

The `xsipa` Package

Author: Akpoué Kouamé Josué
email: `djosuebetsaleelakpoue@gmail.com`

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Summary

The `xsipa` package offers a compact and customizable way to transcribe IPA using a modified XSAMPA system. It defines user-friendly commands that shorten the verbose `tipa` syntax, while remaining compatible with both \LaTeX and XeLaTeX workflows.

1 Loading the Package

To use `xsipa`, add the following line in your preamble:

```
\usepackage{xsipa}
```

If using XeLaTeX or LuaLaTeX, the package supports Unicode output via `xunicode` when enabled internally (future versions may expose this as an option).

2 Basic Usage

2.1 Single Symbols

Commands are based on XSAMPA codes, prefixed with `\xs`. Examples:

```

-----
xsipa      %  tipa          % XSAMPA
-----
\xsE      %  \textepsilon % E
\xs0      %  \textopeno  % 0
\xs;H{a}  %  \ 'a         % a_H
-----

```

2.2 Starred Environment: `\xs*...*`

The command `\xs*...*` expands a custom XSAMPA-like string into a sequence of IPA symbols:

```

\xs*E0*    % equivalent to \xsE\xs0
\xs*;{e}*  % nasalized "e", equivalent to \xs;~{e}

```

Another example:

- Input 1: `m\xs;H\xs0 d\xsZ\xs;Hukr\xs;Lu` (single symbols mode)
- Item 2: `\xs*m;H{0}dZ;Hukr;Lu*` (starred environment mode)
- Output: módzúkrù

Note: Diacritics and modifiers must be placed *before* the segments they modify, and always used with braces: `\xs;{e}`.

3 Modifications from XSAMPA

Due to LaTeX constraints, the following changes have been made:

- `{` → `[`, `}` → `]`
- `@` → `\@` (in single symbols commands only)
- `%` → `,`
- `_` → `;`

- `\ → /`
- Alternative forms: `<` and `>` can be replaced with `(` and `)` (if you don't have access to `<` and `>` on your keyboard)
- So e.g. XSAMPA `; >` may alternatively be typeset as `;)`

4 Known Issues and Warnings

- Commands like `\xsd`, `\xsp`, `\xst` require an argument: use `{}` to avoid errors.
- Avoid starting a `\xs*...*` string with `;`, `:`, `?` or `|`; use `{}` to protect them.
- Spaces inside `\xs*...*` are interpreted as nasalization: avoid using them.

5 Limitations

Available symbols in single symbols commands include consonnants, vowels, nasalization diacritic and some tone accents only. Tone accents not included are :

- Low rising
- High rising
- Rising falling
- Downstep
- Upstep
- Global rise
- Global fall

For nasalisation, `;`~ is not available. Instead, use `\xs~`, `\xs*...;` `{<symbol code>}...` or `\xs*... {<symbol code>}...` only (i.e. the space is mandatory).