H. Craig Melchert
Chapel Hill NC

Lengthened Grades of PIE *CaC Roots

Debate continues regarding the matter of recognizing a phonemic */a/ vowel for PIE. One issue for those who do posit such a vowel is the behavior of roots in *CaC with regard to ablaut. While it is widely assumed that on the model of regular *CeC roots, roots in *CaC could undergo quantitative ablaut in terms of having a zero grade, the existence of a lengthened-grade *CāC in such roots is more controversial. Even more so is the question of whether by a different analogy some roots in *CaC actually show lengthened-grade forms in *CēC. I will review the evidence for putative lengthened-grade forms of both types to roots in *CaC.