in the relevant analogical developments.

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distinctive root allomorphs, in which case the changes originate in, and often remain confined to, non-first-conjugation verbs with substantial root allomorphy; more commonly, importation of entire inflected forms is found, and affects all verb lexemes. The typical synchronic result of importation is thus non-directional complete syncretism.

In cases of importation, the source of the exponents is uniquely identifiable as the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive. The prevalence, indeed predominance, of this item as a model for analogy, together with the shared modal value ‘subjunctive’, offers cautious support for the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive constituting the principal factor in the extension of distinctive roots characteristic of *perfectum* reflexes in general: although the roots themselves could conceivably be spread from any or all series of *perfectum* reflexes, overall their extension fits into a wider recurrent pattern of analogical influence from the reflex of the Latin pluperfect subjunctive.

The systematic targeting of the first and second person plural present subjunctive is argued to relate to existing paradigmatic distributions of exponents, and a tendency for such distributions to become aligned with each other. In Catalan and Occitan varieties particularly, the present subjunctive forms of verbs with root allomorphy commonly share some, but not all, elements of their root with the reflexes of *perfectum* forms. The similarity is strongest in the first and second person plural present subjunctive forms, which, like the surviving *perfectum* forms, are arrhizotonic; extending the *perfectum* root, or even an entire form, to the first and second person plural present subjunctive, increases the reliability and systematicity of the correlation between arrhizotonicity and segmental exponents. Explanations in terms of alignment prove preferable to explanations in terms of syncretism avoidance, since they offer a more precise and constrained prediction for the directionality of change and the sets of cells which are targeted. Under this view, the analogical changes observed fit into a wider pattern in which overlapping metamorphemes tend towards alignment on each other, and in which the progress of changes through the paradigm follows existing morphomic templates.

Implicit in this analysis is the importance of predictability for speakers. In a language with a rich inflectional system, such as the Romance varieties discussed here, each lexeme has multiple forms; as speakers cannot rely on having encountered a particular form of a given lexeme prior to needing to produce it, some means of inferring the appropriate form is required (Ackerman et al., 2009, pp.54–55).¹⁹ Reliable inference is facilitated by structured, consistent relationships between inflectional forms, and the recurrent patterning instantiated by metamorphemes forms part of such structure (Esher, 2015; Blevins, 2016, pp.104–105, 109; Maiden, 2018, pp.317–318). In cases of clash, speakers are faced with ambiguity: the inflectional forms associated with cells that simultaneously participate in two conflicting metamorphemes do not constitute a reliable guide to the forms associated with other cells belonging to either metamorpheme, nor are they readily predictable on the basis of those other forms. The developments described in this article illustrate changes which resolve the ambiguity, by modifying the perimeter of one metamorpheme to match that of the other more exactly: the locus of analogical change involving redistribution of stem exponents corresponds to the locus of clash between exponent distributions (i.e. such change affects cells which are neither reliable predictors nor reliably predictable), and the substance of such change amounts to aligning one of the distributions on the other (with the

¹⁹ Ackerman et al. (2009) label this conceptual issue the ‘Paradigm Cell Filling Problem’; while the label is explicitly framed in terms of paradigm-based approaches, the central question ‘What licenses reliable inferences about the inflected (and derived) forms of a lexical item?’ (Ackerman et al., 2009, p.54) is of relevance beyond such frameworks.

Esher, Louise. 2022. Overlapping subjunctive forms in Gallo- and Ibero-Romance verb paradigms. *Revue Romane* 57(1). 86–115. <https://doi.org/10.1075/rro.20009.esh>.
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result that the affected cells become both more reliable predictors and more reliably predictable). Throughout, change is demonstrably delimited by structured relationships between inflectional forms, and increases the consistency of such relationships; the tendency towards greater consistency is motivated by the role of these relationships in speaker competence, namely in scaffolding ‘generalization beyond direct experience’ (Ackerman et al. 2009, p.55). The empirical relevance and thus the explanatory power of relationships between inflectional forms supports a view of morphology in which such morphomic, paradigmatic relationships are explicitly recognised as fundamental to the structure of inflectional systems.

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ALLOc = *Atlas linguistique du Languedoc occidental*, unpublished fieldwork transcriptions.

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