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# Study Questions

Matt Gordon—A Factorial Typology of Quantity-insensitive Stress

Due: 3/11/2008

1. Describe the kinds of QI stress patterns discussed in this paper. Be sure to mention not only the three major groups, but types found within each group.
2. Why does Gordon adopt the constraint `ALIGNEDGES` (p .497)?
3. What ranking ensures that languages will have a fixed stress pattern? A binary pattern? A ternary pattern?
4. What are some of the patterns that the factorial typology generates which are unattested? Are there any that you think are implausible as possible human stress patterns?
5. Are any the constraints Gordon proposes faithfulness constraints? Is the proposed typology of stress a typology over possible surface forms (e.g. phonotactics) or over UR-SR mappings (e.g. phonological processes)? Discuss.
6. Mention one thing you like about the paper and one thing you may not have liked. Explain.
7. A final note: This is not the mainstream approach to stress in OT, but it is useful to see how one might go about computing and evaluating a factorial typology (and better methods, as mentioned in class, now exist). The mainstream approach makes use of constraints which refer to metrical feet. No one has provided—or tried to find as far as I know—a set of constraints over the grid-like structure Gordon uses which provides a reasonably tight fit to the typology of Quantity-Sensitive stress patterns. . .

## References

Gordon, Matthew. 2002. A Factorial Typology of Quantity-Insensitive Stress. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 20(3):491–552. Additional appendices available at <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/gordon/pubs.html>.