Definition

- An affricate is a **single** unit consonant made up of a **stop** and a period of **fricative** release.

As with stops, affricates begin with an articulatory closure at the first stage.

After the stop release burst, there will be a more prolonged period of frication.
Affricates in the IPA

- Affricates in the IPA can transcribed with the symbols for their stops and fricative components.

\[ [\hat{t}\hat{s}] \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stop</th>
<th>fricative</th>
</tr>
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\[
\text{Polish (Kenstowicz 1994:31)}
\]

- Affricates as a segment

  - Apparently, an affricate is just a production of a sequence of a stop and a fricative.
  - However, **affricates** occupies a **single** phonetic/phonological unit (often called a **segment**) identical to a single obstruent.
  - A **stop-fricative sequence** would be two segments rather than one.
  - Hence, a sequence of a stop and a fricative does not necessarily form an affricate.
Affricate

Stop-fricative sequence

Affricates as a segment

“ketchup”

“the shop”

An affricate [tʃ]

A fricative [ʃ]
Affricates as a segment

- An affricate [tʃ] 0.1297s
- A stop-fricative sequence [tʃ] 0.2571s

Apart from acoustic measurements, **phonological** considerations must be taken in determining whether a combination of a stop and a fricative is an affricate.
Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Affricate</th>
<th>Fricative</th>
<th>Plosive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fricative rising time</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friction/stop interval</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release after stop</td>
<td>None, friction is part of the release</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes, there is a release interval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Homorganicity

The stop and fricative intervals in most affricates are homorganic.

Place of articulation of the fricative release is near or identical to place of articulation of the stop:
- Alveolar: [ts] (Cantonese and German)
- Post-alveolar: [tʃ,dʒ] (English)

Heterorganic affricates exist too:
- Velar affricates: [tx] as in Najavo
Further reading


The End