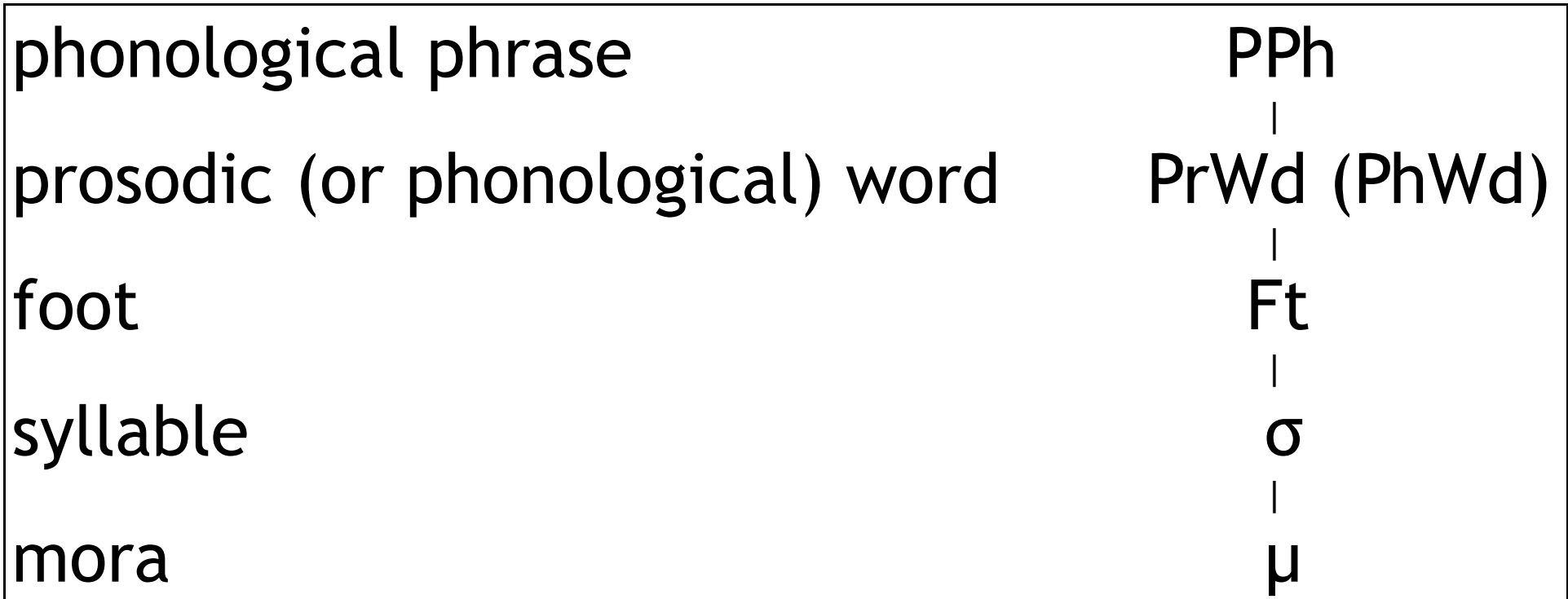# Intro to prosodic categories F Mar 16

- How do Aronoff & Fudeman define 'morpheme'?

- An unresolved issue from earlier in the course:
  How do morphological processes like
  - **infixation** - **reduplication**
  - **truncation** - **root-and-pattern morphology**
  fit into a uniform definition of 'morpheme'?

- Can we develop a more useful elaboration of 'sound/meaning correspondence'?

The prosodic hierarchy

- To gain insight into these types of morphological processes, we will need a basic understanding of a proposal in *phonology* known as the **prosodic hierarchy**

phonological phrase	PPh
	|
prosodic (or phonological) word	PrWd (PhWd)
	|
foot	Ft
	|
syllable	σ
	|
mora	μ

The syllable

- Check your native speaker intuitions: How many syllables are in…

  (a) *go*

  strengths

  undercover

  (b) *fire* (dialect differences?)

The syllable

Basic definitions

- The **syllable** is a prosodic constituent that groups segments (consonants and vowels) together

- **prosodic**: pertaining to a phonological constituent larger than a segment
    - So the **prosodic hierarchy** is a hierachy of phonological constituents of this type

The syllable

Basic definitions

- For the most part, **each vowel corresponds to a syllable**
  - The vowel is the syllable **nucleus** or **peak**
  - Every syllable has a nucleus, by definition

- Special situations
  - A diphthong is when two vowels belong to the *same* syllable
  - Some languages allow consonants to be a syllable nucleus

The syllable

Basic definitions

- **Onset**: consonant(s) in a syllable that precede the nucleus

- **Coda**: consonant(s) in a syllable that follow the nucleus

- **Cluster**: more than one consonant in the same syllable position
  - Some languages allow onset clusters, coda clusters, or both

The foot

- The **syllable** is a prosodic constituent that groups segments (consonants and vowels) together

- The **foot** is a prosodic consituent that groups syllables together

- Feet are important in understanding stress, so we will start by looking at some facts about stress

Stress: Examples and data

- **Stress patterns** (languages with very regular behavior)

  —> see data sets on class web site

- How can we **diagnose stress** in English?