## The Standard "Variable Weight" Approach to Moraic Structure

The standard "variable weight" approach to moraic structure contends that the moraicity of codas is a language-specific parameter.(1)[1], [2], [3]

### Examples

(1a) CVC

(1b) CVC

### Issues with the "Variable Weight" Analysis

The "variable weight" approach suggests, we cannot account for these weight mismatches.

- Primary stress criterion: {CV, CVR} > {CVO, CV}
  - Often diverge in how they treat codas in terms of weight

### Word Minimality

The "variable weight" approach requires codas to contribute a mora to the syllable.

- If codas vary in their moraicity, as the "variable weight"
  - Requires sonorant codas (R) to contribute a mora to sensitive processes within a single language

### Problem: Weight

- Word Minimality: σ or heavy if present
  - Rule: Stress initial syllable or leftmost heavy if present

### Rule

- Stress final syllable or leftmost heavy if present

### Tonal Criterion

(Tonal criterion: {CV, CVR} > {CVO, CV})

- Often diverge in how they treat codas in terms of weight

### Tibetan

- Primary stress criterion: CV > (CVC, CV)
  - Rule: Stress initial syllable or leftmost heavy if present

- (a) mε.cε "coyote" (b) ni. saa.lι.nι "it said I went away"
  - "ear ornaments" ha.cε: ιδι.pια "Angelica Tomentosa"

- Tibetan bans codas from contributing a mora to the syllable.

### Aquacates

- Primary stress criterion: CV > (CVC, CV)
  - Rule: Stress initial syllable or leftmost heavy if present

- (a) na.pι "throw a round thing" (b) man.sa "to measure"
  - max. cε: "to be ashamed" ta.ilk.ιu "fish-cutting board"

### Chickasaw

- Primary stress criterion: CV > (CVC, CV)
  - Rule: Stress initial syllable or leftmost heavy if present

### Yana

- Rule: Stress initial syllable or leftmost heavy if present

### 2. Issues with the "Variable Weight" Analysis

- The Moraic Sonority Metric and Weight
  - Sensitivity - Sensitive phenomena.

### 3. Solution ~ The UMQ Principle

#### Uniform Moraic Quantity Principle

- Nucleus and coda segments always project a mora.

#### 4. Accounting for CVC’s Variability

- How do we account for variations in syllable weight criteria?

#### The Moraic Sonority Metric

- Every moraic sonority level is used in some languages.

#### Tonal Criterion

- The UMQ Principle

#### Weight-sensitive Stress

- Every moraic sonority level is used in some languages.

#### Sensitivity

- The final instance of a particular element (Cat): e.g., σ or ω

#### 5. Formalization ~ Nonfinality Framework

#### Non-FIN (GCat, Cat, PCat):[4] **FINμ** ~ Bifurcation below μ

#### FINON ~ Bifurcation between μ and ν

#### FINμ ~ Bifurcation between μ and ν

#### FIN<sub>σ</sub> ~ Bifurcation between ω and σ

#### FIN<sub>σ</sub> ~ Bifurcation between ω and σ

#### FIN<sub>σ</sub> ~ Bifurcation between ω and σ

### Discussion & Future Research

- Advantages of the UMQ.
- Obviates the need for Coercion in moraic status of codas.
- More accurately predicts the cross-linguistic moraic status of codas.

### Future Research

- Are there gaps in the factorial typology of the proposed Nonfinality constraints?
- Formalization of moraic sonority for other weight-sensitive phenomena.
- What about moraic onsets?
- Can these moraic sonority constraints be phonetically grounded?

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### References and Digital Poster

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### Figure 1: Sonority Hierarchy

#### Weight Sensitivity

- Syllable weight is process specific.

#### Figure 2: Metrical Grid

#### Figure 3: Uniform Moraic Quantity Principle

- Nucleus and coda segments always project a mora.

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### Table 1: Sonority Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sonority Level</th>
<th>Cat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### 6. Discussion & Future Research

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