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Synchronic typology of metrical systems

The synchronic study of metrical systems is one of the key areas of phonology. In this course, we discuss two aspects of the topic: the cross-linguistic typology of linguistic rhythm and the phonetic correlates of main stress. Our main focus will be on the study of rhythm, which has been implemented into different influential frameworks, such as parameter-based (e.g. Hayes 1995) or constraint-based approaches (e.g. Kager 1999).

Generally, it is assumed that linguistic rhythm derives from the division of words into metrical constituents, i.e., metrical feet. In this class, we discuss the main types of metrical systems (e.g. trochaic vs. iambic feet, quantity-sensitive vs. quantity-insensitive feet, position of primary stress, treatment of so-called degenerate feet); furthermore, we see how different frameworks incorporate these aspects into their theories.

Next to rhythm, a second cornerstone in the study of metrical systems concerns the question how metrical structure, which is composed of abstract metrical units, is expressed on the surface as stress. We will see that, after many decades of extensive research have been devoted to the topic, there still is an ongoing discussion on which correlates stress can have at all as well as on their relative importance.

Suggested Readings

Day 1

Gordon, M. (2011). Stress: phonotactic and phonetic evidence. In: Van Oostendorp, M., Ewen, C.J., Hume, E., Rice, K. (Eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*. Blackwell publishing, Oxford, pp. 924-948.

http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/gordon/Gordon_CompaniontoPhonology.pdf

Day 2

Hayes, B. (1995). *Metrical stress theory: Principles and case studies*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3.

Day 3

Hayes, Chapter 4

Day 4

Hyde, B. (2011). Extrametricality and non-finality. Van Oostendorp et al. (Eds.), 1027-1051.

<http://pages.wustl.edu/files/pages/imce/bhyde/Hyde-2011b.pdf>

Day 5

Kager, R. (1999). *Optimality theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 4.