

LAT 4/521
November 9, 2023

Iambic Trimeter: 3 iambic metra = 6 iambic feet (pure iamb = U -)
General Scheme: x - U - | x - U - | x - U - (x = anceps or "doubtful" syllable)

- x = U or -
- - = - or UU (resolution)
- the final (i.e. 12th) element in a line always counts as a single long (whether long or short)

In Seneca, the 9th element (i.e. at the beginning of the 3rd metron) is almost always long, and so the scheme is:

x - U - | x - U - | - - U -

Note also:

- word-end is usual after the 5th element (i.e. at the beginning of the 2nd metron) = the main break
- note that the final and defining rhythm of the line is a cretic (- U -)

Thy. 101-5

hunc, hunc furōrem dīvide in tōtam domum;

sic, sic, ferantur et suum infensi invicem

sitiant cruōrem. sentit introitus tuos

domus et nefando tōta contactu horruit.

actum est abundē. gradere ad infernos specus