# Grammatical Analysis of Nastalique Writing Style of Urdu

#### **Historical Note**

Nastalique is one of the most intricate styles used for Arabic script, which makes it both beautiful and complex to model. This analysis has been conducted as part of the development process of Nafees Nastalique Font. The work has been conducted in 2002 and is being released for the general development of Nastalique writing style. The work has been supported by APDIP UNDP and IDRC.

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## 1. The Nastalique Style: An Introduction

Nastalique script is taken as a standard for writing Urdu language. It is also the most widely used script for Urdu. Though this script is defined by well-formed rules passed down through generations of calligraphers, these rules have not been quantitatively examined and published in enough detail to enable modeling of character-based Nastalique font for computers. This document aims to quantify these rules in significant detail to facilitate modeling and eventually implementation of Nastalique font.

Nastalique font is computationally complex for many reasons. First, letters are written using a flat nib (traditionally using bamboo pens) and both trajectory of the pen and angle of the nib define a glyph representing a letter. Each letter has precise writing rules, relative to the length of the flat nib. Second, this cursive font is highly context sensitive. Shape of a letter depends on multiple neighboring characters.

## 2. Urdu Script

The Urdu alphabet is derived from the Arabic script which in itself is derived from the Aramaic script (Encarta 2000 Deluxe, Encyclopedia of Writing). In South Asia however Urdu language is written in two different scripts 'Devnagri' and 'Arabic'. In the parts of India, Urdu language has come under the influence of Hindi, borrowing its vocabulary as well as writing style from regional languages especially 'Sanskirat'. However, in Pakistan, Urdu has retained its Persio-Arabic influence and is written in Nastalique script. Nastalique is derived from two other styles of Arabic script 'Naskh' and 'Taleeq'. It was therefore named Naskh-Taleeq which gradually shortened to "Nastalique".

### 2.1. The Urdu Alphabet

The Urdu alphabet set is very similar to the Arabic alphabet. In fact most of the Arabic alphabets have been imported, as it is, in Urdu. The Urdu character set is phonetically more varied and hence contains additional alphabets influenced in major part by the Persian and the Sanskrit languages.



The Urdu alphabet is given below:



### 2.2. Mapping between Nastalique and Urdu characters

The Nastalique alphabets for Urdu have been adapted from their Arabic counterparts as in the Naskh and T'aleeq styles from which it has been derived. However, even for Urdu, this style is still taught with its original alphabet set. When the pupil gains mastery of the ligatures of this alphabet, then he/she is introduced to the modifications for Urdu.

Even aside from this fact, the alphabet set which is practiced in Nastalique does not contain the full Arabic alphabets. It is a systematic arrangement in which the characters are classified according to their shapes. The pupil strives first to master the characteristic shape of the class and then moves on to the variations.

The Nastalique to Urdu alphabet mapping can therefore be defined as below. Note that only the characters that are used in place of multiple similar shapes are shown. The rest of the characters in the alphabet are used without any such similar-shape classification.



ひいひ	5
رڈز	)
;; ; ; ,	
ΰŰ	J
صض	ص
طظ	Ь
ÈE	E
55	5

### 2.3. Building Blocks for an Urdu Font

In order to make a complete Urdu font, many characters, ligatures and symbols have to be available besides the alphabets. The following section describes the needed characters. The reference for these characters is the UZT (Urdu Zabta Takhti) 1.01, the standard code page for Urdu.

Sp $\cdot$		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
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	->:co	ode p	late sv	vitchin	g			-		-	dor an	ea	1				

Figure 1: UZT 1.01

All the Characters (above in UZT 1.01) which are not crossed needed for Urdu.

These characters are categorized into three groups:i) Normal characters(50 to 7A)ii) Diacritics(42 to 4F and 7B to 7E)iii) Special Characters(A0 to B0 and C7)iv) Numerical Characters (30 to 39)

A ligature of Muhammad should be in Urdu Character set. (Ref. Calligrapher Mr. Jameel)

#### Abbreviations:

Sp (20)	Space within the ligature.
Hs (41)	Space within the words.
Dc (2E)	Decimal point (different for Urdu than English e.g. small hamza is
	sometimes used for "ishariya" in Urdu).
Dv (2F)	Division sign or slash ( / ).
Hamza-e-Izafat (42)	Hamza used to connect words, e.g. in Idara-e-Tehqiq
Kasr-e-Izafat (43)	Zer used to connect words, e.g. in "Bang-e-Dera"
Da (C7)	Dash (in Urdu full stop is like a dash symbol)

#### 2.3.1 Urdu Characters

All the characters of Urdu are listed in a sequential order below along with the UZT code and the Unicode.

Unicode Name	UZT Character Names	Glyphs	UZT code	Unicode
ARABIC LETTER ALIF	Alif	Ŧ	80	U0627
ARABIC LETTER ALIF WITH HAMZA ABOVE	Alif (hamza)		81	U0623
ARABIC LETTER ALIF WITH MADDA ABOVE	Alif mad	~	82	U0622
ARABIC LETTER BEH	Bay	J.	83	U0628
ARABIC LETTER PEY	Pay	)*	84	U067E
ARABIC LETTER TEH	Тау	Ľ	85	U062A
ARABIC LETTER TTEH	Тае	لط	86	U0679
ARABIC LETTER THEH	Say	(*)	87	U062B
ARABIC LETTER JEEM	Jeem	5	88	U062C
ARABIC LETTER TCHEH	Chay	3	89	U0686

ARABIC LETTER HAH	Hay	2	90	U062D
ARABIC LETTER KHAH	Khay	Ś	91	U062E
ARABIC LETTER DAL	Dal	2	92	U062F
ARABIC LETTER DDAL	Dhal	4	93	U0688
ARABIC LETTER THAL	Zal	j	94	U0630
ARABIC LETTER REH	Ray		95	U0631
ARABIC LETTER RREH	Array	رط	96	U0691
ARABIC LETTER ZAI	Zae	)	97	U0632
ARABIC LETTER JEH	Yae	*	98	U0698
ARABIC LETTER SEEN	Seen	Ű	99	U0633
ARABIC LETTER SHEEN	Sheen	Ĵ	100	U0634
ARABIC LETTER SAD	Suad	ص	101	U0635
ARABIC LETTER DAD	Zuad	ض	102	U0636
ARABIC LETTER TAH	Тоа	b	103	U0637
ARABIC LETTER ZAH	Zoa	5	104	U0638
ARABIC LETTER AIN	Ain	Ê	105	U0639
ARABIC LETTER GHAIN	Gain	ė	106	U063A
ARABIC LETTER FEH	Fay	ف	107	U0641
ARABIC LETTER QAF	Gaf	Ē	108	U0642
ARABIC LETTER KEHEH	Kaf	5	109	U06A9

ARABIC LETTER GAF	Ghaf	٢	110	U06AF
ARABIC LETTER LAM	Lam	J	111	U0644
ARABIC LETTER MEEM	Meem	م	112	U0645
ARABIC LETTER NOON GHUNNA	Noon Ghunna	U	113	U06BA
ARABIC LETTER NOON	Noon	じ	114	U0646
ARABIC LETTER WAO	Vao	9	115	U0648
ARABIC LETTER HAMZA ABOVE	Wao Hamza		116	U0624
ARABIC LETTER AE	Hay	D	117	U06D5
ARABIC LETTER TEH MARBUTA	Hay (Tay) as in zakat	*0	118	U0629
ARABIC LETTER HAMZA	Hamza	ç	119	U0621
ARABIC LETTER FARSI YEH	Yay	ى	120	U06CC
ARABIC LETTER YEH BARREE	Yay (Bari)	2	121	U06D2
ARABIC LETTER HEH DOACHASHMEE	Hay (dochasmi)	2	122	U06BE

### 2.3.2 Punctuation and Arithmetic Symbols

Naskh includes its own set of punctuations in addition to the basic punctuations. These punctuations and other arithmetic symbols that are used with Naskh are listed below along with their respective UZT code and the Unicode.

Unicode Name	Glyph	UZT code	Unicode
SPACE		20	
EXCLAMATION MARK	!	21	U021
INVERTED COMMAS	"	22	U022
HASH SIGN	#	23	U023
CARRIAGE RETURN		24	
ARABIC PERCENTAGE	%	25	U066A
SIGN			
AMPERSAND SIGN	&	26	U026
APOSTROPHE	í	27	

OPENING BRACKET	(	28	U028
CLOSING BRACKET	)	29	U029
ARABIC FIVE POINTED	*	2a	U066D
STAR			
PLUS SIGN	+	2b	
ARABIC COMMA	"	2c	U60C
HYPHEN	-	2d	
DECIMAL POINT		2e	U66B
DIVISION SYMBOL	/	2f	U02F
COLON	:	3a	U03A
COLON DASH	1		
SEMI COLON	4	3B	U061B
LESS THAN SIGN	<	3c	U03C
IS EQUAL TO SIGN	=	3d	U03D
GREATER THAN SIGN	>	3e	U03E
QUESTION MARK	Ś	3f	U61F
AT THE RATE OF SIGN	@	40	U040
HARD SPACE		41	

### 2.3.3 Digits

The digits in Urdu are written in a particular style in Naskh and they are written from left to right in contrast to the actual direction of writing that is from right to left. These digits along with their respective UZT code and Unicode are given below.

Unicode Name	UZT Character Name	Glyph	UZT code	Unicode
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT ZERO	0	٠	30	U06F0
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT ONE	1	1	31	U06F1
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT TWO	2	٢	32	U06F2
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT THREE	3	٣	33	U06F3
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT FOUR	4	r	34	U06F4
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT FIVE	5	۵	35	U06F5
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT SIX	6	7	36	U06F6
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT SEVEN	7	4	37	U06F7
EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT EIGHT	8	1	38	U06F8

EXTENDED ARABIC- INDIC DIGIT NINE	9	9	39	U06F9
		/		

### 2.3.4 Urdu Aerabs

Every language has its own diacritics marks for the correct pronunciation of the words. This is true for Urdu as well. These marks are called Aerab in Urdu. Some of these Aerab are placed above the letter and some are placed below it for proper pronunciation of every letter. These Aerabs are listed below along with their corresponding UZT code and Unicode.

Unicode Name	UZT Character Name	Glyph	UZT code	Unicode
ARABIC HAMZA BELOW	Hamza-e-izafat	\$	42	U0655
ARABIC KASRA ISOLATED FORM	Kasre izafat	/	43	UFE7A
ARABIC LETTER SUPERSCRIPT ALEF	Khadi zabar	1	44	U670
	Khadi zair	1	45	0656
	Ulti paish	6	46	0657
		6	47	
			48	
ARABIC FATHATAN	Do zabar	1	49	U64B
ARABIC FATHATAN	Do zair	1	4a	U64D
ARABIC DAMMATAN	Do paish	60	4b	U64C
	Chota toein	6	4c	
ARABIC SMALL HIGH DOTLESS HEAD OF KHAH = Arabic Jazm	Jazm	2	4D	U06E1
Noon Gunnah Symbol		6	4E	0658
ARABIC SHADDA	Shad	W	4F	U0651
	Null diacritic	×	7b	
ARABIC FATHA	Zabar	/	7c	U064E
ARABIC KASRA	Zair	/	7d	U0650

ARABIC DAMMA	Pesh	9	7e	U064F
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### 2.3.5 Special symbols

Some symbols/ ligatures are used very often in writing Naskh. Due to this reason these special ligatures are included in the UZT as a whole ligature. Another reason for having these separate ligatures is that they are written in a special format. In the list below, all these symbols/ ligatures are listed along with the corresponding UZT Code and Unicode.

Unicode Name	UZT Character Name	Glyph	UZT code	Unicode
ARABIC LIGATURE ALLAH ISOLATED FORM	Lillah	, in	AO	UFDF2
	Jale-jalalahu	12	A1	
	Bismillah		A2	FDF8
ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAHOU ALAYHE WASALLAM	Sallallahu-alehi-wa- alehi-wasallam (complete)	الله وسخما صلى اليرم صلى اليرم		UFDFA
	Sallallahu-alehi-wa- alehi-wasallam (small)	التي طلى يوم	A3	
ARABIC LIGATURE SALAM ISOLATED FORM	Sallallahu-alehi-wa- alehi-wasallam (symbol)	P	A4	0610
ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHE ISOLATED FORM	Alehis-salam (symbol)	r	A5	U0611
	Raziallah-tallah- anhu (Complete)	رضائحته		
	Raziallah-tallah- anhu (symbol)	ie)	A6	0612
	Rahmet-ullah-aleh (Complete)	البند رخمعليه		
	Rahmet-ullah-aleh (symbol)	7)	A7	0613

	Takhalus	~	A8	0614
	Misrah symbol	6	A9	
Poetic Verse Sign	Shair sign	2	AA	060D
Foot Note				0602
	Page Number	~	AB	
	Number symbol		AC	0600
SANAH	Year symbol	~	AD	0601
	Mada	~	AE	
ARABIC LIGATURE LAM WITH ALEF ISOLATED FORM	Laam alif		AF	UFEFB
	0	0	B0	
	Square bracket opening	]	C0	U005B
	Back slash	\	C1	U005C
	Square bracket closing	]	C1 C2	U005D
	Underscore	_	C3	U005F
	Curly bracket opening	{	C3 C4	U007B
	Colon	:	C5	
	Curly bracket closing	}	C6	U007D
	Dash		C7	U06D4

## 3. Nastalique Characters and Joins

### 3.1 Terminology Used in Nastaligue

Terminologies commonly used in Nastalique are:

- **Qat**: is defined as horizontal distance (nib) of the calligraphic pen.
- Kursi: It can be related to the term baseline usually referred in typography. However, in • Nastalique 'Kursi' is defined by four lines. Starting from top to bottom this document refers to them as line 1, line 2, line 3 and line 4 respectively. 3↓

2

3 ↓

- Distance between line 1 and line 2 is three 'gat'.
- Distance between line 2 and line 3 is two 'gat'.
- Distance between line 3 and line 4 is three 'qat'. \_
- Mad: Extended lower flat part of Bay, Fay, Kaf and bari yeh may be called as 'Mad'. ٠
- **Kashish:** Diagonal stroke as in letter sheen is called kashish. •
- Daman: Lower circular arc of Jeen and Ain is generically known as Daman.
- Daera: Lower circular arc of Seen, Suad, Qaf, Noon and ChotiYeh, generically known as Daera • (or circle).
- Khamida: Curved shape seen in shapes like dal is called Khamida shape. •

### 3.2 Nastalique Tablets (Takhti)

The Nastalique characters and rules are conventionally categorized into 11 Takhties or tablets. First takhti is for the isolated characters (Mufridaat). The rest of tablets depict the rules of joining one character with each of the other characters in a two-character combination.

### 3.2.1 Isolated Tablet (Mufridaat Takhti)

The conventional tablet for the isolated character shapes of Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.2 Bay Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter bay in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.3 Jeem Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Jeem' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.4 Seen Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Seen' in Nastalique is given below:



### 3.2.5 Suad Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Suad' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.6 Toay Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Toay' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.7 Ain Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Ain' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.8 Fay Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Fay' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.9 Kaf Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Kaf' in Nastalique is given as under:



### 3.2.10 Meem Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Meem' in Nastalique is given below:



### 3.2.11 Goal Hay Tablet

The conventional tablet for the letter 'Goal Hay' in Nastalique is given below:



### 3.3 Some Generalized Rules

In the following section, we present some generalized rules and constraints that have been brought out by the study of contextual shape dependency in Nastalique characters.

### 3.3.1 The Role of Bay-Bay-All Tablet in 3-character ligature rules

It has been pointed out by the reference calligrapher, Mr. Jamil-ur-Rehman, that the most important tablet for the learning of character joinability in N-character ligatures is that of Bay-Bay-All. It defines the basic shape of most of the joins. Once such defined, these joins do not change their shapes by the substitution of other characters in place of Bay (i.e. the joins in ligatures of the type Bay-Bay-All, Bay-Any-All and Any-Any-All resemble one another to a considerable degree). There are only some exceptions to these rules.

The following section gives the images of the Bay-Bay-All tablet.



0.	25	J.
ببلا	~.	<b>y.</b> .
	~	5.

### 3.3.2 The Nature of Joins in Nastalique

Nastalique is characterized by fine or fragile joins. That is to say, the joins in Nastalique i.e. the strokes where a character shape joins with another character, are thin. The character shapes themselves, are generally thick, at least thicker in most parts than the joins. Thus, there is an alternating sequence of thick and thin strokes in Nastalique ligatures.

The alternation of thick and thin strokes is not just an arbitrary rule. It has its basis in the perception or the reading of Nastalique text. In order to perceive the written Nastalique correctly and efficiently, with no eye strain, the scheme of alternating thick and thin joins is the best approach.

The fragile joins of Nastalique are illustrated below with some examples.



The join where Jeem connects to Sheen is thin as indicated by the red circle.

### 3.3.3 The Cusp-like Shape of Joins

Most of the joins in the Nastalique text are formed by cusp-like shapes which are concave upwards and have their initial end higher than the final end, hence, the overall effect of the join is to descend diagonally from the preceding character to the following one.

It is also to be borne in mind that the concavity of the cusp is such that the ends are vertical and the base of the cusp is horizontal. Thus, the cusp is concave upwards without any tilt to the vertical.

The cusp-like nature of the Nastalique joins are illustrated below with some examples.



The cusp-like joins are circled in red.



The cusp-like joins are circled in red.



A magnified view of the cusp-like join.

### 3.3.4 Breaking the Monotony of Similar Joins

#### 3.3.4.1. Variation in Shape of Join to Break Monotony

It is possible that many similar joins come together in a ligature, as in many Bay's connected to each other. In such a case, the similar shape of the joins renders it difficult to make out what is written i.e. the perception of the joins becomes difficult. That is why whenever similar cusp-like joins come together, the monotony of their shape is intentionally broken by differing the shape of alternate joins.

When two or more Bay's (or Bay-like joins) come together, every alternate join is raised to make it different from the surrounding ones. This helps in the perception i.e. reading of the Nastalique text.

The principle is illustrated below with some examples.



#### 3.3.4.2. Frequency of Usage of Raised Joins

It has been mentioned in the above section that the raised joins or raised cusps are used to break the monotony of the similar joins when several cusps come together. The frequency of usage of the raised and unraised joins is almost equal. Hence, a ligature can in principle be formed in either of the two ways: raised joins coming in between unraised ones and unraised joins coming in between raised ones. However, in practice, the first one is preferred as discussed below.



Starting with the unraised join, every second one is raised.



Starting with the raised join, every second one is unraised.

#### 3.3.4.3. Minimization of Number of Raised Joins

The alternation of raised and unraised cusp-like joins is to be preferably constrained in such a way that the number of raised cusps is minimized.

This principle is illustrated with the following examples.



When six Bay's come together, the number of raised joins is minimized if we start with a raised join.

#### 3.3.5. Shorthand-like Cases in Nastalique

Aside from the variety of the joins in Nastalique depending upon the preceding and following characters, there is yet another category of joins that denotes some cases which have shorthand-like properties.

In two-character ligatures a join comes between an initial and a final character shape and has no other function. However, in three-character ligatures a join might represent the third intervening character also. Hence in the Bay-Bay-Ray ligature illustrated below, there is no explicit shape of the middle Bay but the join between the initial and final characters has been slightly extended to indicate a third character in the middle. Furthermore, the nuqta of this middle bay below the extended join indicates the middle character.



Bay-Bay-Ray ligature with the join serving as the indication for the medial Bay.

It is also noteworthy that this property is heavily dependent on the perception of written text. That is why such an approach in some cases influences the preceding and following character shapes as well to avoid confusion in reading. This is illustrated in the following example.

It is also noteworthy that it is not necessary in some cases to make any change at all to any join or letter shape in the ligature except to introduce nuqtas or tuay. Thus the following ligature can be a two-character ligature and and three-character ligature depending upon the nuqtas.



Kaf-Say-Ray with the join indicating the middle Say. Note the use of long Ray to avoid confusion.



Kaf-Say with the short Say in the end. This has same structure as above but written differently to avoid confusion.



Jeem-Sheen, a 2-character ligature.



Jeem-Sheen-Noon, a 3-character ligature. Note that this differs only in the last extra nuqta from the above example.

### 3.3.6 Space Conservation in Nastalique

The diagonal nature of Nastalique, its inherent shorthand-like ligature formation cases, use of the nib of stylus at a steep angle to the trajectory and thin fragile joins, all combine to make Nastalique a most space-conserving style of writing. It is estimated that Nastalique takes approximately 40% less space than Naskh, the second popular style for writing Urdu (which resembles Roman style in the sense that each character shape is given a fixed width which usually does not change).

However, due to these same properties, the placement of nuqtas and diacritics in Nastalique text is a formidable challenge even for accomplished calligraphers. That is the reason Nastalique style is not usually used in the scribing of the Holy Quran.

### 3.3.7 Repeated Pattern of 2-character Joining in 3-character Ligatures

It has been observed in the analysis of 3-character ligatures that the rules of joining as in the 2character ligatures have largely been reused. It is the following character that dictates the joining of the preceding one, whether it be in the third place as in 3-character ligatures or in the second place as in 2-character ligatures.

# 3.3.8 Repeated Pattern of 3-character Joining in 4-character Ligatures and beyond

The point here is similar to the one presented in above section. The rules of joining are largely reused from 3-character ligatures into the 4-character and longer ligatures. Once again, it is the following character that dictates the joining of the preceding one, whether it be in the second, third, fourth or any other place in the ligature.

## 4. Contextual Analysis of Nastalique

As in all Arabic scripts, in Nastalique shapes of a character vary depending on its position (initial, medial and final) in a ligature. In addition to position of character in a ligature, the character shape also depends on other characters of the ligature. Thus Nastalique is inherently context sensitive. This context sensitivity of Nastalique can be captured by substitution grammar as discussed in detail in this section.

For most medial shapes a barrage is inserted in flow of context sensitivity of grammar such that its preceeding character's shape is not dependent on characters following the medial shape. Similarly glyphs that follow a medial shape are not dependent on what preceeds it. Similarly, in most cases shapes of character occurring in final positon of ligature are independent of their previous context. While preceding character depends on the next character. Thus, it may be concluded that rules for Nastalique predominately moves from left to right.

This section lists the context sensitive grammar for characters occurring in initial, medial and final position of ligatures.

Explanation of Grammatical Conventions: The productions such as:

ب\_\_ |<A>\_\_ \\_ب < ب

is to be read as  $\because$  transforms to  $\downarrow_1$  ( $\neg \rightarrow \downarrow_1$ ), in the environment (/) when  $\because$  occurs before class A (\_\_\_<A>) or (|) when  $\lor$  occurs before  $\downarrow$  (\_\_\_).

Note that 'OR' ( | )operator has a higher precedence than 'Forward Slash' (/) operator. Thus, it would be possible to write multiple transformations in one environment using several 'OR' ( | ) operator on the right side of a single (/).

Also note that the underscore symbol (\_\_\_\_) is actually an indication of the position variable in a ligature. Hence, in the example above, \_\_\_\_ stands for  $-1_1$ .

#### Explanation of grammar

As already mentioned above and also from analysis of 3-character and 4-character ligatures, one invariant that have predominantly existed in this contexual analysis of Nastalique is that *the shape of a character is mostly dependent on immediate proceeding character*. That is given a ligature composed of character sequence  $X_1, X_2, ..., X_N$  for N>2, the shape of character  $X_i$  where i < N, is determined by letter  $X_{i+1}$ . While all preceding letters  $X_1, ..., X_{i-1}$  and character sequences after its following character i.e  $X_{i+2}, ..., X_N$  have no (or little) role in its shaping. Sequence of bay's form an exception to this general rule. Other exceptions are also mentioned.

Consider a rule for medial jeem in 3-character ligature:

 $\tau \rightarrow \tau_{\text{Medial6}} / \psi_{\text{Final}}$ 

From above argument the shape of jeem (ج Medial6) is determined by final seen (س Final) or simply seen (س) and not by  $\cdot$  or any preceding character. So changing  $\cdot$  to say  $\diamond$  and inserting any non-seperator before  $\diamond$  should have no effect on shape of Jeem. That is



By introducing a class <NS> (short for Non-seperators), a general rule to specifiy the medial shape of jeem in 4-character ligature can be derived:

Where  $\langle NS \rangle \rightarrow \{$ ب ج س ص ط ع ف ق ک ل م ن  $\delta$  ه م ی ےi.e all charactares that can connect from front.  $\langle NS_1 \rangle$  are initial forms while  $\langle NS_2 \rangle$  are medial forms.

Also inserting any character after seen should have no effect on Jeem.

This leads to another rule to specifiy the medial shape on jeem in 4-character ligature.

Where  $<All \rightarrow \{ ! \ n \neq 0 \}$ . Class <All > is actually a set of charaters that can occur in final position. The analysis of these characters is presented in section 4.4.

#### **N-character**

The two rules can be combined to generalize for n-character ligature.

As after س any sequence of letters of any length can be appended without altering shape of Jeem, this rule can be rewritten as:

Combining these two yields:

ج

N characters: ج→ج <sub>Medial6</sub>/<NS>⁺ \_\_\_\_ •NS>⁺<All>

Where superscript + indicates occurance of atleast one character and superscript \* indicates 0 or more characters.

### 4.1 Classification of Characters with respect to Context

In Nastalique Urdu characters can also be classified with respect to certain features. One such feature is that of '*Kashish*' (the alongation of character stroke). Class <Kashish> below mentions the letters which can be alongated.

{دھەم ف ع ص س ج } → <

In Nastalique letter 'meem' when occurring in medial position of a ligature has two alternative

forms  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma_{Alt-1}$ . Only a selective number of letters can occur before alternative  $\gamma_{Alt-1}$ . These letters have been grouped as <Char Before AlternativeMeem> below.

Shar Before AlternativeMeem> → { → { → } }

#### **Classification of Glyphs occurring in Final Position**

Following is a classification of final glyphs.

All glyphs of class <A>, except  $U_{\text{Final}}$  forces their preceding characters to lie at line 3. While glyph  $U_{\text{Final}}$  forces characters (glyphs) occurring before it to move two 'Qat' higher (i.e. at line 2).

$$Ashort > \{ \leq_{Final1} \leq_{Final2} \}$$

A subset of class <A> (i.e. glyphs  $l_{\text{Final}} U_{\text{Final}}$ ) initiates a rounded version for the otherwise straight letter 'kaf'. Class <Ashort> describes the glyphs which do not initiate this change.

#### Classification of Glyphs occurring in non-Final Position

Classes defined below are drawn with respect to final characters. For example the class **<Char Before Ray1>**  $\rightarrow$  {  $\rightarrow }$  {  $\rightarrow$ 

```
<Char Before Ray1> \rightarrow { \negInitial4 \rightleftharpoons Initial4 \bigcircInitial4 \bigcircInitial4 \bigcircInitial4 \bigcircMedial4 }
<Char Before Ray2> \rightarrow { \negInitial5 \circlearrowrightInitial5 \bigcircInitial5 \bigcircInitial5 \circlearrowrightInitial5 \circlearrowrightInitial17 \circlearrowrightInitial
```

In the grammar discussed in this section others notations that are used are explained below. Symbol  $\langle \overline{c} \rangle$  indicates all non-final shapes of letter jeem.
Similarly symbols <ک ، <ک , حے ، (4 - 2), (2 - 3), (2 - 3) specify group of some symbols (4 - 3) specify group of non-final glyphs for respective letter. Thus, symbol (2 - 3) show presence of any non-final glyph of

 ${\bf A}_{Alt-1}$  in the context sensitive grammar given in this section.

<All> indicates all possible glyphs for each character.

<NS> indicates glyphs of those characters that can occur as non-seperator.

<NS>\* indicates a sequence of zero or more non-seperator glyph(s).

<NS><sup>+</sup> indicates a sequence of atleast one non-seperator glyph(s).

<All-lam> indicates <All> minus <ථ >

<NS-lam> indicates <NS> minus <し >

# 4.2 Context Sensitive Grammar for Initial-Position characters:

## 4.2.1 Initial Bay

The following table lists the initial shapes of letter 'Bay'.

•	~	/	/	1
Initial1ب	Initial2ب	Initial3ب	Initial4 <sup>ب</sup>	Initial6 <sup>ب</sup>
1	J	)	J	J
Initial7ب	Initial8ب	Initial9ب	Initial10ب	Initial11ب
1	/	~	1	
6 ب] <sub>Initial12</sub> ب	Initial13 <sup>ب</sup>	Initial14ب	Initial15 <sup>ب</sup>	Initial16 <sup>ب</sup>
>	له	~	~	~
Initial17ب	Initial18 <sup>ب</sup>	Initial23 ب	Initial25 ب	Initial33 ب
~		/		
Initial36 ب	Initial37 ب	Initial39 ب		

The Context in which these shapes occur is stated next:





## 4.2.2 Initial Jeem

Given below are 19 initial shapes of letter 'Jeem'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

5	7	7	7	8
€Initial1	€Initial2	€Initial3	CInitial4	ڌInitial5
7	~	2	7	3
でInitial6	CInitial7	€Initial8	CInitial9	でInitial10
7	7	7	7	2

€Initial11	دآت] Initial12	€Initial13	CInitial14	CInitial15
7	7	9	2	2
でInitial16 [こ13]	CInitial17-1	CInitial17-2	CInitial18	€Initial39



#### 4.2.3 Initial Seen

Given below are 18 initial shapes of letter 'Seen'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

~	~	~	~	
Initial1 <sup>س</sup>	Initial2 <sup>س</sup>	Initial <sup>3</sup>	Initial4 <sup>س</sup>	Initial6 <sup>س</sup>
~	~	~	N	Jac .
Initial7 <sup>س</sup>	Initial <sup>e</sup> س	Initial9 <sup>س</sup>	Initial10 <sup>س</sup>	Initial11 <sup>س</sup>
×	~		1	part .

Initial12 <sup>س</sup>	Initial13 <sup>س</sup>	Initial14 <sup>س</sup>	Initial15 <sup>س</sup>	Initial16 <sup>س</sup>
~	~	~	~	
Initial17 <sup>س</sup>	Initial18-1 <sup>س</sup>	Initial18-2 <sup>س</sup>	nitial39 <sup>س</sup>	



ا حک> <sub>Final</sub>	
<ns>*<all> ل&lt;ک&gt;  </all></ns>	

## 4.2.4 Initial Suad

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Suad'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

6	2	~	2	2
Initial1ص	Initial2ص	Initial3ص	Initial4ص	Initial6ص
2	P	P	~	
Initial7ص	Initial8ص	Initial9ص	Initial10ص	Initial11ص
2	2	2	2	2
Initial12ص	Initial13ص	Initial14ص	Initial15ص	[13]Initial_16ص
2	~	2		
Initial17ص	Initial18	Initial39 ص		





## 4.2.5 Initial Toay

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Toay'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

6	6	b	'b	6
Initial1	L <sub>Initial2</sub>	L <sub>Initial3</sub>	اط <sub>Initial4</sub>	ط <sub>اnitial6</sub>
·b	b	b	L	L
لط Initial7	Lnitial8	L <sub>Initial9</sub>	L <sub>Initial10</sub>	L <sub>Initial11</sub>
	6	L	6	6
L <sub>Initial12</sub>	Lnitial13	اط_Initial14	Initial15ط	اط_13]Initial_16
b	طر	6		

اط Initial17	اط <sub>Initial18</sub>	اطInitial39



#### 4.2.6 Initial Ain

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Ain'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

5	e	P	F	S
2Initial1	٤Initial2	د Initial3	EInitial4	د Initial6
Ş	S	9	S	S
۲ Initial 7	٤Initial8	EInitial9	د اnitial10	٤Initial11
5	ç	5	S	ç
EInitial12	د Initial13	Initial14	Initial15	۲Initial16
P	S	S		
nitial17ع	2Initial18	د Initial39		



#### 4.2.7 Initial Fay

Given below are 19 initial shapes of letter 'Fay'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below. For initial and medial position base shapes for fay and qaf are same.

9	٩	9	•	2
Initial1 <sup>ف</sup>	Initial2-1	Initial2-2 ف	Initial3	Initial4
2	9	•	9	9
<sub>Initial5</sub>	Initial6	Initial7	Initial8	Initial9
9	•	9	•	9
Initial10	Initial11 <sup>ف</sup>	Initial12 <sup>ف</sup>	Initial13 <sup>ف</sup>	Initial14
9	9	9	2	•
Initial15 <sup>ف</sup>	Initial16	Initial17ف	Initial18ف	Initial39



#### 4.2.8 Initial Kaf

Given below are 19 initial shapes of letter 'Kaf'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below. For initial and medial position base shapes for kaf and gaf are same. In most cases, by removing initial diagnol stroke from kaf results in character lam. However, separate analysis of lam is given in 4.2.9.

6	5	5	5	5
Initial1-1	Initial2-1-1ک	Initial2-1-2	<sub>Initial3-1</sub> ک	۔ Initial4-1
1	1	5	5	5
<sub>Initial6-1</sub> ک	Initial7-1	<sub>Initial8-1</sub> ک	<sub>Initial9-1</sub> ک	<sub>Initial10-1</sub> ک

5	1	1	5	5
Initial11-1	ا_Initial12-1	[2	اک Initial14-1	Initial15-1
1	5	5	5	6
[13] Initial <u>16-1</u> ک	Initial17-1ک	Initial18-1	Initial19-1ک	Initial20-1



#### 4.2.9 Initial Lam

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Lam'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

	)	لہ	/	1	1
ل[	J <sub>Initial2-1</sub>	ပ <sub>lnitial2-2</sub>	J <sub>Initial3</sub>	J <sub>Initial4</sub>	J <sub>Initial6</sub>
1	J	١	J	J	J
ل Initial7	J <sub>Initial8</sub>	J <sub>Initial9</sub>	J <sub>Initial10</sub>	J <sub>Initial11</sub>	J <sub>Initial12</sub>
) .	J	٦	)	1	ر
J <sub>Initial13</sub>	J <sub>Initial14</sub>	J <sub>Initial15</sub>	J <sub>Initial16</sub>	J <sub>Initial17</sub>	J <sub>Initial18</sub>



#### 4.2.10 Initial Meem

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Meem'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

6	~	1	-	/
Initial1 م	Initial?	Initial3	Initial4	nitial6
1				>
Initial?	Anitial8	Initial?	Initial10	nitial11
~	2	~	~	>
înitial12	nitial13¢	nitial14 <b>ہ</b>	nitial15 <b>۲</b>	nitial16[م]
1	2	۶		
nitial17 <b>۲</b>	r Initial18	nitial39 <b>ہ</b>		



#### 4.2.11 Initial Goal Hay

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Goal Hay'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

In written text ('tehrir') hook diacritic is used below all initial shapes of Goal Hay. With the exception of hook occurring in ligature 'Goal-Hay + Alif'; all other hooks are written with another pen whose 'qat' size is half the qat size of pen with which base ligature is written. Ligature 'Goal-Hay + Alif' is written with the same pen as the base ligature itself. For each ligature diacritic hook is placed below goal hay's cup ('shosha').

6	~	~	-	~~
٥ <sub>Initial1</sub>	٥ <sub>Initial2</sub>	<b>ە</b> lnitial3	٥ <sub>Initial5-1</sub>	٥ <sub>Initial5-2</sub>
~	~	~	~	~
٥ <sub>Initial6</sub>	٥ <sub>Initial7</sub>	٥ <sub>Initial8</sub>	<b>ð</b> Initial9	<b>ە</b> lnitial10
~	سر	~	~	~~
<b>ð</b> Initial11	٥ <sub>Initial12</sub>	٥Initial13	<b>ð</b> Initial14	٥ <sub>Initial15</sub> [٥ <sub>13</sub> ]
~	~	~	~	
ð <sub>Initial16</sub> [ð <sub>13</sub> ]	٥ <sub>Initial7</sub>	٥ <sub>Initial18</sub>	<b>ð</b> Initial39	



#### 4.2.11 Initial Do Chashmi Hay

Given below are 17 initial shapes of letter 'Do Chashmi Hay'. Context in which these shapes occur is also mentioned below.

6	Q	Ø	Ø	Ø
<sub>Initial1</sub> ھ	<sub>Initial2</sub> ھ	ا <sub>nitial3</sub>	<sub>Initial4</sub> ھ	<sub>Initial6</sub> ھ
0	Ø	0	A	ھ
اnitial7ھ	<sub>Initial8</sub> ھ	<sub>Initial9</sub>	ه <sub>Initial10</sub>	Initial11ھ
0	Ø	0	ø	
<sub>Initial12</sub> ھ	<sub>Initial13</sub> ھ	<sub>Initial14</sub> ھ	Initial15ھ	<sub>Initial16</sub> ھ
Ø	0	Ø		
Initial17ھ	Initial18ھ	۔ Initial39		



# 4.3 Analysis of Medial Position Characters:

Given below is general grammar for medial characters occuring in ligatures.

#### 4.3.1 Medial Bay

The 'bay' group of letters occurring in medial position have great flexibility in terms of modifying their own shapes as well as the shape of their preceeding characters. For this reason analysis of medial bay is taken as an exception. In almost all cases for medial bay (in three character ligatures) the basic ligature comes from the ligature shape of 'bay+bay+any final glyph' (where '+' stands for concatenation). To convert this ligature shape (of bay+bay+final glyph) to say alphabet x+bay+final glyph ligature; only x's head is placed on the ligature bay+bay+final glyph. In other words:

#### For all j E final glyphs

For all i C initial or medial glyph heads for each character except bay, seen and suad

i+bay+bay+j forms the shape for i+bay+j ligature

For ligature bay+bay+j shapes and grammar is given below.

-	1	1	~	J
ب Medial1	<sub>Medial</sub> 2	ب Medial3	ب Medial5	Medial7
1	1	~		1
Medial8	<sub>Medial</sub> 9	Medial10	Medial11	Medial12
1	/	1	/	
ب Medial13	Medial16	Hedial17	Hedial18	Hedial23
1		~		
<sub>Medial</sub> 25	<sub>Medial</sub> 33	<sub>Medial</sub> 36	Medial37	

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \end{array} \\ \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \end{array} \\ \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \end{array} \\ \left( \times NS \right)^{*} \\ \left$$



## 4.3.2 Medial Jeem

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Jeem'.

5	7	7	2	7
CMedial 1	CMedial2	€Medial3	CMedial5	CMedial6
-	2	7	3	7
CMedial 7	CMedial8	CMedial 9	CMedial10	CMedial11
7	7	7	7	7
CMedial12	CMedial13	CMedial14	CMedial15	CMedial16
7	2			
CMedial17	CMedial18			

$$\begin{array}{c} \overleftarrow{\phantom{a}} \overleftarrow{\phantom{a}$$

## 4.3.3 Medial Seen

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Seen'.

5	_	~		
Medial1 <sup>س</sup>	Medial2	Medial <sup>3</sup>	<sub>Medial</sub> 5	<sub>Medial</sub> 6
	~	~	~	سم
Medial7	Medial8	Medial9	Medial10	Medial11
_	~~		and the second s	~
<sub>Medial</sub> 12	Medial13 <sup>س</sup>	Medial14 <sup>س</sup>	Medial15 <sup>س</sup>	Medial16 <sup>س</sup>
~		~		
<sub>Medial</sub> 17-1	Medial17-2 <sup>س</sup>	Medial18 <sup>س</sup>	<sub>Medial</sub> 21	

## 4.3.4 Medial Suad

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Suad'. These shapes are same as initial shapes of suad. Their grammar with respect to medial positon is given below.

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{ANS}^* = \langle \mathsf{ANS}^* =$$

## 4.3.5 Medial Toay

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Toay'. These shapes are same as initial shapes of toay. Their grammar with respect to medial positon is given below.

## 4.3.6 Medial Ain

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Ain'.

5	2	2	2	2
EMedial1	EMedial2-1	و Medial2-2	EMedial3	EMedial5
L	Z	2	2	I
EMedial6	د Medial	۲ Medial	EMedial9	وMedial10
e	Z	2	2	2

EMedial11	۲ <sub>Medial</sub> 12	وMedial13	وMedial14	د Medial
2	2	2		
EMedial16	۲ Medial 17	EMedial18		



## 4.3.7 Medial Fay

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Fay'. Letter 'Qaf' in medial position has same shape as letter 'Fay'.

٠	٠	٠	•	•
10	0	0	0	0
ف <sub>Medial1</sub>	<sub>Medial</sub> 2	فس <sub>Medial</sub> 3	<sub>Medial</sub> 5	ف <sub>Medial</sub> 6

•0	è	è	ė	è
Medial7	ف <sub>Medial8</sub>	Medial9	Medial10	ف Medial11
2	è	è	è	è
<sub>Medial</sub> 12 ف	Medial 13	Medial14	Medial15	Medial16
è	é			
Medial17	ف Medial 18			



#### 4.3.8 Medial Kaf

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Kaf'. Kaf undertakes a rounded form when it is followed by a <class A> letter.

	5	2	2	2
Medial 1-1	ک <sub>Medial 2-1-1</sub>	Medial 2-1-2	ک <sub>Medial 3-1</sub>	ک <sub>Medial 4-1</sub>
5	6	2	2	5
ک Medial 6-1	ک <sub>Medial 7-1</sub>	ک <sub>Medial 8-1</sub>	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 9-1	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 10-1
2	5	5	2	2
Medial 11-1	Medial 12-1	Medial 13-1	Medial 14-1	Medial 15-1
5	6	1	J	
ک <sub>Medial16-1</sub> [ک <sub>13</sub> ]	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 17-1	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 18-1	Medial 19-1	]

$$\begin{array}{c} (\Delta) = (\Delta_{Medial1-1} - (NS)^{+} \ |_{Final} \\ | < NS)^{+} \ |_$$

## 4.3.9 Medial Lam

Given below is analysis of 19 medial shapes of letter 'Lam'.

لم	لم	1	لمر	Y	٢
U <sub>Medial2-1</sub>	J <sub>Medial2-2</sub>	$J_{Medial3}$	$J_{Medial4}$	J <sub>Medial6</sub>	J <sub>Medial7</sub>
٨	٨	J	L	Y	٢
J <sub>Medial8</sub>	J <sub>Medial</sub> 9	J <sub>Medial10</sub>	U <sub>Medial11</sub>	J <sub>Medial12</sub> [J <sub>6</sub> ]	J <sub>Medial</sub> 13
k	لمر	6	¢	1	L
J <sub>Medial14</sub>	J <sub>Medial15</sub>	J <sub>Medial</sub> 16	U <sub>Medial17</sub>	U <sub>Medial</sub> 18	J <sub>Medial</sub> 19

<ns>⁺ ≤_<sub>Final1</sub></ns>
$  < NS >^{+}$ $\leq_{Final2}$ $  < NS >^{+}$ $\bigcup$ $Final$
<ns>⁺ У <sub>Final</sub></ns>
<ns>⁺&lt;ک&gt;<all-lam></all-lam></ns>
<ns>⁺&lt;ک&gt;<ns-lam></ns-lam></ns>
<ns>*<all></all></ns>
<ns>⁺&lt;┘&gt;<ns>*<all></all></ns></ns>

# 4.3.10 Medial Meem

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Meem'.

5	*	-	-	<i>*</i>
Medial1	Medial2	PMedial3	AMedial 5	Medial6
1			~	A
AMedial7	<b>م</b> Medial8	PMedial9	Amedial10	Medial11
1	1	A	July 1	1
Amedial 12	Medial13	م Medial14	Amedial15	م Medial16[م 13]
~	-			
Medial 17	Medial18			

# 4.3.11 Medial Goal Hay

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Goal Hay'.

5	N	~	~	$\checkmark$
٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 1	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 2	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 3	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 5	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 6
Y	N	N	S	N
٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 7	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 8	<b>ð</b> <sub>Medial</sub> 9	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 10	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 11
N	~	~	N	~
٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 12	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 13	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 14	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 15	ð <sub>Medial16</sub> [ð <sub>13</sub> ]
N	N			
٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 17	٥ <sub>Medial</sub> 18			

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \rightarrow \circ \ _{Medial1} / < NS^{+} \ _ \\ | < NS^{+} \ \_ < \checkmark >$$

$$| ^{+} __ < \cup >  *   $\diamond \rightarrow \diamond _{Medial9} / ^{+} __ {L} _{Final} | ^{+} __ < US > *  | ^{+} __ < \cup >  *  | ^{+} __ < \cup > \cup _{Final} | ^{+} __ < \cup > \cup  *$$$

# 4.3.12 Medial Do Chasmi Hay

Given below is analysis of 17 medial shapes of letter 'Do Chashmi Hay'.

100	B	p	25	25
ه <sub>Medial1</sub>	ه <sub>Medial2</sub>	ه <sub>Medial</sub> 3	ه <sub>Medial 5</sub>	Medial6
Ø	DS	B	S	DE
Medial7	ه <sub>Medial8</sub>	ه <sub>Medial</sub> 9	ه <sub>Medial</sub> 10	<sub>Medial</sub> 11
B	ø	B	25	ø
ه <sub>Medial</sub> 12	ه <sub>Medial</sub> 13	ه <sub>Medial</sub> 14	Medial15ھ	ه <sub>Medial16</sub> [ه]
ps	B			
Medial17	Medial18			

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \end{array} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \end{array} \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \end{array} \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \end{array} \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times S^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \right)^{-} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\ \left( \times NS^{+} \\$$

ط→ه <sub>Medial9</sub> / <ns>⁺Final</ns>	
<ns>*<all>ط&gt;NS&gt;*<all></all></all></ns>	
<ns>⁺&lt;ل&lt;≥ل<sub>Final</sub></ns>	
<ns>*<all> ل&gt;&lt;د ل&gt;&gt;&lt;</all></ns>	

# 4.4 Analysis of Final Position Characters:

In this section shapes and context sensitive grammar for final shapes of characters is given. This grammar indicates all possible final shapes that exist in Nastalique and the context in which they occur.

1	) Final	(	2	بFinal1	
3	မှ <sub>Final2</sub>		4	မှ <sub>Final3</sub>	U
5	မှ <sub>Final4</sub>		6	Final	3
7	ک <sub>Final</sub>	1	8	J <sub>Final1</sub>	1
9	J Final2	//	10	Final1	J
11	Final2 <sup>س</sup>	ش	12	Final ص	0
13	ط <sub>Final</sub>	6	14	EFinal	5
15	Final	ف	16	ق <sub>Final</sub>	Ü
17	Final1		18	Final2	

19	U <sub>Final</sub>	J	20	Final1	1
21	CFinal2	t	22	Ú <sub>Final</sub>	C
23	ع Final	•	24	<b>ð</b> <sub>Final1</sub>	~
25	<b>ð</b> Final2	~	26	هFinal	Ø
27	Final1	0	28	Final2	0
29	C Final1		30	$\mathbb{Y}_{Final}$	J

In the above table shape of  $\diamond_{\text{Final1}}$  and  $\diamond_{\text{Final2}}$  are same but relative size of latter is greater. Also, shape  $\rightarrow \Rightarrow_{\text{Final2}}$  only when preceding character is a 'Kashida' (i.e. a stretched glyph). It should be noted that glyph  $U_{\text{Final}}$  forces preceding characters to move to line 2.

ر → <sub>&gt; Final2</sub> / <char before="" ray2=""></char>	$\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\text{Final1}}$ / <char before="" chotiyeh1=""></char>
→ س <del>Final1</del> / <ns><sup>+</sup></ns>	ى $\rightarrow$ ى Final2 /< Char Before ChotiYeh2>
→ س <sub>Final2</sub> / <ns>+</ns>	$ \rightarrow                                   $

## 4.5 Analysis of Alternative Glyphs:

6		5	5	5
<sub>1-1</sub> ک	<sub>2-2-1</sub>	2-2-2	<sub>3-2</sub>	ح_4-2
5	5	5	5	5
ک <sub>6-2</sub>	ک <sub>7-2</sub>	<sub>8-2</sub> ک	<sub>9-2</sub> ک	<sub>10-2</sub> ک
5	5	5	5	5
<sub>11-2</sub> ک	<sub>12-2</sub> ک	<sub>13-2</sub> ک	<sub>14-2</sub> ک	15-2
	5	5	5	6
<sub>16-2</sub> ک	<sub>17-2</sub> ک	<sub>18-2</sub> ک	<sub>19-2</sub> ک	<sub>20-1</sub> ک

#### 4.5.1 Alternative Initial Kaf



# 4.5.2 Alternative Medial Kaf

		5	5	5
ک Medial 1-2	Medial 2-2-1	<sub>Medial</sub> 2-2-2	ک <sub>Medial 3-2</sub>	ک <sub>Medial 4-2</sub>
5	5	5	5	5
ک <sub>Medial</sub> 6-2	ک Medial 7-2	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 8-2	ک Medial 9-2	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 10-2
5	5	5	5	5
ک <sub>Medial 11-2</sub>	ک <sub>Medial 12-2</sub>	ک <sub>Medial 13-2</sub>	Medial 14-2	ک <sub>Medial 15-2</sub>
	5	5	5	
ک <sub>Medial</sub> 16-2	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 17-2	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 18-2	ک <sub>Medial</sub> 19-2	



#### 4.5.2 Alternative Medial Meem



A>
<ns><sup>*</sup> &lt;<b>Char Before AlternativeMeem</b>&gt;&lt;스&gt;<all-lam></all-lam></ns>
<ns><sup>*</sup>&lt;<b>Char Before AlternativeMeem</b>&gt;&lt;ک&gt;<ns-lam> <ns>*<all></all></ns></ns-lam></ns>
<ns><sup>*</sup>&lt;<b>Char Before AlternativeMeem</b>&gt;<u><ns>*<all></all></ns></u></ns>
│ <ns><sup>*</sup>&lt;<b>Char Before AlternativeMeem</b>&gt;</ns>

# 5. Specialized Analysis of Nastalique

Rules of composing are defined by calligraphy. Calligraphic style exhibits special features in Nastalique. In this setion we disscuss in detail these special features. In Nastalique, each character may have different diacritics associated with it. This is in addition to the main ligature in which characters are joined such that the whole ligature is along a diagonal line. Thus specialized analysis of Nastalique includes analyses of:

- Base line Shifting
- Proportional Spacing
- Nuqta Analysis
- Aerabs Analysis

# 5.1 Base line Shifting

From the point of view of Nastalique text, when it is being written or composed, by addition of one letter at a time, it is the final letter (i.e. the one just added) that has any relation to the baseline. Thus, it is possible by addition of the current letter that the previous ones will be shifted upward or downward depending on the relation of the current letter to the baseline. This is termed as Baseline Shifting.

For baseline, the term Kursi is used in Nastalique. 'Kursi' is defined by four lines. Starting from top to bottom this document refers to them as line 1, line 2, line 3 and line 4 respectively.

Distance between line 1 and line 2 is three 'qat'.

Distance between line 2 and line 3 is two 'qat'.

Distance between line 3 and line 4 is three 'qat'.



Some general rules concerning baseline and baseline shifting are as follows:

- The baseline or Kursi in Nastalique is composed of Four lines, numbered from top to bottom as 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Of these four, the two lines: 3 and 4 are mainly used. The other two are used infrequently used.
- Most of the letter shapes rest on 3rd or 4th baseline. The resting on a baseline means that they touch it and extend down it a little.
- The Daera's or circular arcs rest on the 4th baseline while the Pointed-Ends rest on the 3rd.
- The 1st line is there to give the reference points to start the Kashish.
- The 2nd line is there to end the Kashish or place the head of Suad.

The general rule in baseline shifting is that the final character shape in the ligature has to be placed on some appropriate line while the preceding character shapes are treated as if they have no baseline. These are only in relation to the final character and one another.

There are the following classes of characters with respect to baseline position:

Daera's {ن، ن، ی، ن، ع، غ، ن، ق، ن، ی These rest on the 4th line. Madd's{ب، پ، ت، ث، ف، ک، گ، ہے} These rest on the 3rd line. Ascendars {I} These rest on the 3rd line. Pointed-Ends { ک, ڈ, ڈ, ڈ, د These rest on the 3rd line.

Kashish {  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$  , any join extended in Kashish-like manner}

Starts from 1st and rests below 2nd line.

Meem {\*}

Head of Meem rests on 3rd line.

LongRay { J}

Rests on the 4th line. It is of two types. When LongRay comes at the end of a 3-character ligature, its length is longer and it rest on the 4<sup>th</sup> line. However, when it comes at the end of a 2-character ligature, its length is somewhat shortened and it just touches the 4<sup>th</sup> line.

# 5.2 Proportional Spacing

The major rule in Nastalique for proportional spacing is that "space (distance) between words and within word is always equal" for the whole '*tehrir*' (text). A paragraph of 'tehrir' or written text is always equally spaced; this 'equal' space can be used beyond a paragraph. In ideal scenario every page of a book should be written with same space between words. The phrase above is simple in words but complex in meaning. Following are few major reasons for this complexity when dealing with proportional spacing in Nastalique:

- The "equal" distances are not always measured horizontally (see white lines in Urdu text below).
- Also this equal distance can be measured with ligatures, isolated characters and even diacritics (like the comma and letter goal hay's hook in example below).
- In addition, these spaces are not actually "equal" in all cases; the red lines below indicate extended space between ligatures. In all of the three cases shown below (by red lines) it seems that extended distance is increased due to placement of diacritics.
- Further, distance can be measured form different points of a single glyph depending on context. See circled portion of glyph RayFinal1 glyph below.
- Lastly, on many occasions (especially poetic verses) justification dictates proportional spacing between ligatures and words. However, since justification is out of the scope of this paper such cases of proportional spacing have not been discussed.



Above text also shows that inter word and intra word spaces are equal. In general there are two variations possible in proportional spacing. Firstly, the spaces between words are same as those between ligatures (as given above). Secondly, spaces between words are approximately three times the intra word spaces.

Single space ازل تحقر سے کیا تھا یاد

Former case with equal spaces was preferred when a major emphasis was on writing maximum number words in a single line so that eventually there are lesser number of pages to compose and therefore lesser cost of publishing. Since this constraint is absent these days, it is preferred to write words well separated from each other. However, further discussion in this section is limited to the case where inter and intra word are same as tripled inter word spacing can be achieved by simply tripling this inter word spacing.
### 5.2.1 Categorization of Nastalique with respect to Proportional Spacing:

In order to distinguish between different ways through which complex proportional spacing is achieved in Nastalique, Nastalique may be categorized as *complex* and *simple*. The *complex* form may involve base line shifting (or overlapping ligatures and words). While in *simple* Nastalique, words are written in their respected positions as dictated by Nastalique's '*kursi*'. To precisely define the border line between complex and simple Nastalique, consider the following ways through which directly or indirectly proportional spacing is achieved in Nastalique.

**1. Base line shifting**: To squeeze in more words, a single ligatures or isolated characters can be placed over other text. In example encircled *ray* is placed above its base position while encircled *alif* is placed below its default position at line 3 of *kursi*.



Following is another example in which a whole word Allah is placed over other words.



**2. Overlapping onto previous ligatures:** Spaces can be reduced by overlapping ligature onto previously written characters or ligatures. Notice the word *pa-kiza* and *ba-tan* in the example below.

**3. Overlapping onto following ligatures:** Similarly spaces can be condensed by overlapping characters on next character or ligature. A special case in this regard is filling empty space created by letter *bari yeh*'s stroke. This empty space can be filled by an isolated character (case (i), whole ligature (case ii) or a combination of both (case iii). //Arabic translation , try qalm size same



**4. Writing characters after main ligature:** Isolated characters *alif, dal, ray, wao* and *goal hay* are smaller in size and can be written after whole line of the main text has been written. In this case placement of these characters is unpredictable and is left on calligrapher's own choice. The letter alif encircled below has been written after the main text.



**5. Using diacritics to balance space:** Some ligatures leave a chunk of empty spaces in normal text. Calligraphers mostly fill this space by nuqtas and other diacritics including comma symbols to proportionally place these ligatures in otherwise compress text. Encircled portion below shows how nuqta and other diacritic like *hamza* indicator and *pesh erab* (vowel indicator) are used to fill spaces.



**6. Combination of above features:** Many artistic versions of Nastalique can be formed by merging ligatures and combining the features discussed above. Below are two such artistic pieces of Nastalique writing. It can be seen how merging, overlapping, base line shifting and nuqta placement are used to create the balance text below. //space constraint



In the example below, notice that there is no horizontal line on which the text has been written.



### 5.2.2 Discussion

A view of simple or plain Nastalique can be seen when whole books are composed by calligraphers in this writing style. In text written in these books features discussed above are largely absent. Last three ways of balancing text discussed above are approximately never used in plain Nastalique. The other three features (base line shifting and overlapping ligatures) are written in plain text only when the word or ligature occurs at the end of a line. Even in this case, these

features are triggered when calligrapher tries to leave no blank space at end of line and squeezes the last ligature or word to fill and eventually justify this line with respect to other lines written.

**Redifining Simple and Complex Nastalique:** It can be said that if justification is ignored then simple or plain Nastalique consists of series of characters and ligatures placed in their original *kursi* position. Every other variation of simple Nastalique can be termed as complex Nastalique. Further down we limit our discussion to simple or plain Nastalique. A sample of simple Nastalique is given below.



#### 5.2.3 Calligrapher's intuition

Interestingly in simple Nastalique, calligraphers write proportionally spaced balance text without conscious knowledge of or ability to explain the principles they are following. However, after writing a sequence of words and then measuring distances, spaces are found to be same and text balanced. It seems that by rigorous practice calligraphers are able to incorporate proportional spacing within writing. In effect, after writing a ligature or character, placement of pen to write first stroke of next ligature actually implements proportional spacing.

Before writing a ligature (the term ligature here refers to both ligatures and isolated characters) calligrapher perceives the image of that ligature. The vertical placement of pen is due to the perceived height of that image. While the horizontal placement of pen is determined by how closely this perceived image can be placed to previously written text such that the two do not merge and a reasonable space is left in between. This reasonable distance constitutes the "equal distance" discussed above and is measured considering the present and previous ligature.

Moreover a calligrapher's perceived image mostly do not consider 'nuqtas' and other diacritics. From this it can be inferred that in general proportional spacing precedes nuqta placement in writing Nastalique. In summary, proportional spacing is adjustment of reasonable space between two ligatures of which nuqtas of second ligature is mostly not considered. Concept of reasonable space is explained next.

**How proportional spacing is achieved:** Every ligature that has been written consists of equidistant region or locus around it. When next ligature is being placed, the perceived image (to be written) is shifted or moved towards the previous ligature until it comes in contact with some part of the equidistant region around that ligature. Consider the word *ray*.



After it has been written, the equidistant region around it is shown below as yellow dots with green boundary.



Now the next ligature or perceived image is placed such that it touches the region boundary given in green of previous character.



Movement of perceived image towards written character

So the outcome is proportionally spaced ligatures and characters.



# 5.3 Nuqta Analysis

Formation of ligatures and proportional spacing dictate placement of nuqtas in Nastalique. In this writing style ligatures have overlapping as well as diagonal strokes. Also, proportional spacing even in simple Nastalique produces vertically overlapping ligatures. Due to proportional spacing letter 'ray' usually results in overlapping ligatures. While 'jeem' class letters in most cases gives overlapping strokes. Both these examples are given below.



Due to these features Nuqta placement in Nastalique is complex and even fuzzy. As a rule nuqtas are placed parallel to the slant of the ligature. Effort is also made to place a nuqta as close to its corresponding character glyph as possible; while maintaining a reasonable space between itself and surrounding ligatures and other diacritics already placed.

### 5.3.1 Types of Nuqtas

All diacritical marks that are integral part of a word and help in distinguishing between words are all grouped together under the terminology "Nuqtas". The list below excludes aerabs which are placed after nuqtas and are discussed in section 5.4.

Nuqtas	Glyph of Nuqta	Qat Size Ratio	Characters
Single dot	*	One	ف غ ظ ض ظ ض ز ذ خ ج ب

Double dots	**	One	ى ت ق
Triple dots below	*	One	پ چ
Triple dots above	*	One	ڎ ش ژ
Small Tuay	ط	Half	ٹ ڑ ڈ
Hay Hook big	6	One	<u>ل</u>
Hay Hook small	6	Half	Initial and Medial Goal Hay
Madd	$\sim$	One	Ĩ
Hamza	5	Half	Initial Hamza

#### 5.3.2 Classification with respect to Position

The nuqtas defined above can be grouped together according to their vertical position in a ligature. Nuqtas can occur below or above as given below. The letters between arrow brackets (<>) as mentioned below have same base glyph shape but differ in type of nuqtas. This classification corresponds to the one given in section 2.2.

Nuqtas Below: <ه> < ج چ> < ب پ ی> Nuqtas Above: < ف ق>غ ظ ض ش< ڑزژ > < ڈذ > خ<ت ٹ ٹ ن ء >

#### 5.3.3 Placement of Nuqtas in Mufridaats

For mufridaats, nuqtas are usually not displaced. Exceptions to this are characters ش ق ف, which allow different positions for nuqtas placement. The reason behind this shifting can be collision or visual balance of letter. This displacement is shown below.



#### 5.3.4 Placement of Nuqtas in ligatures

Many new considerations are introduced for placing nuqtas in ligatures. Composition of ligature and placement of neighboring nuqtas are common context dependency for placement of a particular nuqta. At times neighboring ligatures also effect placement of nuqtas in another ligature. In such a case exceptional shift in placement of nuqtas can occur. Thus many factors effect placement of nuqtas. Some major factors are discussed in next.

### 5.3.5 Factors effecting Nuqta placement

Factors effecting nuqta placement have been classified as internal and external. Internal factors are factors in which placement of a nuqta in a ligature is influenced by characters and diacritics of that ligature alone. While in external, factors external to the base ligature of that nuqta comes into play.

Internal factors

#### 1. Consideration of horizontal boundary of ligatures in text:

The Nuqta(s) must be placed such that there is a minimum extension of Nuqtas beyond the ligature boundary. This is achieved by shifting them both vertically and horizontally along the ligature as much as possible. This can be illustrated in the example below. Consider the word *ta* (Tay + alif). If the nuqtas were placed at their default point, they would extend too much outside their ligature boundary.



Thus there is a need to shift nuqtas. Since due to *alif* no immediate horizontal shift is possible so they are first moved vertically upward and then to the left as shown below:

Note that they still extend beyond the ligature, but now the extension is minimal.

#### 2 Consideration of vertical space

Like horizontal shift, the 'unnecessary' vertical displacement of nuqtas is also avoided. This is illustrated below.



#### 3. Order of reading nuqtas within ligature

No matter where the nuqtas are displaced, the order by which the nuqtas are read is maintained. It is from right to left for nuqtas placed above. For the ones placed below, it is dependent on levels or height. That is for a particular level, nuqtas are read from right to left. Once this level is complete,

ى then the next level is parsed. In the example below order of writing of ligature from right to left is: ى

ی چ ی چ ی پ and reading order is obtained as discussed above.



#### External factors

#### 1. Consideration of proportional Spacing

As discussed before (section 5.2) a calligrapher does not consider 'nuqtas' and other diacritics when placing the next ligature. For this reason in general proportional spacing precedes nuqta placement in writing Nastalique. The following examples shows shift in position of nuqtas to avoid collision with other ligatures or nuqtas so as to maintain proportional spacing.



Lower displacement is usually due to letters like ray which moves next coming lower nuqtas. Similarly letter 'kaf' easily displaces above nuqtas of previous character.

#### 5.3.6 Region around ligatures

As it can be seen from discussion above, there is no defined point or rule for placing nuqtas in a ligature. However, there is a small area around ligatures in which its nuqtas can be placed. This region is usually controlled by the horizontal boundary of a ligature, but there are exceptions such as discussed below.

Region for ligature with final alif	Example: Piya and sana
Region for ligature with final Ray2	Example
Region for ligature with daeras	Example: Union



#### **Exceptional cases:**

In exceptional cases, nuqtas can leave the bounded region defined for their ligatures. In almost all such cases displacement of nuqtas far beyond its ligature is done in an effort to maintain proportional spacing. Two examples below show this large shift in nuqta placement. In the first example nuqta of bay violate the bounded region and hence the ligature boundary. While in second example right boundary of ligature has been violated.

Example: Taqribat	Example: Intezar
Exceptional placement of Nuqta beyond its ligature	أشظار

### 5.3.7 Order of writing nuqtas within ligature

There is a certain order that is maintained in writing nuqtas on ligature. In general the above nuqtas are placed before the ones placed below, so as to avoid smudging of ink. In both cases nuqtas are usually written from right to left along the slant of the ligature; avoiding same height of two consecutive nuqtas.

In cases where nuqtas require more space than the one generally available along the slant of the ligature, order of writing nuqtas depends on calligrapher's own choice. Further discussion deals with order of writing in such complex cases. The considerations mentioned in 5.3.5 are taken into account when following this order as explained below. Here still the above nuqtas are placed before the ones placed below.

Firstly, the right most nuqta is placed. Remaining nuqtas are so placed such that minimum number of nuqtas are displaced. So a calligrapher intelligently writes nuqtas which may result in irregular writing order. By and large, nuqtas of all classes except bay receive higher preference in retaining their non-disturbed position. While the nuqtas of bay class shifts easily and have lower priority level in order of writing ligatures.

Also, certain effort is made to maintain the final nuqta within the region around the ligature. This is achieved by writing nuqtas from right to left, till a point is reached where if nuqta is placed, it would compel the 'final nuqta' to be placed outside the region around its ligature. At this point final nuqta is placed then remaining nuqtas are placed from right to left.

### 5.3.8 Madd Analysis

The 'Madd' diacritic is always placed above letter 'alif'. However, it can be easily displaced since it is placed after all other nuqtas discussed in 5.3.1. Frequently it is displaced towards right or height is further increased. This can be seen from two examples below.





Depending on context 'madd' can also move towards left but such cases are rare. Even in these cases displacement is usually dictated more by visual balance than by diacritic placement. When surrounding ligatures or above nugtas of next ligature comes in close vicinity of 'madd', 'madd' is

displaced. If however isolated ٽُن o شُ follow alif-madd-aa (letter 'alif' with diacritic 'madd') then diacritic 'madd' is not displaced, and the nuqtas of these characters are displaced.

#### 5.3.9 Hook Analysis

Urdu alphabet 'goal hay' has a diacritic '*hook*' associated with it when it comes at initial or medial position of a ligature. Letter 'goal hay' varies in its form and shape depending on its position in a ligature. It has entirely different form for all the four positions: isolated, initial, medial and final position. Following table shows five major shapes of 'goal hay' (other shapes mentioned in section 4 are variations of these shapes). It may be noticed that letter 'goal hay' in its initial position has two different main shapes.

D	6	~	~	~
<b>o</b> isolated	٥ <sub>1</sub>	ð <sub>7</sub>	<b>ð</b> <sub>Medial7</sub>	<b>ð</b> Final 1

Of these different shapes of 'goal hay' diacritic hook is placed underneath initial goal hay ( o1 and o

7) only. In some text this diacritic is also placed below medial goal hay, however this practice is not very common among calligraphers. Since the shape of medial goal hay is unique enough to indicate the reader of its presence. This can be seen from the phrase below:



Missing diacritic 'hook'

As mentioned in section 4.2.11, with the exception of hook occurring in ligature 'ha' (Goal-Hay + Alif); all other hooks are written with another pen whose 'qat' size is half the qat size of pen with which base ligature is written. Ligature 'ha' is written with the same pen as the base ligature itself. When writing diacritics 'hook' diacritic is placed last. However, priority of writing hook in ligature 'ha' is highest among diacritics but lower than proportional spacing as given in arbitrary word below.



All 'hooks' are placed at a distance from its base ligature except ligature 'hey' (letter 'goal hay' + Bari yeh) in which the hook is attach with the ligature stroke as shown below.



# 5.4 Aerabs Analysis

Aerabs represents is a class of diacritics which are mainly used for pronunciation. These aerabs can be placed on any letter of a word but with the exception of 'shad' no two aerabs are placed on a single letter. In Urdu script aerab diacritics are not usually written on all characters of a word but are assumed to be present and are always read. Aerabs are usually only inserted into text whenever the writer wishes to introduce a particular pronunciation of a character. In Urdu, the presence of 'kasr-e-izafat' (aerab 'zair') in compound words is usually indicated and is therefore mostly written.

### 5.4.1 Types of Aerabs

Following table shows different type of aerabs as used in Urdu text.

Aerabs	Glyph of Aerab	Placement with respect to ligature	Aerab Qat Ratio w.r.t ligature
Zabar	/	Above	Half
Zair	/	Below	Half
Pesh	9	Above	Half
Tashdid	ω	Above	Half
Jazm	2	Above	Half
Khari zabar	1	Above	Three fourth
Khari zair	1	Below	Three fourth
Do zabar	11	Above	Half
Do zair	11	Below	Half
Do pesh	69	Above	Half
Ulti pesh	6	Above	Half
Noon Gunnah Symbol	L	Above	Half

#### 5.4.2 Placement of Aerabs

Since these diacritics are associated with sounds, it is always preferred to write these diacritics within the vicinity of their orthographic representation. Aerabs are placed on or below letter 'meem' and 'dal' in the following examples.



Aerabs may be shifted due to clashes with nuqtas





Original position of zair

Shift of aerab due to nuqtas

Aerabs can also be placed to balance space of its corresponding orthographic representation. Following example highlights these features.



aerab placed in centre of glyph for letter 'sheen'

When an aerab is placed on aspirated or breathy sounds, it is placed on the first character and not on letter 'do chashmi hay' which follows it. It may be noted that letter 'do chashmi hay' is a necessary but not a sufficient condition to indicate aspiration or breathiness of a sound.

**Placement of above aerabs**: Aerabs 'pesh', 'tashdid', 'jazm', 'do zabar', 'do pesh' and 'Ulti pesh' are all placed on the same position as that of aerab 'zabar'.









When 'zabar' is to be placed over a character with above nuqtas it is positioned as shown below.



Position of aerab 'zabar' over glyphs is along the slant of the ligature. This is different from other writing styles like 'Naskh' where aerabs are placed on a horizontal line above the ligature. In case of overlapping letters in a ligature aerabs are usually ignored.

**Placement of 'zair'**: 'Zair' is usually placed in parallel with glyph or its corresponding nuqtas with which it is associated. For this reason its diagonal tilt may vary and can be different from that of 'zabar'. Relation of 'zair' with nuqtas and characters is shown below.



Some calligraphers wish to maintain a single slant for aerabs 'zabar' and 'zair', where zair is a duplicated version of 'zabar'. This version of 'zair' can be seen below.



#### Placement of Kari zabr:

Aerab 'Khari zabar' is usually placed after the character it represents. However, if 'khari zabar' is placed on letter 'alif' it is placed to its right. In Urdu words, this aerab is mostly placed for letters that are followed by 'choti yeh', 'bari yeh' and 'wao'. When Arabic words are written in Nastalique there is no such restriction. It is placed above the letter it represents. Consider the examples below:



**Placement of Kari zair and 'do zair'**: The usage of 'do zair' is limited to last letter of the word only. It is placed towards the end of the last letter of the ligature as shown below.



'Khari zair' is usually written below letter 'goal hay'. Following example illustrates its placement.



#### 5.4.3 Placement of Khadi Zabar and Khadi Zair

Since these two aerabs are vertical, they are placed so as to reduce vertical space. The examples below show that Khadi Zabar is placed on the right connector of letter to which it belongs.



# 5.5 Modified Approach to Proportional Spacing and Nuqta Placement

Here are some observations regarding the above-mentioned analyses. The points below cater for a goodly level of nuqta placement and proportional spacing. It is more than probable that exceptions will be found in writing of calligraphers. However, the points below give an initial model that caters to most of the cases.

- 1. The nuqta placement should be resolved first and then the proportional spacing should take into account the ligatures inclusive of their nuqtas.
- 2. The nuqta placement should be considered in the reverse order of writing.
- 3. The nuqta shifting is in the reverse order of writing.
- 4. The nuqta shifting is only necessary in cases where the overlap of different forms is significant enough to bring about a clash.
- 5. Due to above reason, the nuqta placement issues should be studied in connection with the possible forms of characters and their combinations.
- 6. It is very seldom that a character or nuqta collision takes place at the depth of more than two.

- 7. Due to reason above, it is practicable to attack the problem of the nugta placement by studying degree of overlap in two-character combinations. This will remove most of the collisions.
- 8. The nugtas of the final characters are not affected.
- 9. The nugtas of Daera's are not affected.
- 10. The nugta's of final Bay are not affected.
- 11. The shifting of nugtas should be in accordance with the degree of overlap.
- 12. The degree of overlap mentioned above is that of the character shapes or glyphs, of which we already have a fairly complete database.
- 13. The glyphs are divided into four categories according to the degree of overlap as explained below No Shifting
  - a. Overlap < 25%
  - b. 25% < Overlap < 50% Shift Nugtas backwards by 50% of glyph width
  - c. 50% < Overlap < 75% Shift Nugtas backwards by 75% of glyph width
  - d. Overlap > 75%Shift Nugtas backwards by 100% of glyph width
- 14. The shifting of the nuqtas is cumulative.
- 15. The following example illustrates these principles at work:

Characters	Chay Chay Meem Chay Aray	چچ م چ ڑ
Character Shapes		12477
Categories	Each of these character shapes falls into the fourth category, where the overlap is more than 75%. Hence starting from the last letter backwards, the nuqtas will have to be shifted approximately 75% of ligature width each time.	
Composed Ligature without nuqtas		A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
Composed ligature without nuqta shifting	Note collision of the nuqtas of second chay with both the nuqtas of the first chay and the third letter meem.	botto to

Composed ligature with nuqta shifting	Last Letter = Aray – Nuqta is above 2 <sup>nd</sup> Last Letter = Chay –Nuqta is below Therefore no clash and no adjustment necessary.	bar a
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Last Letter = Chay – Nuqta is below 3 <sup>rd</sup> Last Letter = Meem – No nuqta Therefore no adjustment necessary.	bar a
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Last Letter = Meem 4 <sup>th</sup> Last Letter = Chay Overlap degree = 4 Adjust Chay's nuqtas by sifting them 75% backwards.	bar and the second second
	4 <sup>th</sup> Last Letter = Chay 5 <sup>th</sup> Letter = Chay Overlap degree = 4 Adjust Chay's nuqtas by sifting them 75% backwards. The previous adjustment of 75% will be added to it to make its shifting 150%.	bar 3 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

- 16. The algorithm shown above based on the principles mentioned as points 1-14 can not be directly applied to the classes and grammar approach of the logical model. However, it can be adapted to it. The categories of overlap will dictate new classes.
- 17. The physical implementation of this algorithm may or may not be possible/feasible in OTF technology. Research into this issue remains to be conducted as yet.
- 18. It would perhaps be better to combine a vertical shift with the horizontal one to the nuqtas in case of adjustment. However, work on this also remains to be done.

# Appendix:

# Appendix A: Template for Mufridaats

The following section illustrates the measurements and position of mufridaat as they are *written in Takhti*. Please note that the positioning of letters in takhti or tablet is different from the one when written in text or *tehrir*.

# **Details for Glyph Alif Mad**

Name of Glyph	Alif Mad	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	× ×
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	Rests on line 3	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part is called mad'da and		
second part is alif.		

### **Details for Glyph Bay**

Name of Glyph	Bay	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
Sub parts	null	
Relation to 'Kursi'	On line 3	
Measurement	As in Figure	•
Notes: Horizontal measurement can vary		
from 9 to 11 qat.		

# **Details for Glyph Tey**

Name of Glyph	Теу	<b>AAAAA</b>
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		$\diamond$
Sub parts	null	
Relation to 'Kursi'	On line 2	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: Left nuqta is a curved (khamdar)		
while the other is straight by definition.		
However they can vary in practise.		

#### **Details for Glyph Jeem**

Botano ioi orypii ocom		
Name of Glyph	Jeem	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		Ĩ <b>7</b> →
Sub parts	3	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	$\checkmark$
Notes: The daman rests on line 4.		NY 453 ( 1891 - 199

### **Details for Glyph Dal 1**

Name of Glyph	Dal 1	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	$\diamond$
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: The two daals are very similar to each		
other. However calligraphers mentioned the		
difference in curvature.		

### Details for Glyph Rey Lati

Name of Glyph	Rey Lati	ter ch
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	null	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: It's head is slightly	v tilted towards right.	

# Details for Glyph Dal 2

Dal 2	
mufridaat	
Isolated	and the second se
	$\blacksquare \diamondsuit$
2	
line 2,3	$\diamond$
As in Figure	
to shape used in	
h.	
	mufridaat Isolated 2 line 2,3 As in Figure to shape used in

# Details for Glyph Rey Ghari

	FIGHT	
Name of Glyph	Rey Ghari	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	·
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	null	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3	$\diamond$
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: It's head is longer and straighter than		
rey lati.		

# **Details for Glyph Seen**

Name of Glyph	Seen	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	\$ <u>\$</u>
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	3	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: Daera rests on I	ine 4.	

#### Details for Glyph Sheen

Name of Glyph	Sheen	$\diamond \diamond $
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	2000
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: Kashish can vary from 9 to 11 qat.		
In takhti distance between daeras of seen		
and sheen is 3 - 3 1/2 qat.		

### **Details for Glyph Suad**

Name of Glyph	Suad	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	$\diamond$
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	3	hoot -
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part may be called suad head		
and is used in other shapes as well. Daera		
rests on line 4 and is similar to that of seen.		

# **Details for Glyph Toay**

Name of Glyph	Тоау	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	3	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 1, 2	
	(difference in Takhti	
	and text)	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part is similar to alif, second is		
like suad head while third is rey lati.		

# Details for Glyph Ain

Botano ior Oryph / an		
Name of Glyph	Ain	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	linme 2.3.4	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part is like isolated hamza and		
daman is similar to that	of jeem.	

# **Details for Glyph Fay**

Name of Glyph	Fay	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial, Final and isolated)	Isolated	
	0	
Sub parts	2	$\diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond$
Relation to 'Kursi'	On line 1	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part may be called fay head and		
is used in other shapes as well. Second part		
is like tey.		

# **Details for Glyph Qaf**

Name of Glyph	Qaf	an bui bui
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: First part is that of		
seen's daera.		

# **Details for Glyph Kaf**

Botano ioi oijpii ita		~
Name of Glyph	Kaf	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	3	
Relation to 'Kursi'	On line 3	
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: It is the longest characters.		
Comprises of alif like shape of 5 qat,		
tey like base and a digonal stroke.		

# Dotails for Glyph Gaf

Details for Glyph Gaf		
Name of Glyph	Gaf	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial, Final and isolated)	Isolated	
Sub parts	4	
Relation to 'Kursi'	On line 2	
Measurement	As in Figure	- V
Notes: Similar to kaf.	· <b>·</b>	
		THE STREET STREET

# Details for Glyph Laam

Name of Glyph	Laam	1997 N. J Historia III
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 1,2,3 and 4	8 000
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: Daera rests on li	ne 4.	

### **Details for Glyph Meem**

Name of Glyph	Meem	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		$\diamond$
Sub parts	2	Ň.
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	`\`
Notes: Extends below lin	ne 4.	

# **Details for Glyph Noon**

Noon mufridaat	
mufridaat	
παπααι	
Isolated	
2	
line 2,3,4	
As in Figure	
e 4.	
2 1 1	solated 2 ine 2,3,4 As in Figure

# **Details for Glyph Wao**

Wao	
mufridaat	$\rightarrow$
Isolated	
2	
line 2	100
As in Figure	
f fay and second is	
	mufridaat Isolated 2 line 2 As in Figure

# **Details for Glyph Goal Hay**

Name of Glyph	Goal Hay	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	null	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3	-
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes:		

# Details for Glyph Do Chasmi Hay

Details for Glyph Do C	hasmi Hay	<u>^</u>
Name of Glyph	Do Chasmi Hay	~
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	$\diamond \diamond \diamond$
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	$\diamond a \diamond \diamond$
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	null	$\diamond$
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 1,2,3	$\diamond \diamond $
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes:		

# Details for Glyph Hamza

Hamza	
mufridaat	
Isolated	
null	<u> </u>
line 1,2	
As in Figure	
·	
	mufridaat Isolated null line 1,2

## Details for Glyph Choti Yeh

Botano ior orypri oriot		
Name of Glyph	Choti Yeh	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 2,3,4	
Measurement	As in Figure	$\mathbf{V}$
Notes: Second portion re	ests on line 4. This is	
different from daera of se	een.	

# Details for Glyph Bari Yeh

Name of Glyph	Bari Yeh	
Tablet (Takhti)	mufridaat	
Form (initial, medial,	Isolated	
Final and isolated)		
Sub parts	2	
Relation to 'Kursi'	line 1,2	$\diamond \diamond $
Measurement	As in Figure	
Notes: Rests on line 2	· <b>z</b>	

# **Details for Glyph La**

La	
mufridaat	
Isolated	
3	
line 1,2	
As in Figure	$\diamond$
part are like alif.	Lot-dat
	mufridaat Isolated 3 line 1,2 As in Figure