From syntax to phonology: phi and phases
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Research questions
- How do phonological phrases (\( \phi \)) relate to syntax?
- Can independently-diagnosed syntactic properties predict phonological phrasing patterns?
- What is the typology of phonological phrasing cross-linguistically?

Background
- Multiple Spell-Out model: a spell-out domain defines \( \phi \)
- Not all SVO clauses are created alike.
- The phase heads which trigger spell-out: C, \( \phi \)
- Branchingness has effects at the PF interface
  - Effect of branchingness on \( \phi \) noted since Nespor & Vogel (1986)
  - Uriagereka (1999): complex specifiers and adjuncts are ‘command units’
  - Need to phrase complex specifiers and adjuncts separately noted in Nevell’s (2000) & Samuels’ (2009) phase-based phonological works
- C and \( \phi \) are phase heads
- Any non-head must spell out to move (no XP-XP merger)
- Motivated on conceptual & empirical syntactic grounds.

Syntactic variation
- Verb can be in V, \( \phi \) or T
- Subject can raise to Spec,TP or undergo \( \lambda \) movement to Topic
- Object can raise out of VP or not
- Arguments can be branching or simplex
- (Applicative structure can vary; see Samuels 2009 on Bantu ditransitives)
- Beyond SVO, further options are possible (see Broekhuis 2010)

SVO typology
- Does subject undergo \( \lambda \) movement?
  - Yes: Italian, Ewe, Kimatumbi
  - No: French, Kinyambo
- Which direct objects raise out of VP? (subject to semantic conditions)
  - All: Ewe, Italian
  - Non-branching: Kimatumbi, Kinyambo, French

Claim: syntax predicts phonological phrasing.
No need for restructuring parameter in PF mapping.

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Broekhuis (2003) typological study

Beyond SVO languages

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References


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