Subjunctive Mood Handout (Mounce 31)
Dr. Phillip Marshall

1.1 Moods in English

1.1.1 Indicative Mood: the mood of assertion (some call it the mood of “reality,” but one can use the indicative mood to assert something false). Also used when assertions are converted into questions.

*I will eat mor chikin.*

*Will you eat mor chikin?*

1.1.2 Imperative Mood: the mood of command/projection (speaker projects his/her volition).

*Eat mor chikin!*

1.1.3 Subjunctive Mood: the mood of possibility/contingency (expressing what may or might be). In uses of the subjunctive mood, the action has not happened, so there is a futuristic element to it.

*If you ate mor chikin, you would be happy.*

1.2 Subjunctive Mood in Greek:

1.2.1 Not indicative, so no absolute time, and no augments! ASPECT is the prominent semantic value of the choice of stem.

1.2.2 TWO main tense-stems employed: Present-stem (for the imperfective aspect), and Aorist-stem (for the perfective aspect).¹

1.2.2.1 Present stems uses no TFs.

1.2.2.2 Aorist stem does use TF:

¹ Very rarely there is a Perfect Subjunctive in GNT (10x, all with ὠἶδα; see Mounce 297 under “Advanced Information”).
1st Aor A/M S: -σ- (not σα)
1st Aor P S: -θ- (not θη)

1.2.3 Connecting vowels (aka “thematic vowels”) are the same, only they are lengthened: ω/η (instead of ο/ε), with same placement (ω before μ/ν; η elsewhere). NOTE: Since the Aorist TFs in Subjunctive do not have vowels, they will use the lengthened CVs.

1.2.4 Since the Subj. mood has no augments, then the personal endings are PRIMARY (secondary endings occurs with augmented tenses!). Even the Aorist-stem Subj!

1.3 Present-stem Subjunctive

1.3.1 Active forms

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<th>PAI</th>
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1.3.2 Middle/Passive forms

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1.4 Aorist-stem Subjunctive

Dr. Marshall
### 1.4.1 Active forms

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### 1.4.3 Passive forms

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1.5 The Subjunctive Mood verb in DEPENDENT/EMBEDDED clauses.

A subjunctive verb can occur as the main verb in an independent clause, or as the verb of a dependent clause—one that is grammatically embedded in a larger clause. We will begin with the uses in dependent clauses first.

1.5.1 Under the scope of the conjunction ἵνα (‘that, in order that’). These types of clauses indicate the purpose or result of the main clause verb.

Any time you see a clause beginning with ἵνα, you should expect to see its verb in the subjunctive mood.

ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλθεν ἵνα σωθῶμεν (1stAoPS).
Jesus came in order that we might be saved.

The negation of a ἵνα clause (as in, ἵνα μή + verb) indicates negative purpose/result and can be translated “lest.” In such cases, the main verb action is encouraged in order to avoid the ἵνα clause verb happening.

Colossians 3:21
Οἱ πατέρες, μὴ ἐρεθίζετε τὰ τέκνα ὑμῶν, ἵνα μὴ ἀθυμώσιν.
Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

1.5.2 Under the scope of the contingency–particle ἃν in a clause.

The word ἃν is a particle of contingency that combines with other words to create a sense of contingency in the clause. The conditional particle ἃν seems to be a crasis of εἰ + ἃν.

1.5.2.1 Conditional clauses with ἃν (‘if’).

1.5.2.1.1 Two parts of a conditional clause:

   Protasis: the “if” part, the condition (usually marked with εἰ or ἃν)
   Apodosis: the “then” part, the consequence (usually unmarked)

   If you love peanut butter with chocolate, you may be my wife.
1.5.2.1.2 The conditional part/clause of a conditional sentence (protasis) is a dependent clause. It cannot stand on its own grammatically. The apodosis is the independent/main clause and is true/applicable if the condition in the protasis is met.

εἴν α Ἰησοῦς ἔλθῃ (2nd AoAS), σωθησόμεθα.
If Jesus comes/should come, we will be saved.

Matthew 4:9
ταύτα σοι πάντα δώσω, εἴν πεσὼν προσκυνήσῃς μοι.
All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.

1.5.2.2 Other dependent clauses (usually with some combination of ἀν). Below are other particles in Greek that will introduce clauses taking the subjunctive mood.

ὅταν (ὅτε + ἀν) whenever ὅταν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔλθῃ, σωθησόμεθα.
Whenever J. comes, we will be saved.

ὅς ἀν whoever ὅς ἀν ἔλθῃ σώσει ἡμᾶς.
Whoever comes will save us.

ὅπου ἀν wherever ὅπου ἀν ἔλθῃ, σώσει τὸν λαός αὐτοῦ.
Wherever he goes, he will save his people.

ἕως until εἴσ (ἀν) ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔλθῃ, οὐ σωθησόμεθα.
Until J. comes, we will not be saved.

1.6 The Subjunctive Mood verb in INDEPENDENT/MAIN clauses.

1.6.1 Hortatory Subjunctive: This is a first-person subjunctive (usually plural) in which the S encourages him/herself (if plural, those with the S) to perform some verb. Translated ‘Let me/us do X’.

προσευχώμεθα.
Let’s pray.

Mark 4:35
διέλθωμεν εἰς τὸ πέραν.
Let’s go to the other side.
1.6.2 Deliberative Subjunctive: This form is used in the 1st person when the subject poses a question to him/herself (if plural, those with the S) as to the course of action to take. Translated ‘Shall I/we do X?’ or ‘Should I/we do X?’

Matthew 6:31
Μὴ ὑμὶν μεριμνήσητε λέγοντες· τί φάγωμεν; ἢ· τί πίωμεν; ἢ· τί περιβαλώμεθα;
Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

1.7 Negating the Subjunctive Mood verb

Indicative mood verbs are negated with οὐ; all other moods (including subjunctive) are negated with μή.

οὐ μή + Aor Subj is a strengthened negation!

John 11:26
καὶ πᾶς ὁ ζῶν καὶ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ οὐ μὴ ἀποθάνῃ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

1.8 Asking YES/NO questions in Greek. (also called “polar” questions)

1.8.1 Neutral questions.

Do you love the man? ἀγαπᾷς τὸν ἀνθρωπόν;

1.8.2 Questions expecting affirmative response.

You love the man, don’t you? οὐκ ἀγαπᾷς τὸν ἀνθρωπόν;

1.8.3 Questions expecting negative response.

You don’t love the man, do you? μὴ ἀγαπᾷς τὸν ἀνθρωπόν;