Stratified Faithfulness in Harmonic Grammar and Emergent Core-Periphery Structure

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Abstract

Foundational work by Ito & Mester (1995ab, 1999, 2001, 2008) connects core-periphery phonology, in which different lexical strata in a language tolerate different degrees of ‘foreign’ phonological structure, to a ranked hierarchy of markedness constraints against which faithfulness constraints are ranked differently for different strata. Implementing a version of the Stratified Faithfulness model in Harmonic Grammar takes advantage of cumulative interaction between specific and general faithfulness constraints (Jesney & Tessier 2011) to solve two remaining problems: how to make core-periphery structure a soft bias rather than an absolute requirement, and how to formalize the consistency of faithfulness rankings across strata that is a necessary condition for productive core-periphery phonology.