

**Skill-check HW #3 | Syllable structure in Italian**

For this assignment, your goal is to demonstrate your understanding of:

- how to determine the syllable structure of a language from a data set
- how to apply the tools of our formal model to represent syllable structure
- how to identify the syllable-structure “options” chosen by a language

This data set is from **Italian**, a Romance (Indo-European) language spoken in Italy.

- The forms provided in the data set are all surface forms.
- IPA symbols: [r] is a voiced alveolar oral trill (liquid, sonorant).  
[:] indicates that the preceding vowel is long.
- [tʃ], [dʒ], and [dʒ] are affricates, not clusters, in Italian — they are single segments.
- In Italian words with stress on the penultimate syllable (second syllable from the end), some stressed vowels are long (column A) and some are short (column B). This difference between long and short vowels in a stressed penultimate syllable is **predictable** based on the phonological environment.

(A)	[ pá:pa ]	‘popé’	(B)	[ páppa ]	‘mush’
	[ fá:to ]	‘fate’		[ fátto ]	‘fact’
	[ sé:te ]	‘thirst’		[ sétte ]	‘seven’
	[ fí:no ]	‘fine, pure’		[ néssó ]	‘connection, link’
	[ mú:za ]	‘muse, inspiration’		[ gónna ]	‘skirt’
	[ papá:to ]	‘papacy’		[ búrró ]	‘butter’
	[ karó:ta ]	‘carrot’		[ rítto ]	‘upright’
	[ ká:pra ]	‘goat’		[ mantélló ]	‘overcoat’
	[ lí:bro ]	‘book’		[ párró ]	‘I speak’
	[ ká:blo ]	‘cable’		[ párró ]	‘park’
	[ ó:tre ]	‘goatskin’		[ bélga ]	‘Belgian’
	[ má:dre ]	‘mother’		[ témpo ]	‘time’
	[ á:kre ]	‘acrid, bitter’		[ tórró ]	‘wrong’
	[ sá:gra ]	‘festival, feast’		[ káldo ]	‘hot’
	[ tʃí:klo ]	‘cycle’		[ romántʃo ]	‘novel’
				[ albérgo ]	‘hotel’
				[ revísta ]	‘magazine’
				[ agósto ]	‘August’

- (1) When there are two consonants between vowels, some languages treat them as a coda followed by an onset, and some languages treat them as an onset cluster. Based on the evidence in this data set, what does Italian do when there are two consonants between vowels? Support your argument by listing relevant forms (Italian words and their glosses) from the data set, organized in a way that is helpful to your audience. Use the tools of our phonological model to make your proposal as insightful as you can.
- (2) Based on your analysis in the previous question, show a syllable tree for each of the following words from the data set:
- (a) [ fí:no ]        'fine, pure'
  - (b) [ rítto ]        'upright'
  - (c) [ sá:gra ]       'festival, feast'
  - (d) [ témpo ]       'time'
- (3) On the basis of this data set, does Italian allow...
- (a) onsetless syllables?
  - (b) onset clusters?
  - (c) codas?
  - (d) coda clusters?

Whenever possible, support your claim with an example from the data set, including your proposed syllable tree for the example. If no direct evidence is available, use the default assumption.