

# Recursion and GP 2.0

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- ① Setting the stage
- ② Non-Arbitrariness
- ③ When are trees needed?
- ④ Binding in phonology
- ⑤ Foot inside a foot
- ⑥ Limits of recursion
- ⑦ Conclusion

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- 4 Recursion treated as something beyond hierarchy.

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- 2 What are the (hidden) assumptions about the workings of phonology? (Incl. what is the inventory of phonological objects.)



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- 8 By separating labels and structure-building, hierarchy and recursion much closer.



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- 2 Nevins, Pesetsky & Rodrigues (2009): Pirahã restricts self-embedding, but not recursion.

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- 5 Power of Jackendoff's quote rests on the reliability of the notions involved.

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- 4 Alternative suggests commonalities between the two modules; the idea of Structural Analogy ([Anderson 1992a](#)).

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- 6 Go further than Jackendoff: no role “even” for hierarchy.

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- 4 (Uninterpretable features for the sole reason of driving derivations: problematic circularity.)

- ① Similar concern in Government Phonology (GP) (Kaye, Lowenstamm & Vergnaud 1985, 1990; Kaye 1990; Harris 1994).

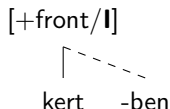
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- 5 Hungarian inessive *ház-ban* 'in a house INE.', *kert-ben* 'in a garden INE.'



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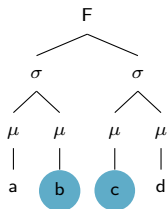
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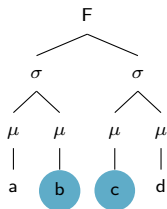
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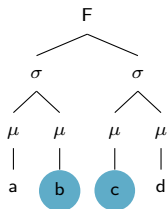


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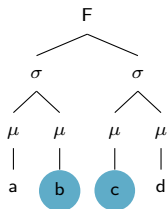
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- 6 Little worry about hierarchy if phonology arbitrary.

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- 5 Can only be appreciated if phonology is not simply seen as a system that allows random operations to take place.

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- 4 Hierarchical structure attested in other particulate systems outside of linguistics as well.

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- 6 Recursion leads us to expect that same/similar asymmetries repeat themselves at various levels.

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- 4 English [pt]
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- 5 Arguably different (Kaye 1995), yet no evidence for hierarchy.

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- ⑤ Tree structures not simply convenient but also necessary.

# English diphthongs in GP 1.x

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<i>oi</i>	{ <b>A, U</b> }	{ <b>I</b> }			

Complexity condition (CC) (Harris 1990: 274):

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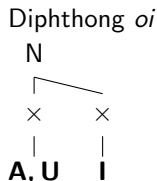
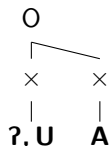
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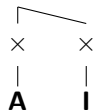
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- 2 “The complexity value of a segment is simply calculated by determining the number of elements of which it is composed.”
- 3 Branching onset *br*



- ① Problems both in branching onsets and in branching nuclei:

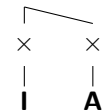
Diphthong *ai*

N



Diphthong *\*ia*

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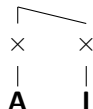


# Complexity insufficient

- ① Problems both in branching onsets and in branching nuclei:

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- ② Both problems stem from a failure to take into account the individual nature of elements:
- Equal complexity should allow for mirror images, counter to fact.
  - Complexity differential no guarantee for well-formedness.

- ① **A-requirement (P1):**  
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- ③ Auxiliary assumption #2 (Aux2): No empty expressions in diphthongs. (For head, this follows from P1.)

# Logical combinations left

Assuming P1, Aux1, Aux2:

first member	second member							
	{ }	{ A }	{ I }	{ U }	{ A, I }	{ A, U }	{ I, U }	{ A, I, U }
{ }	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
{ A }	*	*	✓	✓	*	*	*	*
{ I }	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
{ U }	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
{ A, I }	*	*	✓	✓	*	*	*	*
{ A, U }	*	*	✓	✓	*	*	*	*
{ I, U }	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
{ A, I, U }	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Still 6 combinations remaining, 3 + 1 + 2

a.			b.		
<i>ai</i>	{ A }	{ I }	<i>ei</i>	{ A, I }	{ I }
<i>au</i>	{ A }	{ U }	<i>ou</i>	{ A, U }	{ U }
<i>oi</i>	{ A, U }	{ I }			
* <i>eu</i>	{ A, I }	{ U }			

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- 4 “Differently”: **A** seems to interact with (constituent) structure unlike other elements.

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Nuclei containing **A** by itself can appear before *s+C* even when one of the final consonants does not contain **A**.
  - Vowel makes up for “insufficiency” of cluster; but there have to be two **A**'s around.

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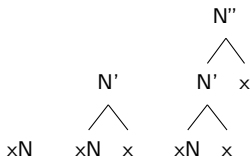
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- 5 In fact, what should replace **A**-ness is **empty structure**.



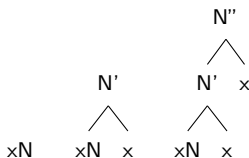
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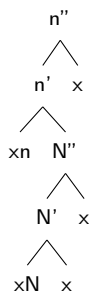
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- 2 Can be embedded by another head ( $xn$ ), which in turn can project up to twice. Maximal structure:

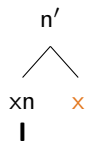
Doubled vowel structure also in den Dikken & van der Hulst (2018).

Meaning of  $xn$ ,  $xN$ : still somewhat unclear.

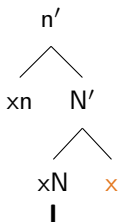


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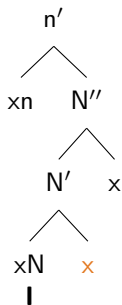
① [ɪ]/[i]



[ɛ]/[e]

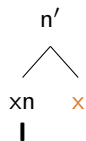


[æ]/[ä]

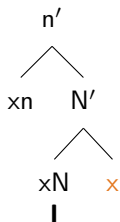


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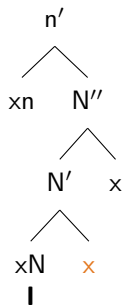
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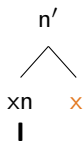


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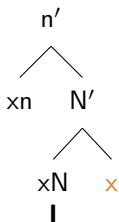


② Melody associated to lower head, whose complement (orange) is responsible for the tense/lax distinction.

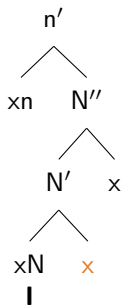
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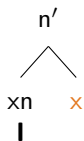


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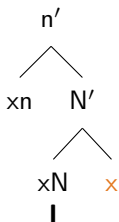


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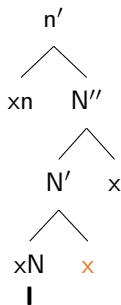
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- ④ Number of empty positions measure of openness.

① Asymmetry  $\exists I / * \epsilon \exists$ :

$\exists$	I
"A"	
U	I

\*

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"A"	
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"A" = structure to replace **A**

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- a. John saw Mary.
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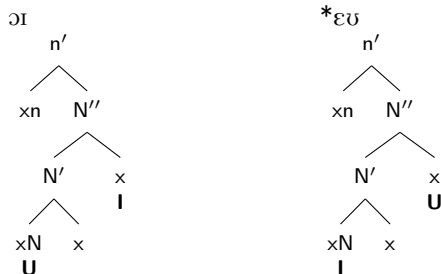
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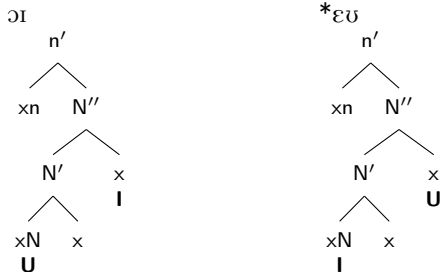
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- 4 Compare the  $\exists I$  in *void* to  $*\epsilon\bar{U}$ .

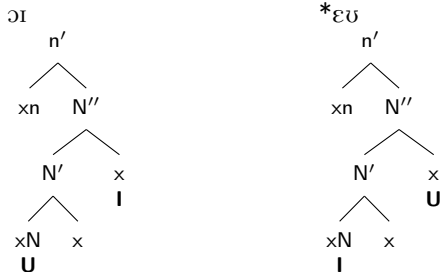


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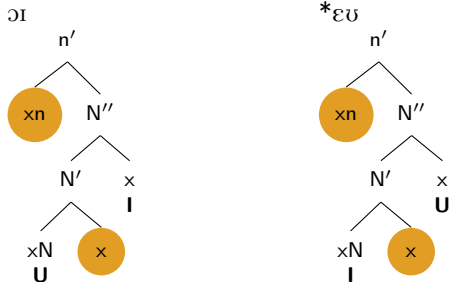
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- 2 Why is melody in the *lower* head? Melody in the upper head relevant for ATR-distinction.

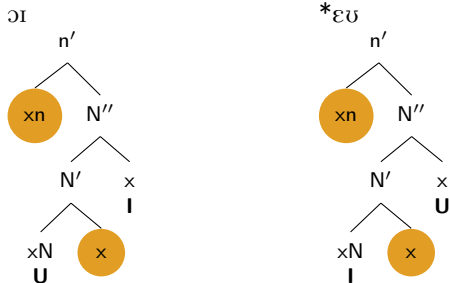
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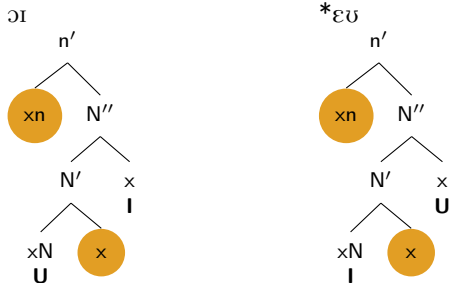


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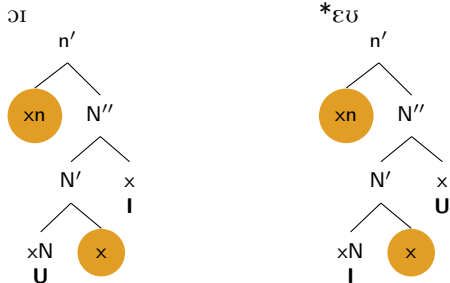
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- 4 Adequate reinterpretation of “**A** in head, no **A** in complement”.

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- ③ **The claim:** C-command, relying on hierarchy, correct way to capture cross-linguistic parallels.
- ④ Furthermore: same asymmetries come back at different levels.

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onglide	head	offglide
<u>i</u>	e	
	"mid"	
<b>I</b>	→	

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onglide	head	offglide
<u>i</u>	o	<u>u</u>
	"mid"	
<b>I</b>	←	<b>U</b>

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onglide	head	offglide
<u>i</u>	a	<u>u</u>
	"low"	
<b>I</b>		<b>U</b>

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} **A1**

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a.	i̇	e			u̇	o		
		"mid"				"mid"		
	I	→			U	→		
b.	i̇	o	u̇		u̇	e	i̇	} <b>A1</b>
		"mid"				"mid"		
	I	←	U		U	←	I	
c.	i̇	a	u̇	*	u̇	a	i̇	} <b>A2</b>
		"low"				"low"		
	I		U		U		I	

## ② Observations:

- Head must have a certain minimal size; cf. English.
- Asymmetry with respect to sharing (asymmetry A1)
- Asymmetry with respect to I/U; i̇u̇/\*u̇i̇ (asymmetry A2)



① 6 relevant cases: (Živanovič & Pöchtrager 2010; Pöchtrager 2015b)

	onglide	head	offglide		onglide	head	offglide	} A1
a.	<u>i</u>	e			<u>u</u>	o		
		"mid"				"mid"		
	<b>I</b>	→			<b>U</b>	→		
b.	<u>i</u>	o	<u>u</u>		<u>u</u>	e	<u>i</u>	
		"mid"				"mid"		
	<b>I</b>	←	<b>U</b>		<b>U</b>	←	<b>I</b>	
c.	<u>i</u>	a	<u>u</u>	*	<u>u</u>	a	<u>i</u>	} A2
		"low"				"low"		
	<b>I</b>		<b>U</b>		<b>U</b>		<b>I</b>	

② Observations:

- Head must have a certain minimal size; cf. English.
- Asymmetry with respect to sharing (asymmetry A1)
- Asymmetry with respect to **I/U**; iau/\*uai (asymmetry A2)

③ (Note: there is the sequence uai, but with different constituent structure.)

# First asymmetry (A1)

a.

onglide	head	offglide
$\underset{\wedge}{i}$	e	
	"mid"	
<b>I</b>	→	

1

b.

onglide	head	offglide
$\underset{\wedge}{i}$	o	$\underset{\wedge}{u}$
	"mid"	
<b>I</b>	←	<b>U</b>

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} **A1**


- ② Sharing the melody: Right (offglide) takes precedence over left (onglide).

- 1 Linear expression not very insightful: *why* that asymmetry?

# Flat vs. hierarchical

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- 2 Reminiscent of syntactic “closeness”:

German      [*Komm*    [[*mir*]    *zuliebe*]



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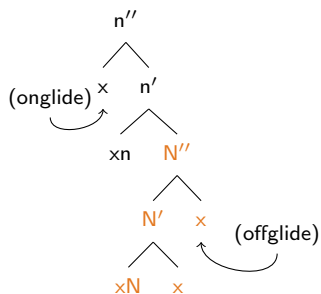
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- 3 Linearly, *mir* is *equidistant* to verb and postposition, hierarchically (definable in terms of c-command) closer to postposition.
- 4 Right precedence over left follows from hierarchy.

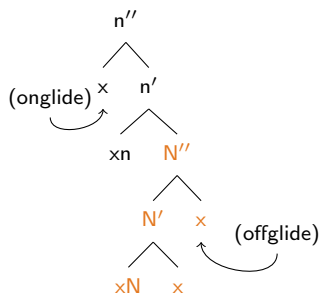
# General structure of the nucleus



- 1 Tree structure captures asymmetry/closeness (c-command).

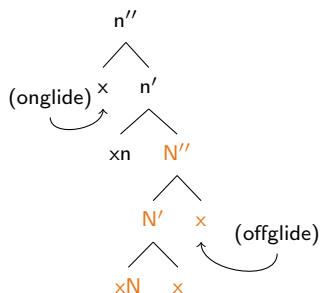


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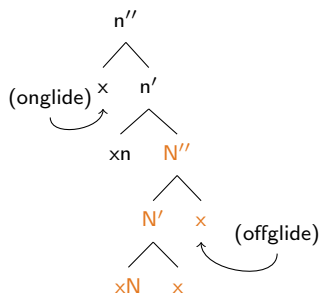
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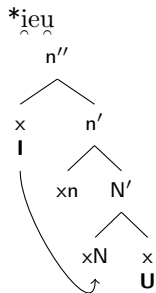
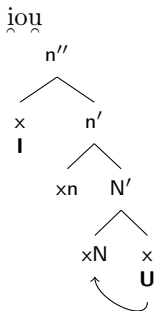
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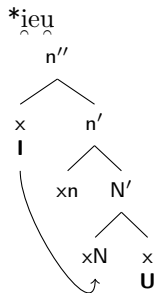
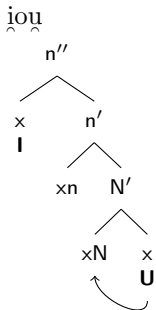


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- 2 Orange part needed to embed offglide and to express mid/low distinction for head.
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- 4 Same structure required by A1 will *also* explain A2.

Onglide and offglide:

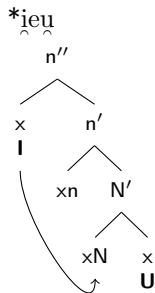
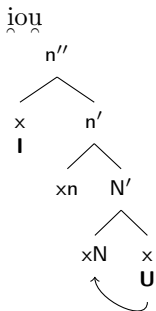


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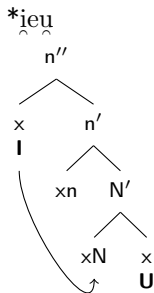
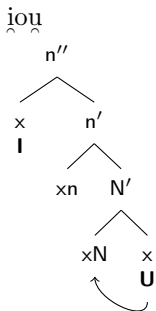
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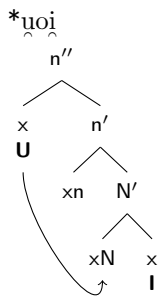
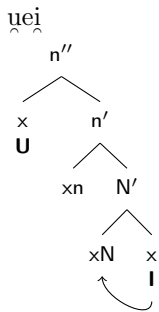
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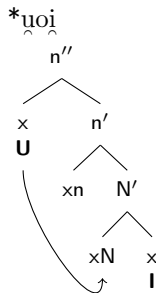
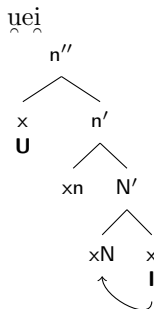


- ① **U** closer to  $xN$  than **I** is, hence **U** melodically commands (“spreads into”) it.
- ② **U** thus interpreted as part of the mid vowel represented by the core, *i. e.*  $o$ .
- ③ \*ieu impossible because a closer melodic commander (**U**) is skipped. Implies a notion of **minimality**.

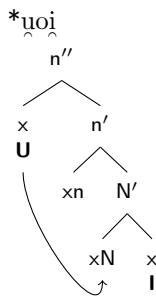
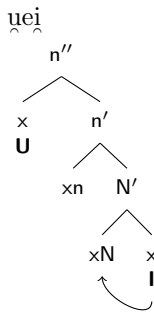
# uei and \*uoi





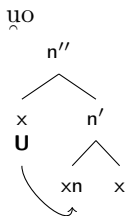
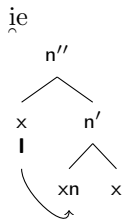


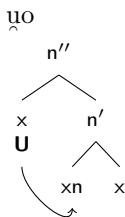
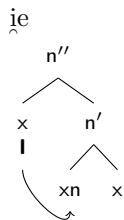
- 1 This time, I is closer.



- ① This time, **I** is closer.
- ② \*uoi is out for the same reason as \*ieu was.

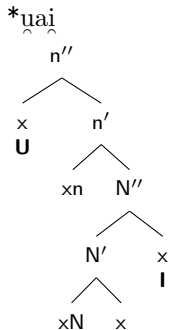
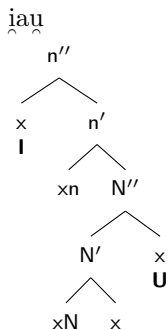
# ie and uo



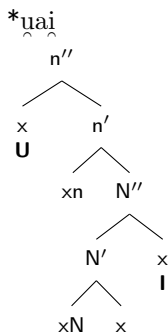
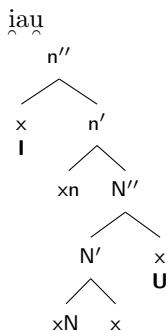


- 1 Onglide but no offglide, onglide can colour head.

# iau, \*uai, and the second asymmetry (A2)

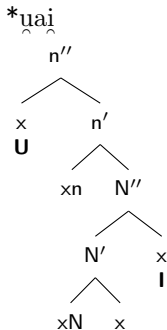
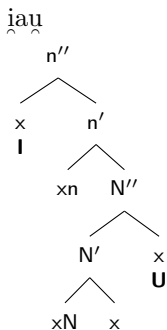


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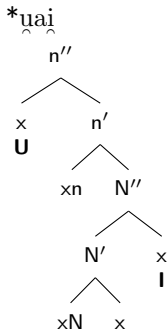
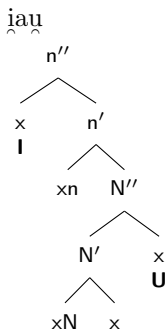
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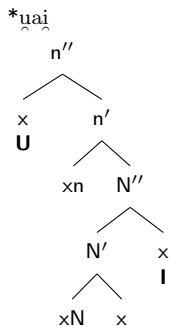
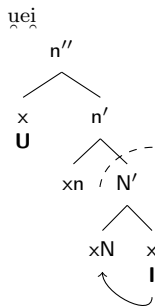
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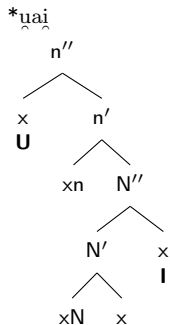
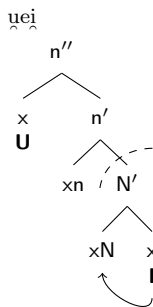


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- 3 Offglide does not make it into xN, due to distance? Gives a in core.

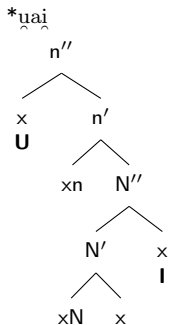
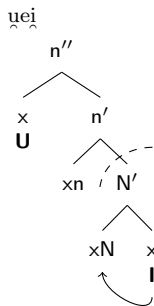


# uei and \*uai



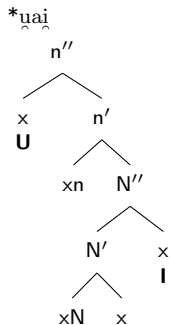
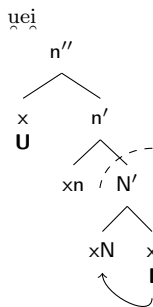


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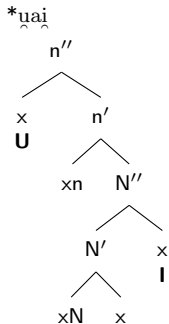
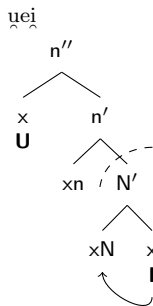
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- 4 In uei the **I** melodically commands (“spreads into”) another point and that seems to “immunise” **I** against binding (creates an island).

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3

y-series: 

*yi	*ye
-----	-----

 ya yo yu

w-series: 

*wi	*we
-----	-----

 wa 

*wo	*wu
-----	-----

# Binding gets Japanese for free

- 1 All we need to assume is:

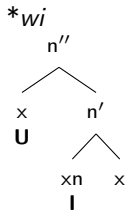
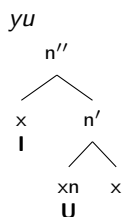
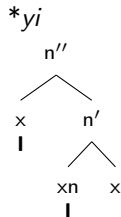
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- 2 y-series: *\*yi* *\*ye* *ya* *yo* *yu*  
w-series: *\*wi* *\*we* *wa* *\*wo* *\*wu*



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- 4 Can (some of the) asymmetries be derived from Binding?

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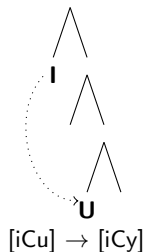
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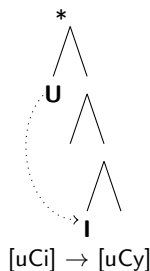
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- 4 Would require **U** to c-command **I**, ruled out by binding.

Grammatical  
“creation” of [y]



Ungrammatical  
“creation” of [y]



- 1 Turkish, Finnish, French (finally) has two e-type vowels (involving **I**) but only one o-type vowel (involving **U**) ([Pöchtrager 2009a](#)).

# More I/U asymmetries

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- 4 Only seems possible in hierarchical models, not in purely linear ones.

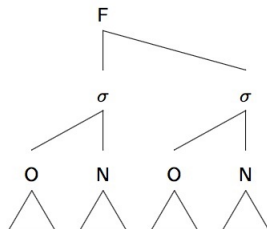
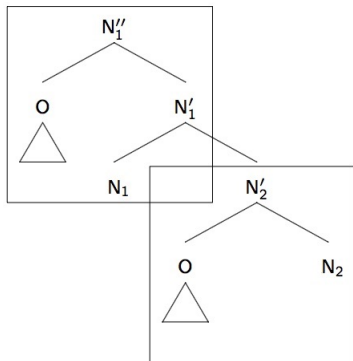
- ① Setting the stage
- ② Non-Arbitrariness
- ③ When are trees needed?
- ④ Binding in phonology
- ⑤ Foot inside a foot
- ⑥ Limits of recursion
- ⑦ Conclusion

# Self-embedding (“no $[\sigma [R [\sigma ]]]$ ”)

- 1 Self-embedding used in GP 2.0, though no “syllables”, “rhymes”.

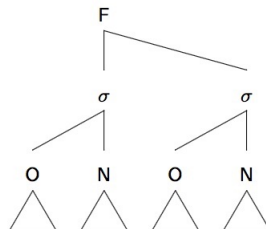
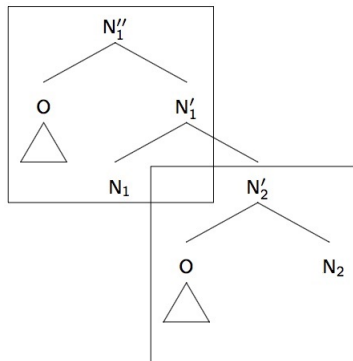
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- 3 (Cf. also Hulst 2010b; Smith 1999; García-Bellido 2005; Golston 2016)

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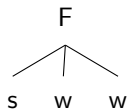
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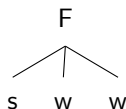
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- 4 Exploited in rhyme schemes:
  - 1 Alliteration: initial onset (pre-stress).
  - 2 End rhyme: complement (male and female rhyme).

- 1 Usually: Metrical grids or metrical trees (weak/strong branches).



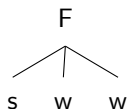
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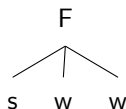
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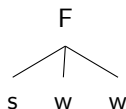
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- 5 Head of foot: Nucleus which is not itself selected by another nucleus.

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- 5 Different from onset phrases: selected by N but do not select themselves.

- ① Setting the stage
- ② Non-Arbitrariness
- ③ When are trees needed?
- ④ Binding in phonology
- ⑤ Foot inside a foot
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- 6 Is there a way to avoid problem in the first place?

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- ③ Many phonological systems richer, despite counterbalancing effect of phonotactics.

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- 5 *Nationalisation*, <sup>?</sup> *nationalisationalise*, <sup>??</sup> *nationalisationalisationalise*.

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Thank you!  
Köszönöm szépen!

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