MEETING 4 — OVERVIEW

- Review of tonal ‘syntax’
- Hmk #3 review
- Pierrehumbert (1980) vs. ToBI tonal inventories
- L*+H scooped accent
THE ‘SYNTAX’ OF TONAL COMBINATIONS

- Each intermediate phrase (iP) contains one or more pitch accents (*).
- The last accent in the iP is the nuclear accent.
- All non-final accents in the iP are prenuclear accents.
- Each iP is marked by a phrase accent (L- or H-) at its right edge.
- Intermediate phrases combine into larger prosodic units called intonation phrases (IP).
- Each IP is marked by a boundary tone (L% or H%) at its right edge.
PIERREHUMBERT (1980) vs. ToBI TONES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P-1980</th>
<th>H*</th>
<th>L+H*</th>
<th>L*</th>
<th>L*+H</th>
<th>H*+L</th>
<th>H+L*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ToBI</td>
<td>H*</td>
<td>L+H*</td>
<td>L*</td>
<td>L*+H</td>
<td>(H*)</td>
<td>(H+!H*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- See Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990, p. 281) for a schematization of each pitch accent shape with accompanying phrase accent and boundary tone combo.
L*+H “SCOOPED” ACCENT

- Low F0 on the accented syllable, followed by a “fixed” rise.

- MEANING: Information is prominent due to the pitch accent, but is not added to the mutual belief space. The L+H combination evokes a set of alternatives, much like in the L+H* case. Informally, the L*+H accent is said to carry the meaning of *uncertainty* (about a set of entities evoked in the discourse), *incredulity*, or *lack of speaker commitment* in general. [Read more: Pierrehumbert & Hirschberg (1990), Ward & Hirschberg (1985).]

- Pierrehumbert & Steele (1989) give experimental evidence for the distinction between L+H* and L*+H.
Figure 1: Contrast between L*+H and L+H* accents.
Figure 2: Rise of L*+H occurs at fixed time after accented syllable.