

Write-up #2

Due **Tuesday, Dec 10** by **3:00 pm** (end of our final-exam period) in Canvas.

- Please **type** your paper and submit as **PDF, MSWord, or Open/Libre Office**.
- For help typing **IPA** symbols, see the “[IPA Resources](#)” page (also linked from the LING 200 web site home page) — or **copy/paste** from this document.
- Make **OT tableaux** with the “table” tool in your word processor. If you have trouble with dotted lines, you may use solid lines for your whole tableau, but be sure to explicitly **state** the ranking the tableau is demonstrating.

This assignment may be completed individually or in a group of two. Group assignments only need to be uploaded once (be sure *both names* are on the document). **Collaboration** with anyone in the class for discussion and problem-solving is encouraged, but **writing** must be done independently (or in your group of two). See “[Course information and policies](#)” document for collaboration policy.

Use the Italian data set (on p 3) to answer the questions (on p 2).

Some notes:

About the write-up

- Answer each question clearly and completely. If you are asked to provide evidence for a claim, provide **as many** relevant examples from the data set as you can find.
- When you provide data to support a claim, give both the Italian forms and the glosses (translations). **Organize** data as a list or table (not as a paragraph!), with the items presented in a relevant or logical order.
- Phonological theory is a work in progress. Not all observed phenomena are equally easy to express in our current model of the phonological grammar. If you find that some aspect of your analysis is difficult to formalize in our current model, just give the best analysis you can and discuss what the remaining issues are.

About the Italian data

- 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.

Note that [tʃ], [fʃ], and [dʒ] are affricates: single consonants, not clusters.

For further information about unfamiliar consonants or vowels, refer to the “Features model” handout and the “Feature charts” worksheet.

Questions for WU #2

- (1) For each of the following syllable structure options, make the best argument you can, based on this data set, for whether or not it is **allowed** in Italian. Whenever possible, **support** your claim(s) with well-organized evidence.

- onsetless syllables
- onset clusters
- codas
- coda clusters

Remember that syllable structure differs by language, and claims about syllable structure must be **explicitly justified**. In this context, it is useful to note that, in Italian words with penultimate stress (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 is **predictable**, based on some relevant aspect(s) of syllable structure.

- *Note: The OT analysis you will develop in this write-up does not need to handle making the vowels long or short. So, you may **ignore vowel length** in your tableaux, other than using it to **diagnose syllable structure**.*

- (2) Italian has the constraint ranking NoCODA » NoONSETCLUSTER.
- (a) Find one word from the data set where this ranking makes the **correct** prediction and show this in a tableau with just two candidates, the actual winner and the most relevant informative loser.
- (b) Then, find one word from the data set where this ranking appears to make the **wrong** prediction and show this in a tableau as well. This tableau should include the actual surface form and the candidate that would be wrongly chosen by the ranking NoCODA » NoONSETCLUSTER.
- (3) In your answer to question (1), you made an argument concerning whether Italian allows onset clusters, and if so, whether there are any restrictions on allowable clusters. Based on the factors you identified in that discussion, name and define a **new constraint** that will solve the problem you have discovered in (2)(b). Then use an OT tableau to make a valid ranking argument about where this new constraint is ranked with respect to NoCODA and/or NoONSETCLUSTER.
- (4) Determine as many rankings as you can among the constraints ONSET, NoCODA, NoONSETCLUSTER, NoCODACLUSTER, NoEPENTHESIS, NoDELETION, and the new constraint that you proposed in question (3).
- Justify your proposed rankings by showing **ranking arguments** in OT tableau format. To do this, choose insightful items from the data set, generate **informative losers** for each tableau, and annotate your tableaux with w/l **marks**. For each tableau, **state** which constraint rankings it proves. In your tableaux, order the constraints from left (highest) to right

- (lowest), and avoid including candidates that are *not* informative.
- At the end of your discussion, summarize your proposed ranking in a **Hasse diagram** that includes only those rankings that you have proven.

Data set for WU #2: Italian (Western Romance)

(A)	[pá:pa]	‘pope’	(B)	[néso]	‘connection, link’
	[papá:to]	‘papacy’		[fáto]	‘fact’
	[fá:to]	‘fate’		[páppa]	‘mush’
	[sé:te]	‘thirst’		[sétte]	‘seven’
	[karó:ta]	‘carrot’		[mantéllo]	‘overcoat’
	[fí:no]	‘fine, pure’		[gónna]	‘skirt’
	[mú:za]	‘muse, inspiration’		[búrra]	‘butter’
	[ká:pra]	‘goat’		[rítto]	‘upright’
	[vé:tro]	‘glass’		[páwra]	‘fear’
	[lí:bro]	‘book’		[káwza]	‘cause’
	[ká:blo]	‘cable’		[lájdo]	‘filthy, foul’
	[ó:tre]	‘goatskin’		[mójne]	‘flattery’
	[má:dre]	‘mother’		[párla]	‘I speak’
	[á:kre]	‘acrid, bitter’		[páрко]	‘park’
	[sá:gra]	‘festival, feast’		[bélga]	‘Belgian’
	[fǿ:klo]	‘cycle’		[témpo]	‘time’
				[tórto]	‘wrong’
				[káldo]	‘hot’
				[romántso]	‘novel’
				[albérgo]	‘hotel’
				[revísta]	‘magazine’
				[agósto]	‘August’