

CHALĀKṢARA CODE in the SĀMAVEDA SĀMHITĀ

These are code letters (ve, khā, bī, ṭhau etc.) which are found at the end of the khaṇḍas of the pūrvārcika and at the end of the sūktas (group of ṛcas) of the uttarārcika. For the pūrvārcika the consonant contains the information about the number of syllables marked with 2ra (svarita) and the number of syllables marked with 2u (udātta). The vowel contains the information about the number of syllables which are not marked with any numeral (dhārī). Unmarked syllables at the end of a line are not counted. For the uttarārcika the consonant contains the information about the number of syllables which are not marked with any numeral (dhārī) and the number of syllables marked with 2u (udātta). The vowel contains the information about the number of syllables marked with 2ra (svarita).

		u5									
sv5/dh5	1	2	3	4	5	0	(pūrvārcika/uttarārcika)				
1	k	kh	g	gh	ñ	h					
2	c	ch	j	jh	ñ	y					
3	ṭ	ṭh	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ	r					
4	t	th	d	dh	n	l					
5	p	ph	b	bh	m	v					
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	e	ai	o	au		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10/0	(dh10/sv10)	

sv5/dh5/u5: number of svaritas/dhārīs/udāttas in the last group of five each.

dh10/sv10: number of dhārīs/svaritas in the last group of 10 each.

sv/dh/u: number of svaritas/dhārīs/udāttas.

sv5/dh5/u5	sv/dh/u
1	1, 6, 11, 16, 21 etc.
4	4, 9, 14, 19, 24 etc.
5	5, 10, 15, 20, 25 etc.

dh10/sv10	dh/sv
1	1, 11, 21, 31 etc.
9	9, 19, 29, 39 etc.
10/0	10/0, 20/0, 30/0 etc.

The code does not give exact numbers. To compensate this uncertainty the Saṁhitā mentions together with the chalākṣara code the exact numbers of svaritas, udāttas and dhārīs.

Examples **pūrvārcika** (adhyāya.khaṇḍa):

1.1 (sv 10!, u 0, dh 37) (ve)

agnedignagasah: dik (10), na (0), ga (3) saḥ (7) (see appendix: Sāmalakṣaṇādīpikā)

sv = 10 = (5) (5); the last group contains 5 svaritas => sv5 = 5

u = 0 = (0); the last group contains 0 udātta => u5 = 0

dh = 37 = (10) (10) (10) (7); the last group contains 7 dhārīs => dh10 = 7

a²gna³ ā¹ yā²hi vī³ta¹ye² gṛṇā³no² ha³vya¹dā²taye |
ni¹ hotā^{2ra} satsi ba³rhi¹ṣi² || 1 ||

tva¹ma²gne ya³jñā²nā³m ho²tā³ vi¹śve²śām hi³ta²ḥ |
de³ve²bhi³rmā¹nu²ṣe³ ja¹ne² || 2 ||

a³gni²m dū³ta¹m vṛ²ṇīmahe³ ho¹tā^{2ra}am vi³śva¹ve²dasam |
a³sya¹ ya³jñā¹sya² su³kra¹tu²m || 3 ||

a³gni^{2ra}vṛ³trā¹ṇi² jaṅghanaddravīṇa³syu¹rvi²pa³nya¹yā² |
sa¹mi²ddhaḥ śu³kra¹ āhu^{2ra}taḥ || 4 ||

pre¹ṣṭha²m vo³ a¹ti²thi³m stu³ṣe² mi³tra¹mi²va pri³ya²m |
a²gne³ ra²tha³m na¹ vedyā^{2ra}m || 5 ||

tva¹m no² agne³ ma¹ho²bhiḥ pā³hi¹ viśva^{2ra}syā³ a¹rā²teḥ |
u³ta² dvi³ṣo¹ martyā^{2ra}sya || 6 ||

e²hyū³ ṣu¹ bravā^{2ra}ṇi³ te¹ 'gna² i³tthe¹ta²rā³ gi¹ra²ḥ |
e³bhi¹rva²rdhāsa³ i¹ndu²bhiḥ || 7 ||

ā¹ te² va³tso¹ mano^{2ra} yamatpara³mā¹cci²tsa³dha¹sthā²t |
a²gne³ tvā¹m kā²maye gi³rā² || 8 ||

tvā¹ma²gne³ pu¹ṣka²rā³da¹dhyatha^{2ra}rvā³ ni¹ra²manthata |
mū³rdhno¹ viśva^{2ra}sya vā³gh¹ata²ḥ || 9 ||

a²gne³ vi¹va²sva³dā¹ bha²rā³sma¹bhya²mū³ta¹ye² ma³he² |
de³vo¹ hyasi^{2ra} no dṛ³ṣe² || 10 || (sv 10, u 0, dh 37, ve)

[१]

(१-१०) १-२, ४, ७, ९ भरद्वाजो वाईस्पत्यः, ३ मेधातिथिः काण्वः, ५ उशनाः काण्वः, ६ सुदीतिपुरुमीढावाग्नि
रसौ तयोर्वान्यतरः, ८ वत्सः काण्वः, १० वामदेवः ॥ अग्निः ॥ गायत्री ॥

- १ अग्न आ याहि वीतये गूणानो हव्यदातये । नि होता सत्सि बर्हिषि ॥ १ ॥
- २ त्वमग्ने यज्ञानां होता विश्वेषां हितः । देवेभिर्मानुषे जने ॥ २ ॥
- ३ अग्निं दूतं वृणीमहे होतारं विश्ववेदसम् । अस्य यज्ञस्य सुक्रतुम् ॥ ३ ॥
- ४ अग्निर्वृत्राणि जह्वनद् द्रविणस्युर्विपन्यया । समिद्धः शुक्र आहुतः ॥ ४ ॥
- ५ प्रेष्टं वो अतिथिस्तुषे मित्रमिव प्रियम् । अग्ने रथं न वेद्यम् ॥ ५ ॥
- ६ त्वं नो अग्ने महोभिः पाहि विश्वस्या अरातेः । उत द्विषो मर्त्यस्य ॥ ६ ॥
- ७ पृष्टु पु ब्रवाणि तेऽग्न इत्येतरा गिरः । एभिर्द्धास इन्दुभिः ॥ ७ ॥
- ८ आ ते वत्सो मनो यमत्परमाध्वित्सधस्थात् । अग्ने त्वां कामये गिरा ॥ ८ ॥
- ९ त्वामग्ने पुष्करादध्यथर्वा निरमन्थत । मूर्ध्नो विश्वस्य वाघतः ॥ ९ ॥
- १० अग्ने विवस्वदा भरास्मभ्यमृतये महे । देवो ह्यसि नो दृशे ॥ १० ॥

इति प्रथमा दशतिः ॥ १ ॥ प्रथमः स्वण्डः ॥ १ ॥ [स्वरिताः ९ । उ० ना० । धा० ३० । वे ॥]

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.485400/2015.485400.Saamved-sanhita#page/n19/mode/2up>

1.2 (sv 6, u 2, dh 52) (khā)
namorasanetramarah: rasa (6), netra (2), ma (5) rah (2)

1.3 (sv 9, u 2, dh 57) (the)
agnim grahadvamāsaḥ: graha (9), dva (2), mā (5) saḥ (7)

1.4 (sv 9, u 3, dh 83) (di!) (instead of dī)
yajñadhā pāvakatryaśītiḥ: dhā (9), pāvaka (3), tryaśītiḥ (83)

1.5 (sv 15!, u 6, dh 72!? pā! (instead of śā) (dh 72 instead of 71)
enātithi caikasaptatiḥ: tithi (15), ca (6), ekasaptatiḥ (71)

1.6 (sv 11, u 2, dh 57) (khe!) (instead of kha)
devo rudranamāsaḥ: rudra (11), na? (0), mā (5) saḥ (7)

1.7 (sv 15, u 8, dh 104) (bī)

ājukāmavasunavam: kā (1) ma (5), vasu (8), [ya (1)] na (0) vam (4)

1.8 (sv 13, u 1, dh 60) (ṭau)

abodhiyalaiko na? ṣaṣṭiḥ: ya (1) la (3), ekaḥ (1), na? (0) ṣaṣṭiḥ (60)

1.9 (sv 14, u 7, dh 51) (tha)

agnalokamarunmāyaḥ: loka (14), ma (5) run (+2?), mā (5) yaḥ (1)

2.1 (sv 10, u 4, dh 46) (bhū)

2.4 (sv 8, u 5, dh 44) (nī)

2.6 (sv 12, u1, dh 40) (cau)

3.8 (sv 10, u 3, dh 77) (be!) (instead of ve)

3.11 (sv 18, u 4, dh 86) ḍhū! (instead of lū)

4.1 (sv 5, u 2, dh 45) (phu!) (instead of pu)

4.4 (sv 10, u 2!, dh 62) (phā!) (instead of khā)

4.10 (sv 7, u 2, dh 47) (chā!) (instead of ṣṭhā)

5.2 (sv 11, u 0, dh 49) (ho)

5.10 (sv 8, u 3, dh 46) (ḍū!) (instead of ṭha)

Examples **uttarārcika** (adhyāya.sūkta):

3.12 (dh 20!, u 2, sv 5) => (dh5 = 5, u5 = 2, sv10 = 5) (phu)

tvā¹middhi hav^{a2ra}mahe sā³tau¹ vā^{a2ra}sya kā³ra¹va²ḥ |

tvā²m̄ vī³tre¹ṣvi²ndra³ sa¹tpa²ti³m̄ na²ra3stvā^{2u}m̄ kāṣṭhā³sva¹rva²taḥ || 1 || (809)

sa¹ tvam̄ na^{2ra}ścitra vajrahasta dhṛṣṇu³yā² ma³ha¹ sta²vā³no¹ a²drivaḥ |

gā¹maśva^{2ra}m̄ ra^{3ka}thya^{2ra}mindra³ sa¹m̄ ki²ra sa³trā^{2u} vā^{a3}ja³m̄ na² ji3gyu¹ṣe² || 2 || (810)

८०९ त्वामिद्धि हवामहे सातौ वाजस्य कारवः । त्वां वृत्रेष्विन्द्र सत्पतिं नरस्त्वां काष्ठास्वर्वतः ॥ १ ॥
८१० स त्वं नश्चित्र वज्रहस्त धृष्णुया मह स्तवानो अद्रिवः ।
गामश्वरथमिन्द्र सं किर सत्रा वाजं न जिग्युषे ॥ २ ॥ १२ (फु) ॥
[धा० १० । उ० २ । स्व० ५]

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.485400/2015.485400.Saamved-sanhita#page/n75/mode/2up>

3.13 (dh 16, u 0, sv 3) (hi)

3.15 (dh 12, u 1, sv 0) (cau)

ya²ste³ ma²do³ va¹re²ṅya³ste¹nā² pava³svā¹ndha²sā |
de³vāvī¹ra²ghaśaṁsa³hā² || 1 || (815)

ja¹ghni²rvī³tra¹ma²mi³tri²ya³m sa²sni³rvā¹ja²m di³ve¹di²ve .
go¹ṣā²tiraśva³sā¹ a²si || 2 || (816)

sa¹mmi²ślo aru³ṣo¹ bhu²vaḥ sūpa³sthā¹bhi³rna² dhe³nu¹bhiḥ² .
sī¹da²m cchye³no^{2u} na yoni³mā² || 3 || (817)

3.17 (dh 36, u 3, sv 4) (gī)

6.4 (dh 21, u 1, sv 9) (ko)

20.5 (dh 7, u1, sv 3) (ci)

a²gne³ ta²ma³dyā²ṣva³m na^{2u} stomai³ḥ kra²tu³m na² bha³dra¹m hr²di³spr¹ṣa²m .
r³dhyā¹mā² ta³ o¹hai²ḥ || 1 || (1777)

a²dhā^{3ka} hya^{2ra}gne³ kra¹to²rbha³dra²sya³ da¹kṣa²sya sā³dho²ḥ .
ra³thī²r³ta¹sya² bṛha³to² ba³bhū¹tha² || 2 || (1778)

e³bhi¹rno² a³rkai¹rbhavā^{2ra} no a³rvā¹ṅksvā²3^srṇa¹ jyoti^{2ra}ḥ .
a²gne³ vi¹śve²bhiḥ su³ma²nā³ a¹nī²kaiḥ || 3 || (1779)

APPENDIX

SĀMALAKṢAṆADĪPIKĀ

śrīgurucaraṇāravīn!dābhyām namaḥ

gururūpaṁ guhaṁ natvā procyate sāmaśākhinām
lakṣaṇaṁ dīpikākhyāṁ vai tannāmnā sāhacaryataḥ 1
rāvaṇena kṛtaṁ pūrvaṁ baiṇṇāmnā lakṣaṇaṁ tu yat
tatpūrvaṁ kvacitspaṣṭamatra tu spaṣṭameva hi 2
svaśśidhā tritvasaṁkhyānām saṁjñārthaṁ vacanena tu
svaritaṁ śivakaṁ dhāri krameṇaiva vidurbudhāḥ 3
dīrghākāre hrasvake ca pakārāṇām tu saṁjñayā
ādyudāttamavagrāhyaṁ padaṁ caiva prakīrtitam 4
ādyudāto bin!dumumdrāścānārthatastulla eva hi
dīpamānām udghanamcorekākṣaramudāhṛtam 5

dirghaparvāvasānaṁ ca mātrodghātavinārthakāḥ
ṛcāṁ padānāṁ sāmṇāṁ tu prakṛtyādi yathākramam 6
gaṇyate svaritānāṁ tu sālātāsamjñakam budhāḥ
śivakam procyate samyak rageyakramaśa sphuṭam 7
dhārisamkhyāmahaṁ vakṣye gamdhanācamudāhṛtam 8
iti paribhāṣā 1

om kanakam |
vakṣamāṇa tu sūtrāṇi dṛṣṭānīti gṛhyatām ||
tatkarāraḥ | [agnedignagasah](#) |

agne is the pratika of khaṇḍa 1 of adhyāya 1 of the pūrvācika. The number of svaritas (2ra) is dik (10); the number of udāttas (2u) is na (0); the number of dhārīs (not marked with a numeral) is ga (3) sah (7) according to the kaṭapayādi system.

[namorasanetramarah](#) | [agnim grahadvamāsaḥ](#) | [yajñadhā pāvakatryaśītiḥ](#) | [enātithi caikasaptatiḥ](#) |
[devo rudranamāsaḥ](#) | [ājukāmavasunavam](#) | [abodhiyalaiko na ṣaṣṭiḥ](#) | [agnalokamarunmāyah](#) |
athottaraṛcā dhāriśivasvaritasammatam 2

saptavimśatiḥ | nakṣatram | ṛkṣam | mam | tārā | tākā | uḍuvā | revatī | yogam | vijaya |
aṣṭāvimsāṭisamkhyā ārabhya ekatrimśatparyamtaṁ samkhyā nāsti | dvātrimśat lakṣaṇam | abdam |
hāyanam | varṣam | śarat | ṣaṣṭi | samāḥ | catuṣṣaṣṭiḥ | līlāḥ |

dhārisamjñā tathā proktāṣṣathasāvaḥ prakīrtitāḥ
śivakasya tu samkhyā tu bisatā iti menire 1
svaritam tu tathā proktaṁ yaramākamitūritam
samūhīkṛtya samkhyānāṁ trayāṇāṁ tu davānapaḥ 2
dirghasthāne tu dhārī syātparvasthāna udāttakam
mātrāsthāne tu svaritamuttarāyā ṛca smṛtaḥ 3

sāmalakṣaṇadīpikā samāptā

Reference:

“Sāmalakṣaṇadīpikā,” in C.K. Raja and K.M.K. Sarma, *Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Adyar Library, Volume I: Vedic*, Adyar Library and Research Center: Madras, 1942, Adyar D I 1069 (33 D 12 = 73239), and Adyar D I 1070 (33 E 7 = 75254).

<http://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/samalakshanadipika.html>
<http://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/samalakshanadipika.pdf>

Svaras (accents) in the Sāmaveda Saṁhitā

Accents are marked with a numeral (1, 2, 3), or numeral and letter (2u, 2ra, 2ka), above the syllable:

udātta (1), svarita (2), anudātta (3)

svārta (2) – pracaya – anudātta (3) – udātta (1)

anudātta (3) – anudātta – udātta (1) (only at the beginning of a line)

Special markings:

udātta (2) – anudātta (3); at the end of a line: anudātta (3) – udātta (2) |

udātta (1) – udātta – svarita (**2ra**)

udātta (**2u**) – udātta – anudātta (3)

anudātta (3ka) – svarita (2ra)

svārta (2) – 3 (5) – udātta (1) (Kampa)

Examples:

tvā¹middhi hav^{2ra}mahe sā³tau¹ vāja^{2ra}sya kā³ra¹va²ḥ |
tvā²m̄ vī³tre¹ṣvi²ndra³ sa¹tpa²ti³m̄ na²ra³stvā^{2u}m̄ kā³ṣṭhā³sva¹rva²taḥ || 1 || (809)

u-u-u-s-p-p-a-u-u-s-p-a-u-s |
u-a-u-s-a-u-s-a-u-a-u-u-a-u-s-p ||

u(1)-u-u-u-s(**2ra**)-p-p-a(3)-u(1)-u-s(**2ra**)-p-a(3)-u(1)-s(2) |
u(2)-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-a(3)-u(2)-a(3)-u(**2u**)-u-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-p ||

e³bhi¹rno² a³rkai¹rbhav^{2ra}no a³rvā¹ñksvā²3^srṇa¹ jyoti^{2ra}ḥ |
a²gne³ vi¹śve²bhiḥ su³ma²nā³ a¹nī²kaiḥ || 3 || (1779)

a-u-s-a-u-u-s-p-a-u-s-u-u-s |
u-a-u-s-p-a-u-a-u-s-p ||

a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-a(3)-u(1)-u-s(**2ra**)-p-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-3(5)-u(1)-u-s(**2ra**) |
u(2)-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-p-a(3)-u(2)-a(3)-u(1)-s(2)-p ||

References

Satwalekar S.D. (Ed), (1939), Sāmavedasamhitā, Svādhyāya Maṇḍala

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.485400/2015.485400.Saamved-sanhita#page/n0/mode/2up>

Explanation of the code:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.485400/2015.485400.Saamved-sanhita#page/n13/mode/2up>

Pataskar, Bhagyalata, Ekākṣarī Baiṭhaparibhāṣā, Adarsha Sanskrit Shoda Samstha, 2014
(Introduction, pages x-xii)

<http://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/samalakshanadipika.html>

<http://vedicreserve.miu.edu/shiksha/samalakshanadipika.pdf>

<https://sites.google.com/view/vedalakshana>

Last update by [Detlef Eichler](#) : 23 August 2023