

## Notes on measurement and mathematics in Miami-Illinois

This paper examines measurement and mathematical terms in Miami-Illinois (Costa 2003), as part of ongoing language and culture reclamation and education work at the Myaamia Center (Baldwin 2014).

I discuss several important grammatical concepts common across the Algonquian family like relative roots (Lockwood, Macaulay and Nash 2023) and mensural & sortal classifier finals (Meyer 2020), using recent work on Miami-Illinois narratives (Costa 2022) and the Indigenous Languages Digital Archive (ILDA; Miami Tribe of Oklahoma 2023) to examine four centuries of documentation gathered across various groups of Miami-Illinois people over the course of four centuries.

The sheer depth of documentation poses its own historical and interpretive challenges; among the most significant of these is the fact that the three French-Illinois dictionaries by Largillier (n.d. [circa 1700]), Le Boullenger (n.d. [circa 1725]) and Pinet (n.d. [circa 1702]) all predate the metrification of France by decades, and measurement systems in France prior to the French Revolution were notoriously complex, numerous and variable (Smeaton 2000). I examine these issues in detail.

I also examine issues associated with what has traditionally been called ethnomathematics, including language related to various cultural domains that involve or require mathematical knowledge like art, calendars, games and cooking, and reflect on the ways that the experiences of myaamiaki people might speak to developments in that field (Eglash 2023).

But this paper is not restricted to the historical period; rather, the goal is to synthesize what can be found in the documentation with the experiences and practices of today's teachers and learners of myaamiaataweenki in order to form the foundation for future lexical expansion.