# 24.964 Phonetic Realization **Releases and transitions**

### Readings for next time:

Xu, Yi. "Speech Melody as Articulatorily Implemented Communicative Functions." *Speech Communication* 46 (2005): 220-251.

Xu, Yi. "Contextual Tonal Variations in Mandarin." Journal of Phonetics 25, no. 1 (January 1997): 61-83.

Myers, Scott. "F0 Timing in Kinyarwanda." Phonetica 60, no. 2 (April-June 2003): 71-97.

## Consonant releases and transitions

- Languages differ in the realization of consonant clusters.
  Bloomfield: Close vs. open transition
- English employs close transitions within words.
- Montana Salish employs open transitions between stops.





## Consonant releases and transitions

- The nature of the transitions between consonants can have a significant impact on the availability of cues to contrasts.
  - Stop bursts: place, voicing, manner, duration, presence
  - Nasal release: place (Kurowski & Blumstein 1984 argue that the transition from murmur to oral formants provide strongest cues).
  - Open interval can carry formant transitions, aspiration/voicing etc, depending on duration.
- Final stop releases.
- What determines the distribution of open/close transition?

## Gafos (2002)

- An OT analysis of the distribution of open vs. close transitions between consonants in Moroccan Arabic.
- Argument that details of gestural coordination must be represented in phonology interact with templatic morphology.
- A basic issue: the relative role of articulatory and perceptual considerations in shaping timing relations.

### Basic patterns

- Final CC is broken up by schwa: [katəb, taqəb]
  - Heath (1987) treats this as a property of particular morphological templates, although he suggests Ø -> ə/ {full V, C}C\_C#
  - E.g. [kəlb] 'dog', [xubz] 'bread' lack schwa.
- Initial and intervocalic clusters are not separated by schwa.
  - Not clear what realization of clusters is (do stops get bursts?).
  - Heath p.243: [ə] and its rounded counterpart [u] can usually only appear in:
    - $CC_C\# \qquad C_CC\# \qquad VC_C\# \text{ (where V is a full V)}$
  - So schwa can only appear in an initial cluster in words like [kəlb]
  - Schwa is deleted if a vowel follows in the word
  - $fx a d^{c} fx d^{c} i$  'thigh/my thigh' kalb klb-ak 'dog/your dog'

• Argues that schwa arises from open transition between consonants - there is no vowel gesture.

- Where does the voicing come from in  $[z^{\varsigma} nat^{\varsigma} at^{\varsigma}]$  etc?

- Analysis: preferred CC coordination is 'open transition'
  - in fact this coordination basically only arises in CC#.
  - assumes CC-COORD is parameterized for different languages.



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Coordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

- Complication: all CC clusters can be broken up by schwa, but according to Gafos's model CC-coord does not result in open transition with homorganic consonants:
  - constriction gesture 2 becomes active at 'release' of constriction gesture 1 and keeps the articulator in the same place.
- Analysis: default coordination is blocked for homorganic gestures by 'OCP':

- 'overlapping segments with identical oral gestures are prohibited'

- Adds new landmark: Release offset.
- Release is part of constriction gesture.
- Identical gestures satisfy OCP if onset of one coincides with release offset of the other.
- This coordination is guaranteed to result in an open transition because gesture 2 only begins after release of 1 is complete.



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Cordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

- Would seem simpler to specify open transition as the target rather than derive different patterns of coordination for homorganic vs. heterorganic clusters.
- Justification: Schwa is optionally deleted in C\_C# unless C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> are identical, particularly in fast speech.

| ∫arˤəb / ∫arˤb                         | 'having drunk' | kanət / kant  | 'she was'    |
|--|----------------|---|--------------|
| kwanəb / kwanb                         | 'hicks'        | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}}$ light of $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{U}}$ \ $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{M}}$ light of $\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{U}}$ | 'fat (dim.)' |
| $z^{s}nat^{s} at^{s} / *z^{s}natt^{s}$ | 'tails'        | matət / *matt   | 'she died'   |

• NB deletion can apply with homorganic clusters including [nt], which violates the OCP as formulated above.

- Assuming deletion is a fast speech process the ban on deletion can be derived from the proposed difference in gestural coordination.
- Increased rate is implemented implies increased gesture stiffness. This results in faster closure movements, which can result in absence of open transition.
- If C2 is phased to Release Offset of C1, then open transition is guaranteed.



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Coordination." *Natural Language* and Linguistic Theory 20 (2002): 269-337.

Alternative analysis:

- All final CC# clusters contain schwa specified acoustically, so present regardless of required gestural coordination.
- Optional deletion, blocked by faithfulness to singleton vs. geminate distinction (cf. Heath), hence only identical consonants block deletion, not all consonants with identical oral gestures.
- Heath observes that schwa may be reduced between identical consonants, but release of C1 is always preserved.

Initial CC is not broken up by schwa

• CCVCC  $\rightarrow$  CCVC $_{2}$ C \*C $_{2}$ CVC $_{2}$ C

- no default coordination in  $\#\mbox{CC}$ 

• Analysis: Prevocalic Cs are all subject to CV-Coord (all want to be aligned to V onset):

- ALIGN(C, C-center, V, Onset).

• Simultaneity of prevocalic consonants is blocked by RECOVERABILITY (no simultaneous consonants).

| Adjectival diminutive template /CCiCC/; Base /smin/ 'fat', Derived [smim <sup>9</sup> n]; Inferred ranking: RECOV >> CV-COORD >> CC-COORD |       |          |          |  |
|---|-------|----------|----------|--|
| Base: /smin/  | RECOV | CV-COORD | CC-COORD |  |
| a. /s⊗m i mon/  | *!    |          | *(sm)    |  |
| [m] [m <sup>ə</sup> n]  |       |          |          |  |
| b. → /s•m i mon/  |       | **       | *(sm)    |  |
| [sm] [m <sup>ə</sup> n]   |       |          |          |  |
| c. /som i mon/  |       | ***!     |          |  |
| [s <sup>ə</sup> m] [m <sup>ə</sup> n]   |       |          |          |  |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Cordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

Intervocalic CC is not broken up by schwa

- Intervocalic consonants are all subject to CV-coord with respect to following V.
  - 1st C is also coordinated to preceding V.



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### Timing interacts with template satisfaction

Argument that gestural coordination is phonological, not phonetic.

- Adjectival dimunitives have template /C<sup>w</sup>CiCC/.
- $/C_1C_2VC_3$  adjective usually maps onto this template  $/C_1C_2iC_2C_3$ .

| Gloss        | Adjective | Diminutive                          |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 'hot'        | sxun      | → s <sup>w</sup> xix <sup>ə</sup> n |
| 'big'        | kbir      | → k <sup>w</sup> bib <sup>ə</sup> r |
| 'crazy'      | Hməq      | → Hmim <sup>ə</sup> q               |
| 'fat'        | smin      | → smim <sup>ə</sup> n               |
| 'cross-eyed' | Hwəl      | → Hwiw <sup>ə</sup> l               |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Cordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

• But where  $C_2=C_3$ , a glide is used to fill  $C_3$  of diminutive

| 'few'  | qlil | → q <sup>w</sup> liw <sup>э</sup> l, q <sup>w</sup> liy <sup>э</sup> l |
|--------|------|--|
| 'new'  | ždid | → ždiy <sup>ə</sup> d  |
| 'thin' | rqiq | → rqiy <sup>ə</sup> q  |
|        |      |  |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Cordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

## Timing interacts with template satisfaction

#### Analysis:

• Glide epenthesis serves to avoid violation of CC-coord that would be required if identical consonants fill adjacent positions  $C_3C_4$ :

| Base: /Hməq/         | OCP                  | CC-COORD | DEP | INTEGRITY |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------|-----|-----------|
| a. — /Hmimoq/        | ( [m <sup>ə</sup> q] |          |     | *         |
| b. /Hmiyoq/          | [y <sup>ə</sup> q]   |          | *!  |           |
| c. /Hmiq <u></u> , q | / [q <sup>°</sup> q] | *!       |     | *         |
| d. /Hmiqoq/          | [qq] *!              |          |     | *         |
|                      |                      |          |     |           |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Gafos, A. "A Grammar of Gestural Cordination." *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20 (2002): 269-337.

- Heath analyzes this pattern as avoiding the creation of geminates.
  - Still must rule out separating the identical consonants with schwa.

# Chitoran et al (2002): 'Gestural overlap and recoverability'

- Studied stop-stop clusters in Georgian (S. Caucasian).
- Tested two hypotheses derived from the idea that gestures are coordinated so as to ensure the availability of acoustic cues to the presence and nature of the gestures:
  - Word-initial stop-stop sequences will be less overlapped than like word-internal sequences.
  - Stop-stop sequences with a back-to-front order of constriction location (coronal-labial, dorsal-labial, dorsal-coronal) will evidence less gestural overlap than stop-stop sequences with a front-to-back order.
- Two speakers.

• Materials (frame: sit'q'va \_ gamoit<sup>h</sup>k<sup>h</sup>mis ordʒer '*word* \_ *is pronounced twice*').

| Conse                     | onants         | Word-initial Sequences            |                            | Word-internal Sequences             |                             |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| C1                        | C2             |                                   |                            |                                     |                             |
| Front-to-back             |                |                                   |                            |                                     |                             |
| b                         | g              | bgera                             | 'sound'                    | abga                                | 'saddle bag'                |
| $\mathbf{p}^{\mathbf{h}}$ | t <sup>h</sup> | p <sup>h</sup> t <sup>h</sup> ila | 'hair lock'                | ap <sup>h</sup> t <sup>h</sup> ar-i | 'hyena'                     |
| d                         | g              | dg-eb-a                           | 's/he stands up'           | a-dg-eb-a                           | 's/he will stand up'        |
| Back-to-front             |                |                                   |                            |                                     |                             |
| g                         | b              | g-ber-av-s                        | 's/he is inflating<br>you' | da-gbera                            | 'to say the sounds'         |
| t <sup>h</sup>            | b              | t <sup>h</sup> b-eb-a             | 'it is warming up'         | ga-t <sup>h</sup> b-a               | 'it has become warm'        |
| g                         | d              | gd-eb-a                           | 'to be thrown'             | a-gd-eb-a                           | 'to throw smth. in the air' |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Chitoran, I., L. Goldstein, and D. Byrd. "Gestural Overlap and Recoverability: Articulatory Evidence from Georgian." In *Laboratory Phonology* 7. Edited by C. Gussenhoven and N. Warner. New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter. 2002, pp. 419-447.

- Collected movement data using EMMA (ElectroMagnetic Midsaggital Articulometer) with pellets near tongue tip, back of tongue body, and an intermediate point.
- Quantified overlap in terms of the 'percentage of the interval between target achievement and release for first stop at which movement onset for the second stop is initiated'



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Chitoran, I., L. Goldstein, and D. Byrd. "Gestural Overlap and Recoverability: Articulatory Evidence from Georgian." In *Laboratory Phonology* 7. Edited by C. Gussenhoven and N. Warner. New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter. 2002, pp. 419-447.

- More overlap medially than initially.
- More overlap in front-to-back clusters in initial position (both speakers).
- Also medially for speaker 1.
- Labial+coronal [p<sup>h</sup>t<sup>h</sup>] are least overlapped. Related to aspiration?



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Chitoran, I., L. Goldstein, and D. Byrd. "Gestural Overlap and Recoverability: Articultory Evidence from Georgian." In *Laboratory Phonology* 7. New York, NY: Mouton de Gruyter, 2002.



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- Analyze positional variation in overlap in terms of two potentially conflicting constraints:
  - Maximize rate of transmission of information (favors overlap).
  - Recoverability: Maximize cues to the presence and identity of gestures (cf. maximize the distinctiveness of contrasts).
- However Chitoran & Goldstein (2006) also found less overlap in back-to-front stop-liquid sequences
  - kr vs. pr, kl vs. pl

## Grammar of stop release

- Russian (Kochetov and Goldstein 2005) also allows initial and medial stop-stop clusters.
- Recorded three speakers using EMMA.

| - Russian words with stops clusters in word-initial and word-medial positions; 5 repetitions per stimulus in a carrier phrase "eto opjat". |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Word-initial   | Word-medial                                  |  |
| C1 labial:   | [pt]aska 'bird' aim.   | la[pt]a 'bat'                                |  |
| C1 coronal:  | [tk]ac 'weaver'<br>[tm]a 'darkness'                                      | s ka[tk]a 'from a rink'<br>xo[db]a 'walking' |  |
| C1 dorsal:   | [kp]ape' 'to the dad'<br>[kt]o 'who'<br>a clitic + word boundary cluster | bio[kp]ost 'post'<br>o[kt]ava 'octave'       |  |

Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Kochetov, Alexei, and Louis Goldstein. "Position and Place Effects in Russian Word-initial and Word-Medial Stop Clusters." Poster at Acoustical Society of America annual meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, May 17, 2005.

### Grammar of stop release

• Measured lag from release of C1 to closure of C2 (identified from articulatory record).



Image by MIT OpenCourseWare. Adapted from Kochetov, Alexei, and Louis Goldstein. "Position and Place Effects in Russian Word-initial and Word-Medial Stop Clusters." Poster at Acoustical Society of America annual meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, May 17, 2005.

### Grammar of stop release

- Lag is greater in initial position than in medial position for coronal, dorsal C1.
- Pattern is reversed for labial initial clusters.
- It may be easier to generate a burst from an overlapped labial (compared to dental, velar) since the labial closure is front of C2 closure.
- Labial shaping of C2 release transitions?
- Visual cues are available.





## Montana Salish

• Patterns of consonant coordination are often manner dependent.

Montana Salish (Flemming, Ladefoged & Thomason 2006)

- Stops and ejectives are strongly released in all positions.
   open transition in Stop+C
- Fricatives form close transitions with following obstruent, preceding sonorant, fricative.
- All sonorants (glottalized and plain) are preceded by schwa.
  - except in sequences of identical sonorants (modulo glottalization)
  - some variation in fricative-nasal sequences.

## Montana Salish

- Stops and ejectives are strongly released in all positions.
- Fricatives form close transitions with following obstruent, preceding sonorant, fricative
- All sonorants are preceded by a vowel.



Sound files courtesy of the UCLA Phoenetics Lab (Peter Ladefoged, PI). Source data: http://archive.phonetics.ucla.edu/Language/FLA/fla\_record\_details.html

## Montana Salish

- Manner dependent coordination makes sense in terms of realization of cues:
- Stop bursts provide place/laryngeal/presence cues
- Fricatives have good internal cues to place/manner/presence, so open transition is not as important.
- Preceding vowel for sonorants may be needed for clear realization of plain vs. pre-glottalized contrast.
- Is there an articulatorily-based interpretation?

Unreleased stops

- What favors unreleased stops, given the perceptual advantages of released stops?
- Chitoran et al propose a 'parallel transmission' constraint overlap increases rate of realization of contrasts.
- But what about word-final (pre-pausal) stops?
- Stop releases may be confusable with (reduced) vowels.
- Stop releases may be perceived as adding a syllable (in languages that allow reduced vowels).

### References

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