Introduction to Phonological Analysis   **Handout 14 (Nov. 19)**
LING 232A/632A, Fall 2013
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Topic: From rules to constraints (Autosegmental Phonology 2; Optimality Theory 1)

1. Conventions and constraints on representations in Autosegmental Phonology

Twin sister convention: adjacent identical tones on one TBU are automatically simplified into one.

Well-formedness condition: all vowels must bear some tone, and all tones must be born by some V.

No Crossing Constraint: association lines do not cross (universal).

No Crowding Constraint: no more than two tones on one TBU (in certain languages only).

2. Obligatory Contour Principle (OCP): two adjacent identical tones are prohibited (not active in all lgs).

Assimilation easily explained in Autosegmental Phonology as spreading.
What about dissimilatory processes?

Dissimilation if stem ends in a velar obstruent in Bergen Dutch diminutives:

vrouw	'woman'	*vrouw-ke*	'woman-DIM'
vlieg	'fly'	*vlieg-ske*	'fly-DIM'
boek	'book'	*boek-ske*	'book-DIM'

Latin:

nav+alis	*milit+aris*
mort+alis	*sol+aris*
flor+alis	
voc+alis	
litor+alis	

Restriction on root consonants in semitic languages: /s.b.b/ ok, but /s.s.b/ not a possible root.

Meeussen's Rule in Bantu languages (e.g., Shona):   (http://www.vanoostendorp.nl/pdf/050920.pdf)

| mbwá | 'dog' | né#mbwà | 'with a dog' |
hóvé	'fish'	né#hòvè	'with a fish'
mbúndúdzí	'army worms'	sé#mbùndùdzì	'like army worms'
bàdzá	'hoe'	né#bàdzá	'with a hoe'
bénzíbvùnzá	'inquisitive fool'	né#bènzíbvùnzá	'like an inquisitive fool'
Fárái	(name)	nà#Fárái	'with Farai'
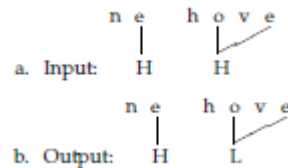
sé#nè#hóvé 'like with a fish'

H → L / _ H   applied left-to-right

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Emphasis shifting from rules to representations:
Simpler rules, aimed at being general/universal, while representations become more complex.

3. Optimality Theory

Let us get rid of rules. Let us only have constraints. But constraints are violable.

Constraints as requirements vs. as filters vs. as functions.
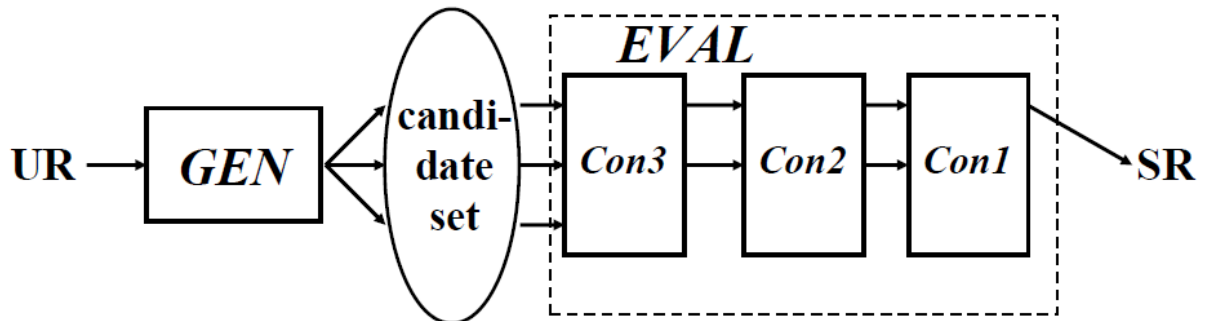
Constraint-based approach instead of derivations. Really?

GEN and CON are universal. Cross-linguistic variation explained as variation in constraint ranking.

Reading: **Hayes, Chapters 13-14** (that is, please finish reading the entire book).
          McCarthy, John (2008). Doing Optimality Theory. Blackwell. Chapter 1.
          McCarthy, John (2002). A Thematic Guide to Optimality Theory. Cambridge. Chapter 2.