Phonology Summary

(contains all examples from class slides, and more!)

1. Phonology vs. phonetics

- The path from memory (lexical access) to speech is mediated by **phonology**.
- **Phonology** = **system of rules** that apply when speech sounds are put together to form morphemes and words.
- (1) **stop consonant aspiration in English**: initial within a stressed syllable

ASPIRATED initial within a stressed syllable	UNASPIRATED after s or initial within an unstressed syllable	word-final (therefore syllable-final)
<u>p</u> an	s <u>p</u> an	na <u>p</u>
<u>t</u> one	s <u>t</u> one	no <u>t</u> e
<u>k</u> in	s <u>k</u> in	ni <u>ck</u>
upon	supping	
a <u>tt</u> ack	a <u>tt</u> ic	
a <u>k</u> in	ha <u>ck</u> ing	

- What English speakers know is a rule that relates a form stored in memory (in the sound field of the lexicon) to pronunciation. The rule concerns speech sounds, and therefore *involves* phonetics. But aspiration at the beginning of stressed syllables is not an inevitable part of a human language you can have a human vocal tract and not use the rule exemplified in (1). This makes it a rule of **phonology** rather than a fact about **phonetics**.
- Speakers of Spanish, for example, do not have the English rule, which is why the
 syllable-initial stop consonants of a native speaker of Spanish sound "funny" to the
 English ear (and vice-versa). More strikingly yet, speakers of Tojolabal (a Mayan
 language of Mexico) have a rule that is almost the exact opposite of the English rule,
 aspirating word (syllable?)-final [t]. but not [t] elsewhere:

(2) aspiration of [t] in Tojolabal: word (syllable?)-finally¹

,		oj o	,	,	
1.	t∫it⁼am	'pig'	5.	t∫at⁼at ^h	kind of plant
2.	makt=on	'a patch'	6.	mut^h	'chicken'
3.	pot⁼ot'	kind of plant	7.	nahath	'long'
4.	t=inan	'upside down'	8.	?inath	'seed'
					$(t^{-} = unaspirated /t/)$

- Speakers of English *learned* something from the data they were presented with as
 babies that caused them to internalize (learn) the rule exemplified in (1) just as
 Tojolabal speakers learned from the data that they heard as babies, and ended up with
 the rule exemplified in (2).
- The English rule is real and active "on-line", governing creative linguistic behavior. A native speaker of English will apply it to new words they have never heard. The /t/ in *tib* will be aspirated, and the /t/ in *stib* (both nonsense words, I hope) will not be. Probably Tojolabal speakers will show similar behavior with respect to their rule.

2. What phonetic distinctions are made in lexical entries? Part 1: phonological rules that eliminate distinctions from the lexicon

- English: lexicon does not need to distinguish aspirated from unaspirated stops.

 There is no reason to suppose that information about aspiration forms part of the sound field of lexical entries of English words, since it is entirely predictable. Though *pan* is pronounced /phæn/ and *span* /spæn/, there is no reason to distinguish the aspirated and unaspirated bilabial stops in the lexical entries of the two words. Instead, we may simply use the unaspirated version in the lexicon for both words (pæn, spæn) and let the phonological rule take care of the pronunciation difference.
- To make the same point differently, we could not even *conceive* of two distinct words in English that differ *only* in the aspiration of a stop consonant. If you invent a product and call it "phab", I could not invent a competing product and call it "pab" to distinguish it. The second form is simply the first form with a foreign accent! The English lexicon does not even allow the aspirated and the unaspirated variants to be distinguished. It hands the job off completely to the phonology.
- This too is an English-specific fact! In some languages the lexicon does make the
 relevant distinction. For example, Hindi, where words are often distinguished only
 by a contrast in aspiration for a stop consonant:

(3) Hindi: lexicon distinguishes aspirated from unaspirated stops in the lexicon note the *minimal pairs*

pal	'take care of'	p ^h al	'knife blade
tal	'beat'	thal	'plate'
tal	'postpone'	t ^h al	'wood shop'
t∫al	'turn'	t∫ʰal	'bark'
kal	'era'	k ^h al	'skin'

¹ Source: Gleason, Henry A. (1955) Workbook in Descriptive Linguistics. New York:, Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Note: I only have information about [t], and don't know if the rule extends to the other stops.

• The same points can be made with other phonological rules. For example:

(4) vowel length in English:

 $V \rightarrow [+long] / [C, +voiced]$

(short and long vowels in **complementary distribution**, i.e. not distinguished in the lexical entries for English morphemes, but derived by a phonological rule)

short vowel		long vowel	
meet	[mit]	mead	[mi:d]
back	[bæk]	bag	[bæ:g
pot	[pat]	pod	[pa:d]
loss	[los]	laws	[lɔ:z]
half	[hæf]	have	[hæ:v]
made-up wo	rds		
wuck	[wʌk]	wug	[wa:g
nis	[nis]	niz	[ni:z]

- Nonsense words and the pronunciation of non-English words like *wuck* and *wug* show that this too is a rule. **Vowel length is not part of lexical entries in English!**
- You could not imagine, for example, /nik/ and /ni:k/ being distinguishable names for new inventions in English.
- On the other hand, many languages do distinguish vowel length in the lexicon. Latin, for example, and many other languages, e.g. Finnish (a brilliantly demonstrated for us in class):

(5) vowel length in Finnish:

(short and long vowels distinguished in the lexical entries for Finnish morphemes; note the minimal pairs!)

tuli	'fire'	tu:li	'wind'
ehto	'condition'	ehto:	'evening'
sika	'pig'	si:ka	'whitefish'

(6) [l] vs. [r] in Luganda (Bantu, Uganda)

[source: workbook by Gleason]

 $[l] \rightarrow [r] / [V, -back]^2$

[1] and [r] in **complementary distribution**, i.e. not distinguished in the lexical entries for Luganda morphemes, but derived by a phonological rule

1.	òkúd ^y d ^y ùlà	'to be full of'	11.	éfirímbí	'a whistle'
2.	òkúd ^y d ^y úlá	'to dish up'	12.	éñd ^y álíírò	'beam'
3.	òkúgúlá	'to buy'	13.	èríñá	'name'
4.	òkúggúlá	'to open'	14.	éttúúndíró	'shop'
5.	òkùléétà	'to bring'	15.	myéréèrè	'only'
6.	òkútábáálà	'to attack'	16.	ñd ^y írí	'Gospel'
7.	òmùlálà	'insane person'	17.	òkùlíírà	'to eat with'
8.	òmùlémà	'lame person'	18.	ólúgéró	'story'
9.	náálwááná	'fought'	19.	ókúmíírá	'to swallow'
10.	túlèègà	'we tighten'	20.	pírípírí	'chili pepper'

(7) [l] vs. [r] in Korean [l] \rightarrow r/V V

[source: workbook by Gleason]

→ r	/ V V				
1.	kal	'that'll go'	11.	pulphyən	'discomfort'
2.	kwnwl	'shade'	12.	silkwa	'kind of fruit'
3.	mul	'water'	13.	əlmana	'how much'
4.	pal	'foot'	14.	irum	'name'
5.	p ^h al	'arm'	15.	kiri	'length'
6.	səul	'Seoul'	16.	kurəm	'then'
7.	tatuıl	'all of them'	17.	kəriro	'to the street'
8.	ilkop	'seven'	18.	saram	'person'
9.	ipalsa	'barber'	19.	uri	'we'
10.	onulppam	'tonight'	20.	yərum	'summer'

([uu] is a high back unrounded vowel)

(8) [1] vs. [1] in English

distinguished in the lexical entries for English morphemes: note the minimal pairs

late rate
lot rot
lamb ram
belly berry
hail hair
pool poor

² The data are insufficient to tell us whether lexical entries contain [1] and a rule derives [r], or whether it is the other way around. The same is true for Korean below.

3. What phonetic distinctions are made in lexical entries? Part 2: phonological rules that do *not* eliminate distinctions from the lexicon

Russian Consider the following pairs of forms from Russian. I call the forms in the left column "zero-ending forms" and the forms in the left column "-a forms", though the meaning and use of the two forms actually varies widely among the examples. Assume that the -a form contains two morphemes: a root and a suffix -a (brought together into onew word by the rule Merge).

(9) Final devoicing in Russian

	zero-ending form	- <u>a form</u>	
a.	grop	groba	'coffin'
b.	lip	lipa	'linden tree'
c.	∫opət	∫əpəta	'whisper'
d.	gorət	gərəda	'city'
e.	ruk	ruka	'hand'
f.	rək	rəga	'horn'
g.	rək	roka	'fate'
h.	kərənda∫	kərənda∫a	'pencil'
i.	ekipa∫	ekipaʒa	'crew'
j.	ras	rasa	'race'
k.	ras	raza	'time'

- step 1: Comparing the two columns, we note that sometimes the -a form has a voiced consonant (stop or fricative) where the zero-ending form has the corresponding voiceless consonant. (Example: the /p/ vs. /b/ in the first example.) This already suggests that Russian has either a rule that makes voiced consonants voiceless in a certain environment, or else a rule that makes voiceless consonants voiced. Which is
- step 2: Next we notice that sometimes both columns have the voiceless alternant. (Example: the /p/ in the second example.) But there are no examples in which the zero-ending form has a voiced consonant while the -a form has a voiceless consonant.
- Now let's add an additional fact: No Russian word is ever pronounced so as to end with a voiced consonant (with some law-governed exceptions coming up). A Russian accent in English has this property too: an English word like [prawd] 'proud' comes out as [prawt].
- Solution: Russian has a rule of final devoicing that devoices a voiced consonant at the end of a word. The rule leaves consonants that are already voiceless alone.

(10)	Final devoicing (first version, to be revised) ³
	[+consonant] → [-voiced] /#

Where the zero-ending form has a voiceless consonant and the -a form has a voiced counterpart, the lexicon contains a voiced consonant that the rule of final devoicing turns into its voiceless counterpart.

(11) Final devoicing in Russian

	zero-ending form	-a form		lexical entry for the root ⁴
a.	grop	groba	'coffin'	gro b
b.	lip	lipa	'linden tree'	li p
c.	∫opət	∫opəta	'whisper'	∫opət
d.	gorət	gərəda	'city'	gərəd
e.	ruk	ruka	'hand'	ru k
f.	rək	roga	'horn'	rog
g.	rək	roka	'fate'	rək
h.	kərəndaf	kərəndaʃa	'pencil'	kərənda∫
i.	ekipaſ	ekipaʒa	'crew'	ekipa3
j.	ras	rasa	'race'	ras
k.	ras	raza	'time'	raz

Important points:

- 1. Listing the voiced alternant in the sound field of the lexical entries for the roots of these words makes it possible to *predict* the pronunciation of both the zero-ending form and the -a form. If we were to list the voiceless alternant, we could not predict when the -a form shows a voiced consonant and when it shows a voiceless consonant.
- 2. Forms with a voiced final consonant are never pronounced that way! So this is a case in which the lexicon makes more distinctions than those made in the spoken form of the language (a voicing contrast in word-final position) — a contrast to the previous section, in which we saw the lexicon making fewer distinctions than those made in the spoken form (e.g. with respect to aspiration in English).
- Finally, the details of Russian motivate a restriction of the rule in (10) to exclude liquids (/l/ and /r/) and nasals

(12) No devoicing of liquids and nasals

dom	_	doma	'house'
plan		plana	'plan'
skəzal		skəzala	'said'
vor		vəra	'thief'

(13) Final devoicing (final version)

(+consonant)	1	
-sonorant	→ -voiced /	1

³ The symbol # indicates the boundary of the word. See the textbook for the format of phonological rules

⁴ Our lexical entries ignore some irrelevant additional details of Russian phonology — for example, the fact that the schwa vowels listed here are not actually part of the lexical entries either, but are the result of rules that apply to other vowels when they are unstressed.

4. More phonology

 Phonology vs. phonetics once more: Rules like (13) are very common in the world's languages. But not universal. English, for example, does not have a rule of final devoicing.

Part of having a "Russian accent" when speaking English is to erroneously apply this rule when speaking English.

Another very common (but not universal) kind of rule is assimilation.

Voicing assimilation

- (14) Voicing assimilation in English: the plural suffix
 - a. plural morpheme as /s/:

[lip-s, pat-s, nek-s, læf-s ...]

b. plural morpheme as /z/:

[kæb-z, pad-z, ɛg-z, hajv-z ...]

- (15) Voicing assimilation in English past tense: invented words
 - a. plural morpheme as /s/:

[zap-s, wak-s, ...]

b. past morpheme as /d/:

[zab-z, wag-z, ...]

- The point (yet again!): the past tense rule is not about a list of phones turning into another list. Rather it is about an abstract property of phones in general (voiced vs. voiceless):5
- (16) Voicing assimilation

 $z \rightarrow [-voiced] / [-voiced] _$

Nasal assimilation

As noted, rules like (16) — assimilation rules — are very common in the world's languages. One of the most common phonological processes across the world's languages is nasal assimilation. A nasal consonant takes on the place of articulation of a consonant that follows it.

English nasal assimilation:

Could there be a word *chinp* (vs. *chimp*)? What about /þink/ (vs. /þiŋk/)? *emd* (vs. *end*)? No, because English has a rule of **nasal assimilation**, identical to the rule also illustrated in (17) below:

(17) Itzá⁶ (Mayan, Guatemala): nasal assimilation

ts?on	'gun'	7ints?on	'my gun'
k?ab	'hand'	?iŋk?ab	'my hand'
bat	'ax'	?imbat	'my ax'
pal	'son'	?impal	'my son'
kol	'field'	?iŋkol	'my field'
si?	'wood'	?insi?	'my wood'
lak	'bowl'	?inlak	'my bowl'
lets	'trap'	?inlets	'my trap'

(18) Nasal Assimilation Rule

A nasal assimilates in place of articulation to the following consonant

 Here is an approximation at a formal statement of the rule, using the terms introduced in class for the phonetic properties of consonants:

 $[+nasal] \rightarrow [a \text{ bilabial}, b \text{ alveolar}, \gamma \text{ velar}]/$ $[\alpha \text{ bilabial}, \beta \text{ alveolar}, \gamma \text{ velar}]$

— where α , β , γ are variables that range over plus and minus values. Using the features discussed in the book, but not in class, that would be:

 $[+nasal] \rightarrow [\alpha labial, \beta coronal, \gamma dorsal]/ ___ [\alpha labial, \beta coronal, \gamma dorsal]$

Important note:

From the data given, we can't tell what the underlying form of 'my' is in Mayan. It might be 2in, 2in or 2im.

Vowel harmony

When assimilation affects a vowel, the process is called **vowel harmony**. For example:

⁵ As came up in answer to a question, a schwa is inserted after sibilants: [kɪsəz, bʌzəz, edʒəz] etc.

 $^{^6}$ Data once again from the Gleason worksbook cited above. Gleason calls the language "Mayan", which is actually a language family. Thanks to Robert Henderson for identifying the actual language.

(19) Turkish vowel harmony singular plural

-		
di∫	di∫ler	'tooth'
tʃotsuk	tſotsuklar	'child'
asker	askerler	'soldier'
kedi	kediler	'cat'
son	sonlar	'end'
masa	masalar	'table'
getse	getseler	'night'
baba	babalar	'father'
kuſ	kuſlar	'bird'
køj	køjler	'village'
jyz	jyzler	'face'
kwz	kwzlar	'girl'

[y], $[\emptyset]$ = high and mid front rounded vowels (Turkish spelling: $\ddot{\boldsymbol{u}}$ and $\ddot{\boldsymbol{o}}$)

 $[\mathfrak{u}]$ = high back unrounded vowel (Turkish spelling: dotless ι)

• In the plural suffix, we find a back vowel ([a]) when the root ends in a back vowel ([u], [a], [o], [u;) and a front vowel ([e]) when the root ends in a front vowel ([[i], [e], [y], [ø]). This is the result of a rule of **front-back vowel harmony.**

5. Phonemes

• Ouestion:

What is the **inventory** of the sounds that are found in the morphemes of a language **as** they are stored in the sound field of the lexicon?

The list of these sounds is the list of the **phonemes** of the language.

• The list of actual sounds used in the language (the phonemes, as modified by the phonological rules of the language), is the list of its **phones**.

These concepts in context

- Why did our brains in infancy go to the trouble of working out how to parse the speech stream into morphemes? Probable answer: to store information about these units in the database that we call the **lexicon**.
- When the infant acquiring language notes that two or more phones are in
 complementary distribution, he/she uses this fact to economize on the distinctions
 made in the lexicon. Two phones in complementary distribution are taken to
 correspond to only one sound stored in memory, a phoneme with the variant
 pronunciations related to the single phoneme by phonological rule.
- The variant forms of phoneme that are related by rule are called its **allophones**.

• Review, in this connection, our discussion of aspiration:

Tojolabal and English:

predictable alternation of +aspirated and -aspirated (different rules)

Spanish:

always unaspirated

Hindi:

unpredictable whether a consonant is aspirated or not

Conclusions:

Tojolabal, English: aspiration is not phonemeic (for example, /t/ and /t^h/ are **allophones of the same phoneme**)

Hindi: aspiration is phonemic (for example, /t/ and /th/ are **distinct phonemes**)

• We can immediately establish that two phones are not in complementary distribution in a language if we can find a **minimal pair** of words that differ by only that phone.

The minimal pair is the gold standard of phonological analysis. but **near-mininal pairs** will often do almost as well, i.e. two words containing XaY and XbY where X and Y are the same. At least we know that a vs. b is not predictable on the basis of X vs. Y.]

6. Phonemic inventory

• The set of phonemes of a language are called its **phonemic inventory**.

record low: maybe Rotokas (S. Pacific), 11 phonemes

record high: !Xoo (Khoisan group, Botswana, Namibia), 141~160.

80 of them are clicks!

English: about 37-41, depending on dialect and analysis

- Alphabetic writing systems often choose represent phonemes rather than their allophones.
- Speakers of languages tend to be minimally aware or unaware of allophonic distinctions. (Were you aware of the rule governing stop aspiration in English?)
- Categorical perception for non-phonemic distinctions seems to be suppressed in the process of language acquisition. Work done at Haskins laboratories in the 1970s and 80s (by Virginia Mann, among others) seems to show that adult speakers of English

make a categorical distinction between [l] and [r], but adult speakers of Japanese do not.

Other experiments show that *infants* -- both Japanese and American -- make the categorical distinction. So language acquisition from this perspective looks more like a process of *losing* distinctions than gaining them — *un*learning rather than learning.

7. Distinctive features.

• Phonological processes tend to be "natural", in that they apply to **natural classes** of sounds. The environment of a rule is also generally a **natural class** of sounds, and the change effected by the rule involves a **natural class** of sounds.

What is a **natural class** of sounds? A group of sounds that have a common phonetic property. For example, for consonants: point of articulation, manner of articulation and voicing.

Other (rather sophisticated) ways of classifying sounds are discussed at length in the textbook, but were not discussed in class. Take 24.901 next Fall to learn more.

8. Rule ordering

- Lexical entries may undergo more than one phonological rule. The various rules do not seem to apply equally or all at once, but are prioritized. There is controversy within the field of phonology about the precise nature of this prioritization. (One currently popular approach, called **Optimality Theory** is not the approach taught here, but is stressed in other classes in linguistics.) For our purposes, the prioritization can be understood as an **ordering** of the rules: they apply in a serial fashion, each rule applying to the output of the preceding rule.
- The sequence of ordered rules is called a **derivation**. In class, we examined three problems that show how an ordered derivation works.

• Example 1: Tunica

In the Penutian language Tunica, formerly spoken around the Gulf of Mexico, the vowel /a/ assimilates to the backness and roundness of a preceding vowel if, either the two vowels are adjacent, or are separated only by a glottal stop:

a.	Infinitive	3rd sg. masc.	3rd sg. fem.	3rd sg. fem.	
				pres. prog.	
	pó	pó?uhki	półoki	póhk?aki	'look'
	pí	píłuhki	píłεki	píhk?aki	'emerge'
	já	já?uhki	já?aki	jáhk?aki	'do'
	ţú	ʧúʔuhki	ψúγοki	tjúhk?aki	'take'

Another rule of the language deletes an unstressed vowel before a glottal stop, the result of which can be seen in (b):

b.	Infinitive	3rd sg. masc.	3rd sg. fem.	3rd sg. fem.	
				pres. prog.	
	hára	hár∂uhki	hár∂aki	hárahk?áki	'sing'
	hípu	híp?uhki	híp?oki	hípuhk?áki	'dance'
	nási	nás?uhki	nás?eki	násihk?áki	'lead someone'

- (i) Explain how the application of the two rules derives the 3rd sg. fem. forms [híp²ɔki] and [náʃʔɛki].
- ii) What is the ordering relationship between these two rules?

Answer: Vowel harmony in the 3sg fem form <u>precedes</u> unstressed vowel deletion — which if it had applied first, would have eliminated the environment for harmony [source: Roca, Iggy and Wyn Johnson. 1999. A Course in Phonology]

Example 2: Shona

In the Central Bantu language, Shona, spoken in Zimbabwe, there is a rule of nasal assimilation and another which causes postnasal voiceless stops /p t k/ to lose their oral place and become [h]. Examples illustrating the results of these processes are shown below (high tones are marked with an acute accent):

ku-p-a	'to give'	m-h-a	'give it to me'
agá-ka	'little cow'	íŋ-ha	'cow'
uru-toki	'finger'	in-hoki	'fingers'

How must these two rules be applied in order to yield the desired results?

Answer: The output of nasal assimilation (see below) reveals the place of articulation of a following voiceless stop that has turned into [h]. So nasal assimilation must precede the stop \rightarrow [h] rule, so it can see the difference between a [p], [k] or [t] that later changes to [h].

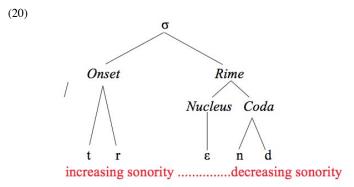
Roca, Iggy, and Wyn Johnson. A Course in Phonology. Blackwell Publishers, 1999.

© Blackwell Publishers. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see http://ocw.mit.edu/fairuse.

9. Syllable structure

This is a topic that I presented very briefly, which really deserved a full class or two to itself — mainly because the next topic was writing systems, and I wanted to discuss syllables so we could later discuss syllabaries. Here's what we talked about (and there's more material in the textbook).

- Phonological segments are not arranged like beads on a string (any more than morphemes within a word are, or words within a sentence) but are organized in a hierarchical fashion into syllables.
- Though there is some disagreement among experts (and some interesting recent work revising the model), a standard view holds that segments are grouped as in (20), where the Greek letter σ (a lowercase sigma) indicates "syllable".⁷ Note that in general, sonority increases as you move from either syllable-edge towards the nucleus.⁸



• Both *onset* and *rime* are optional, but the nucleus (containing one or more vowels, syllabic liquids or nasals) is obligatory.

Evidence for the existence of *onset* and *coda* as structural units includes:

The existence of phonotactic constraints (constraints on co-occurrence) within the
onset and within the rime, vs. the near-absence of comparable constraints that cross the
coda-onset divide.

For example, in English *trent* is a possible (but not an actual) word, but **rtent* is an impossible word, since [rt] is not a possible onset (violating the principle of increasing sonority). On the other hand, [r] may immediately precede [t] even in English, so long

- as the [r] can be syllabified into the coda of a preceding syllable. Thus: *airtent* is a possible word, since it is syllabified $[\sigma \text{ ejr}][\sigma \text{ tent}]$.
- Branching rimes and branching codas attract **stress** in many languages, while branching onsets generally do not (i.e. there is a generalization that requires reference to these constituents within the syllable).

(continued on next page)

⁷ Linguists' spelling of *rime* is an homage to Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (http://www.gutenberg.org/files/151/151-h/151-h.htm -- in case you don't know it).

⁸ Vowels are more sonorous than consonants; nasals and liquids are more sonorous than stops; voiced consonants are more sonorous than voiceless consonants. Crosslinguistically, the behavior of sibilants is interestingly anomolous: a word like [trip] obeys the sonority generalization, but the initial consonant of [strip] violates it.

Example: the Latin stress rule

(21) Latin stress: data

short penult⁹
mí-se-rum 'poor' (NEU)
dú-ci-mus 'we lead'
ré-fi-cit '(s)he repairs'
dó-mi-nus prin-cí-pi-bus 'chiefs' (ABL)

closed¹⁰ penult
a-mán-tis
re-féc-tus
im-pe-di-mén-ta
con-sér-vat

cloving' (GEN)
'repaired'
'baggage'
'(s)he preserves'

long penult

a-mái-vi: 'I have loved' a-mái-bo: 'I will love' du-cé:-mus 'we will lead' hor-tó:-rum 'gardens' (GEN) stop+liquid'crowded' (GEN)cé-le-bris'crowded' (GEN)vó-lu-cris'winged' (GEN)

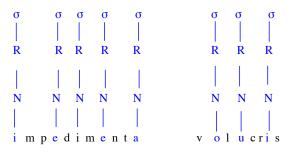
two-syllable words

té-git 'covers' mó-rem 'sea' (ACC)

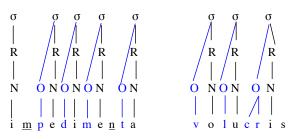
(Latin spelling: c = [k], v = [w])

Latin syllabification rules:

step 1. Link all vowels to Nucleus, project Rime and Syllable:

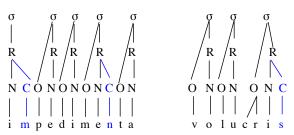


step 2. Link each consonant that immediately precedes a vowel to Onset. Add as many other consonants as possible to Onset ("maximize Onset") — so long as phonotactics (sonority sequencing) is not violated.



The underlined segments are not added to onsets in step 2 because of sonority. [mp] and [nt] are not possible onsets in Latin.

step 3. Link remaining (unsyllabified) consonants to Coda



Latin stress rule:

3.

1. If the penult (second-to-last syllable) has branching structure in its rime (is *heavy*), stress the penult.

a-mán-tis re-féc-tus a-má:-vi: du-cé:-mus

im-pe-di-mén-ta (see syllable structures above)

2. Otherwise, if the word has 3 or more syllables, stress the antepenult [third syllable from end]

prin-cí-pi-bus dú-ci-mus mí-se-rum cé-le-bris

vó-lu-cris (see syllable structures above)

3. Otherwise, stress the first syllable

té-git mó-rem

 $^{^9}$ *Penult* = second syllable from the end of a word. *Antepenult* = third syllable from the end of the word.

¹⁰ A syllable is *closed* if it contains material in its coda (e.g. [d

MIT OpenCourseWare http://ocw.mit.edu

24.900 Introduction to Linguistics Fall 2012

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: http://ocw.mit.edu/terms.