

**Reading guide: Gordon (2004)**

- (1) What phonological phenomena does G list as being diagnostic of syllable weight? Of these, which are addressed in the paper?
- (2) G is concerned with the question of “uniformity” of syllable-weight criteria. According to G, are weight criteria more consistent when looked at by language, or by phenomenon?
- (3) In §2, G criticizes both moraic theory and the X-slot/ONR approach to weight. On what grounds? Are these criticisms justified?
- (4) About the survey in §3: What was G looking at? What conclusions does he draw? Do you agree, or are there alternative interpretations?
- (5) What phonetic factors does G see as relevant for syllable weight?
- (6) What are G’s stress-related constraints like?
  - (a) How does G model syllable weight?
  - (b) What assumptions about subsyllabic structure do G’s constraints require?
- (7) What view of the phonetics-phonology interface does G’s model take? (What does he mean by *phonetic effectiveness* and *phonological symmetry*, and how do these considerations affect OT constraints?)
- (8) The point about coda inventories (§5.9.1) is thought-provoking, but less relevant for our concerns in this course ... we may not have time to discuss it.

## Implications and extensions

- (9) Is “weight uniformity” within a single language a necessary consequence of a moraic representation?
- (10) Does a three-way weight hierarchy (e.g., for stress assignment vs. contour tones) necessarily require a three-way distinction in mora count?
  - Are any of the ideas from Zec (1995) potentially generalizable to this situation?
- (11) What is the phonetic correlate of phonological tone? Is this related to the non-uniformity of weight criteria between tone and other factors? Can this phonetic correlate be used to justify constraints on tone formalized within moraic theory?