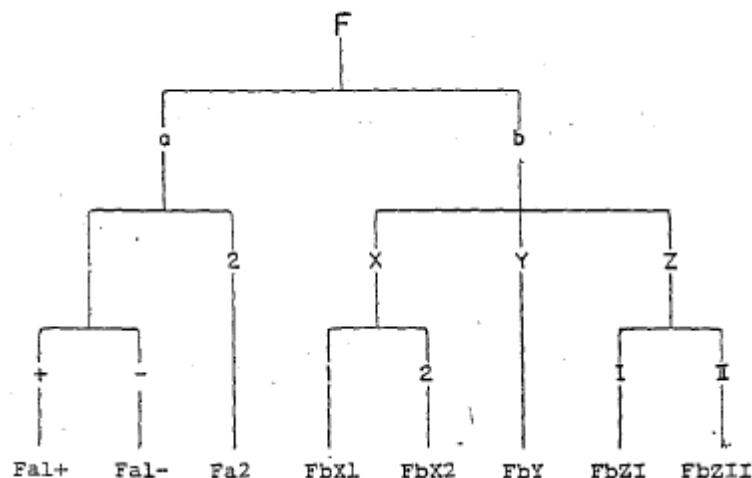


Taxonomic Classification

Taxonomic classification creates categories through successive divisions of the field (or alternatively by *taxon* aggregation) with each division serving as the field for subsequent divisions. Since the field changes with each division, the classification as a whole is non-dimensional. Thus taxonomy is defined as non-dimensional class inclusion. Taxonomy produces a series of non-equivalent “kinds” of the root.



In addition to the labeled classes, classes or taxons are created at each division. Thus a full listing of the classes is: Fa, Fa1, Fa2, Fa1+, Fa1-, Fa2*, Fb, FbX, FbY, FbZ, FbX1, FbX2, FbY*, FbZI, and FbZII. All taxons are “kinds” of F, however, taxons are kinds of other taxons as well.

In addition to the three sets of assumptions required of all classifications, taxonomies require an additional pair of assumptions for each opposition -- one that determines position (level) and one that determines relevance. Hence taxonomies are not very parsimonious; large ones appear capricious because of the number of assumptions. On the other hand, they do not generate empty classes, i.e., classes without members. Thus they are elegant classifications.

*Taxons with significata of different structure compared to others