


Syntax in Phonology? C-Command Over Strings

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You can get
the slides here
under "News"

Take-Home Message

A cross-module restriction on well-formedness conditions:

Domain	Phonology	Syntax
b ounded	intervocalic voicing	subcategorization
u nbounded	sibilant harmony	movement
b + u	non-final RHOL	c-command
b + u + b	*first-last harmony	*sibling of c-commandee

The Main Conjecture: Ban on Improper Locality

Once unbounded, always unbounded.

This talk is mostly about the **phonology** column.

Methodology

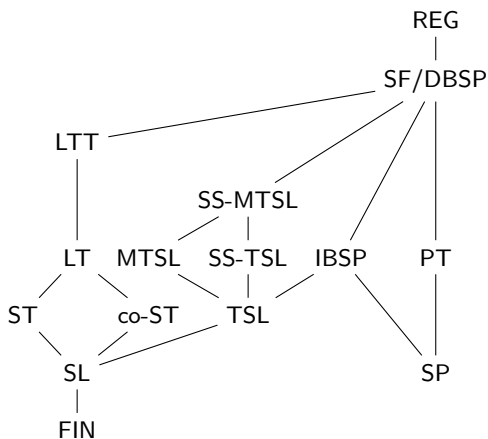
- ▶ Only **phonotactics** considered (no input-output mappings)
- ▶ **Subregular** phonology as measuring rod for complexity
(Heinz 2009, 2010; Heinz et al. 2011; Chandlee 2014; Jardine 2016; McMullin 2016; Graf 2017)

- 1** define different classes of grammars
- 2** organize these classes into an expressivity hierarchy
- 3** needed level of expressivity?

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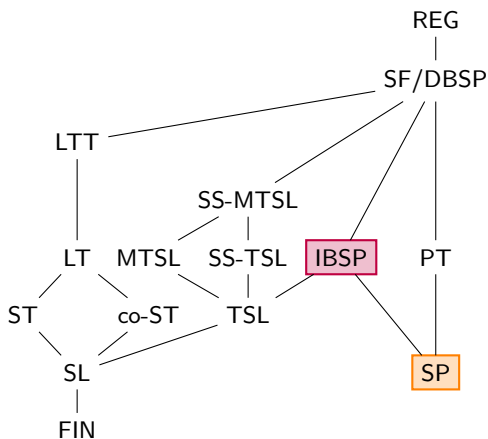
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Outline

- 1 Strictly Piecewise (SP)
- 2 Interval-Based Strictly Piecewise (IBSP)
- 3 Phonological Interactions of Local and Non-Local Information
- 4 Limitation to “String c-command”

Unbounded Phenomena in Phonology

1 Samala Sibilant Harmony

Sibilants must not disagree in anteriority.

(Applegate 1972)

- (1) a. *hasxintilawaf
 b. *hafxintilawas
 c. hafxintilawaf

2 Unbounded Tone Plateauing in Luganda (UTP)

No L may occur within an interval spanned by H.

(Hyman 2011)

- (2) a. LHLLLLL
 b. LLLLLHL
 c. *LHLLLHL
 d. LHHHHHL

Strictly Piecewise Dependencies

- ▶ Each phenomenon can be represented by a collection of finitely many **forbidden subsequences**.

Phenomenon	Constraint	Forbidden Subsequences
Sibilant harmony	* $[\alpha \text{ ant}] \cdots [-\alpha \text{ ant}]$	$s\int$, $\int s$
UTP	* HLH	HLH

- ▶ A well-formedness condition is **strictly piecewise (SP)** iff it is equivalent to a finite list of forbidden subsequences.

Blocking Effects are Beyond SP

- ▶ SP conditions have no notion of locality at all.
- ▶ Blocking is a simple form of locality, and hence beyond SP.

Latin L-Dissimilation (Simplified; (Stanton 2016))

- ▶ /l/ in morpheme /-alis/ becomes /r/ if stem contains /l/

(3) a. *lupanal^lis

b. lupanar^lis

- ▶ blocked by intervening /r/

(4) a. fulgur^lalis

b. *fulgur^laris

- ▶ **Problem for SP:** forbidding l···l for (3a) also rules out (4a)

Locality Domains are Beyond SP

- ▶ There is also a problem with the SP account of UTP.
- ▶ ***H**...**L**...**H** bans any **L** between **H**, no matter what.
- ▶ But tone processes are known to also apply across words.
- ▶ Unless we limit representations to single words,
***H**...**L**...**H** overapplies.

- (5) a. ***LHLLLHLL**
 b. **LHLSLHLL**

- ▶ The word boundary **\$** should block tone plateauing,
but blocking effects are not SP.

SP + Locality = IBSP

- ▶ The central problem of SP is the lack of locality domains.
- ▶ **Danger:** arbitrary domains push SP to DBSP \Rightarrow too powerful
- ▶ **Restricted version:** SP limited to specific intervals

Interval-Based Strictly Piecewise (IBSP)

- 1 Finite list of forbidden subsequences
- 2 Application domain, encoded as **k-val**

3-val for UTP

- ▶ Forbidden subsequence: ***HLH**
- ▶ Locality domain:
 - ▶ spans between two \$,
 - ▶ and no other \$ occurs between them.
- ▶ Represented as a 3-val:



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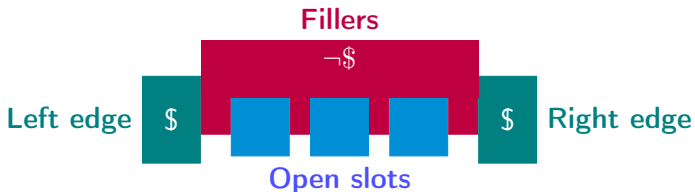
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Restricting *HLH with the k -Val

- ▶ *HLH applies only to segments in a matching interval



* \$ L H L L L H L L \$

- ▶ If both H are in different words, the 3-val cannot match.

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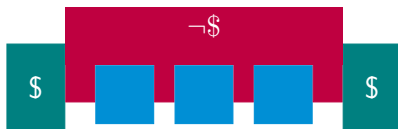
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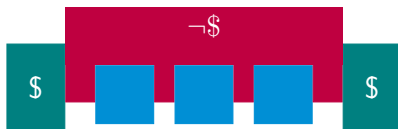
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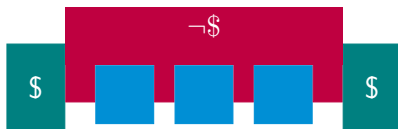


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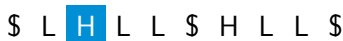
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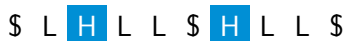


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R-Blocking for Latin L-Dissimilation

- ▶ A simple constraint: *l
- ▶ With a peculiar domain:



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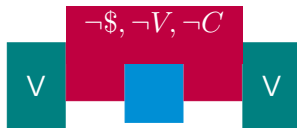


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Local Constraints are IBSP

- ▶ Local constraints are IBSP conditions without fillers.
- ▶ **Example:** intervocalic voicing
 - ▶ **Forbidden:** [-voiced]
 - ▶ **Domain:** between vowels, with no fillers

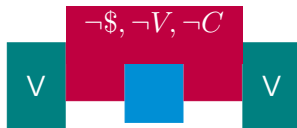


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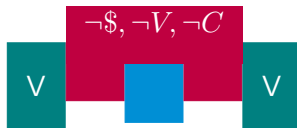


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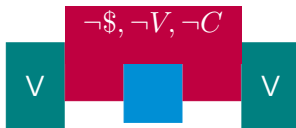


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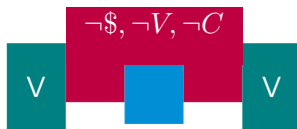


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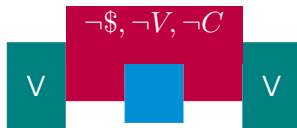


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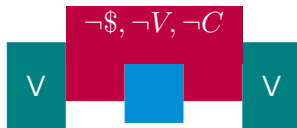


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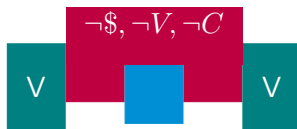


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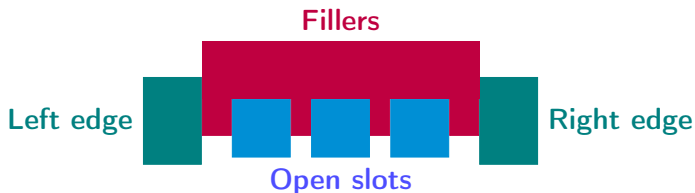


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Prediction: Local and Non-Local Do Not Mix

- ▶ All k -vals follow the same base template:



- ▶ To enforce adjacency, we have to ban all potential fillers.
- ▶ But without fillers, we get **adjacency across the board!**



- ▶ **IBSP Prediction:** Local and non-local do not mix.

Non-Local Local Phenomena Exist!

- ▶ The IBSP prediction is **false!**
- ▶ Some phenomena combine local and non-local information:
 - 1** non-local blocking of local dissimilation (Samala)
(Applegate 1972; McMullin 2016)
 - 2** non-final RHOL (Eastern Cheremis, Dongolese Nubian)
(Hayes 1995; Baek 2017)
 - 3** non-local trigger of ternary spreading (Copperbelt Bemba)
(Bickmore and Kula 2013; Jardine 2016)
- ▶ **Conclusion:** IBSP needs a more fine-grained notion of k -val.

Non-Local Blocking of Local Dissimilation

1 Local Dissimilation in Samala...

[sn], [sl], [st] are forbidden...

2 ... With Non-Local Blocking

...unless there is another [s] later on in the same word

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Non-Final RHOL

- 1 Stress the rightmost non-final heavy syllable, if it exists.
- 2 Otherwise, stress the leftmost (=first) syllable.

* \$ \acute{L} L H H H \$
 * \$ L \acute{L} H H H \$
 * \$ L L \acute{H} H H \$
 * \$ L L H H \acute{H} \$
 \$ L L H \acute{H} H \$

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* $\acute{X}HX$

* $X\acute{L}X$

* $XX\acute{X}$

($X \in \{H,L\}$)

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- 1 Stress the rightmost non-final heavy syllable, if it exists.
- 2 Otherwise, stress the leftmost (=first) syllable.

* $\acute{X}HX$

* $X\acute{L}X$

* $XX\acute{X}$

($X \in \{H, L\}$)



* \$ \acute{L} L H H H \$

* \$ L \acute{L} H H H \$

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Non-Final RHOL

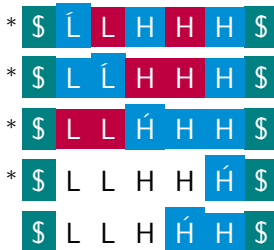
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($X \in \{H, L\}$)



Bounded Tone Spreading

1 Unbounded Tone Spreading in Copper Belt Bemba...

H spreads all the way to the right edge,...

2 ...With a Non-Local Inhibitor

...but only 2 syllables if there is an H later on.

* \$ H L L L L L H \$

* \$ H h L L L L H \$

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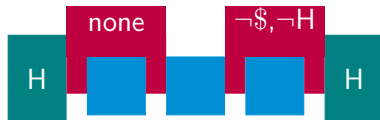
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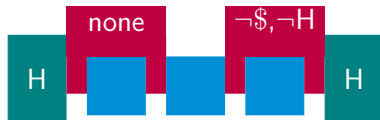
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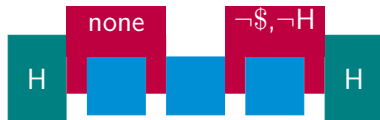
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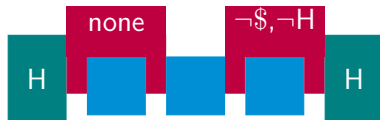
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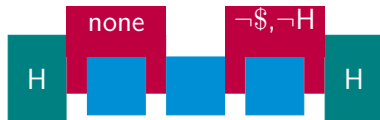
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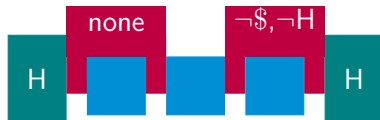
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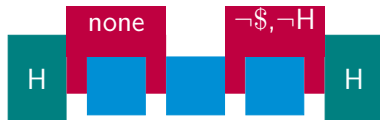
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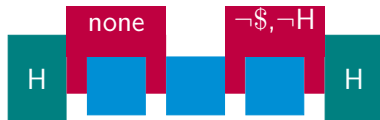
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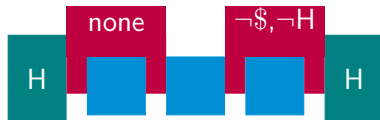
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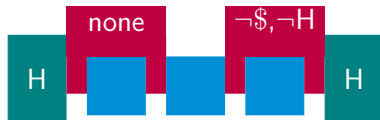
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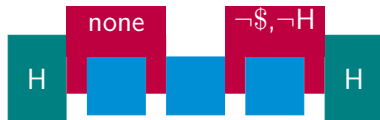
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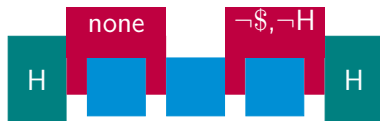
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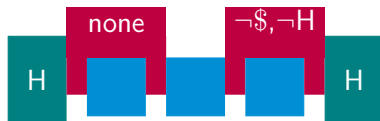
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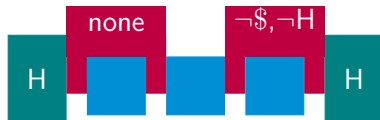
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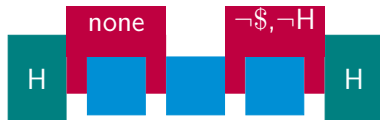
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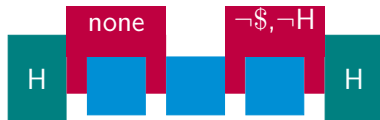
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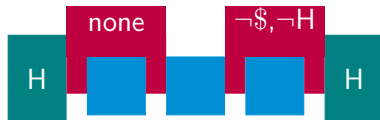
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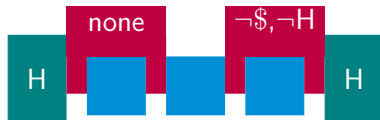
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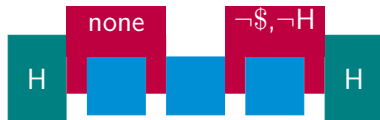
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Bounded Tone Spreading

1 Unbounded Tone Spreading in Copper Belt Bemba...

H spreads all the way to the right edge,...

2 ...With a Non-Local Inhibitor

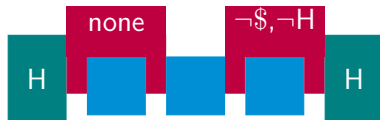
...but only 2 syllables if there is an H later on.

*LXX

*XLX

*hhh

($X \in \{H, L, h\}$)



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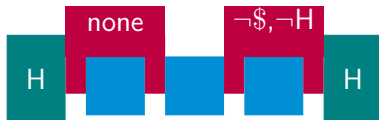
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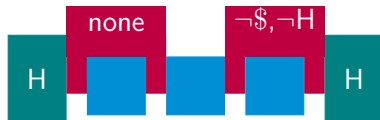
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- ▶ This produces **First-Last harmony (FLH)**, which is **unattested**.

Proposal: k -Vals Must be c-Command-Like

- ▶ What separates FLH from the attested cases?
- ▶ k -val for FLH relaxes locality, then tightens it again (local + non-local + local)
- ▶ Attested cases are of the form
 - ▶ local + non-local, or
 - ▶ non-local + local
- ▶ This is similar to **c-command**.

c-Command as Local + Non-Local

- x** c-commands **y** (in a strictly binary branching tree) iff
- local **x** has a sister **z**, and
 - non-local **z** reflexively dominates **y**.

Deepening the Connection: Monotonicity

Ban On Improper Locality

Within a k -val, the degree of locality must be

- ▶ monotonically increasing, or
 - ▶ monotonically decreasing.
-
- ▶ **Monotonicity in syntax**
 - ▶ Subcategorization < A-Move < A'-Move
 - ▶ Once you've undergone a higher operation, you can't participate in lower ones anymore.
 - ▶ **Monotonicity in morphology**
 - ▶ *ABA follows from monotonicity.
 - ▶ **Monotonicity in semantics**
 - ▶ Everywhere. . .

Summary

- ▶ SP bans subsequences \Rightarrow no locality at all
- ▶ Adding locality domains to SP greatly increases its power.
- ▶ But IBSP with simple k -vals is still too weak.
- ▶ Adding c-command-like locality domains
 - ▶ grants enough expressivity
 - ▶ while avoiding overgeneration.

Main Predictions

- ▶ ***local + non-local + local (*LNL)**
No unbounded dependency between local “clusters”
- ▶ ***non-local + local + non-local (*NLN)**
No local “cluster” within interval dependency

Next Steps

- 1** Test the predictions against the full typology.
- 2** Explore the syntax column.
- 3** Go beyond monotonicity in deriving the limitation.

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