

Locality and Iterativity in Jingulu Vowel Harmony

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Introduction

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Introduction

Iterativity

- In harmony systems, iterativity is often closely tied to locality and trigger-target relations
 - For example, in a string of multiple vowels that harmonize with a final vowel, the question arises as to what the trigger is for vowels at a distance from the final vowel. Two possibilities:
 - The trigger is always **adjacent** in the string, so that harmony is passed along in an **iterative** fashion.



- The trigger is the **same** vowel for all segments, even if it is **non-adjacent**.



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Introduction

Jingulu height harmony

- Height harmony in Jingulu engages these issues
 - Harmony in root vowels is initiated by a high suffix vowel.
 - However, high root vowels neither initiate nor transmit height harmony (Pensalfini 1997, 2002).
 - This pattern raises questions about trigger-target relations in the system, and whether harmony operates in a local, iterative fashion.

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Introduction

Theoretical vantage point

- A positional licensing account is pursued (Walker 2005, 2011, Kaplan 2008a, b, 2011, 2015, Kalivoda 2012).
- Couched in an Agreement by Correspondence approach, where harmony is enforced over a chain of surface-corresponding vowels (Walker 2000a, b, 2001, Hansson 2001, 2010, Rose & Walker 2004).

Findings

- The analysis developed here shows that as a positional licensing phenomenon, Jingulu height harmony could be non-iterative.
- However, a requirement for a stable left anchor for the chain of surface-corresponding vowels drives harmony to persist until it reaches either a faithful vowel or an initial vowel.
- Harmony within the surface correspondence chain can be enforced strictly over chain-adjacent pairs.

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Data

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Introduction

Road map

- Introduce Jingulu height harmony pattern
- Identify issues it raises involving iterativity and locality
- Develop positional-licensing analysis using ABC
- Stock-taking and discussion of alternatives.

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Jingulu: A language of North-Central Australia

- Three vowel phonemes: /i, a, u/
- Vowel height harmony from a high suffix vowel raises /a/ → [i] in a root.
 - Operates from /i, u/ in certain suffixes, usually unstressed
 - Harmony affects unbounded sequences of /a/ in a root (raised Vs are underlined).
 - Grammatical description and transcription based on Pensalfini (1997, 2002).

Previous analyses by Nevins 2004, 2010, Kalivoda 2012

ngarrabaja 'tell'	+/-wurru-nu/ 3PL-DID	→	ngirribiji-wurru-nu 'they told'
	+/-ji/ NEG.IMPV	→	ngirribiji-ji 'tell NEG.IMPV'

Pensalfini's orthographic conventions: <ng> velar nasal, <rr> alveolar rhotic, <rd> coronal retroflex stop, <rn> coronal retroflex nasal, <rl> coronal retroflex lateral, <r> coronal retroflex rhotic, <j> palatal stop, <ny> palatal nasal, <ly> palatal lateral, <y> palatal glide.

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Further examples: Height harmony is triggered high vowels in by various suffixes

- Gender morphemes and certain tense/agreement/aspect morphemes.
- Triggering suffixes immediately follow the root.
- Pensalfini analyzes triggering suffixes as inflectional syntactic heads.

bardarda 'younger brother'	+ /-rni/ F	→	birdirdi-rni 'younger sister'
biba 'son'	+ /-rni/ F	→	bibi-rni 'daughter'
kunyarra 'dog'	+ /-rni/ F	→	kunyrri-rni 'bitch'
ngaja 'see'	+ /-ngurru-ju/ 1.PL.INCL-DO	→	ngiji-ngurru-ju 'we can see'
	+ /kunyi-ju/ 2.DUAL-DO	→	ngiji-kunyi-ju 'you two can see'

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Low vowels in suffixes:

- The characteristic ending for the masculine gender is /-a/
- Low suffix vowels do not trigger height assimilation, i.e. lowering

bininj-a	bardakurr-a	'good man m'
man-M	good-M	

- Nor do they trigger raising, as gender suffixes with a high vowel do

jabarrk-a	'liver m'
kiyinarr-a	'vagina, vulva m'

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Underlying high root vowels:

- Do not trigger harmony in either direction (left column)
- Halt height harmony (right column)

mamambiyaka 'soft'	mamambiyiki-mi 'soft VEG'
ankila 'cross cousin'	ankili-rni 'female cross cousin'
ngamurla 'big'	ngamurli-rni 'big F'
warlaku 'dog'	warlaku-rni 'bitch'

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Summary

- Height harmony is triggered by high vowels in certain suffixes, affecting unbounded sequences of low vowels in adjacent syllables of a preceding root.
- Underlying high root vowels do not trigger or propagate height harmony.
- The harmony has a **phonological component**, because only high vowels are triggers.

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Iterativity and locality

- Jingulu height harmony is **iterative** and **local** in the sense that it can affect unbounded sequences of vowels in contiguous syllables.
- Nevertheless, because high root vowels do not trigger or propagate harmony, the process **appears to be long-distance** rather than an iterative local process in the sense that a single suffix vowel triggers raising in all preceding vowels.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Identity enforced over vowels in adjacent syllables 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-distance Identity enforced with a single vowel 	

?

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Analysis

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Height harmony in Jingulu

Iterativity and locality

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- Nevertheless, because high root vowels do not trigger or propagate harmony, the process **appears to be long-distance** rather than an iterative local process in the sense that a single suffix vowel seems to be the trigger for all raised vowels.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Identity enforced over vowels in adjacent syllables 		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>This study pursues an approach in which Jingulu raising harmony is understood in terms of local chained identity relations</p> </div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-distance Identity enforced with a single vowel 		

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Analysis

Aims for analysis

- Focus on phonological mechanisms that give rise to height harmony in Jingulu.
- Pursue an **Agreement by Correspondence (ABC)** approach

Positional licensing

- Positional licensing patterns involve an imperative that drives a licensing relation between a weak trigger and a prominent position in the word (Walker 2005, 2011, 2016, Kaplan 2008a, b, 2011, 2015).
- Jingulu height harmony can be understood as a **weak trigger** pattern (Kalivoda 2012).
 - Weak trigger – Affixal high vowel; Licensor – Root
- In the interests of focus
 - Preservation of height in the weak vowel at the cost of faithfulness in the root will not be treated here. (On approaches to weak trigger control, see Walker 2005, 2011.)
 - The morpho-syntactic issues will not be probed further.

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Analysis

Why ABC?

- Surface correspondence provides a means of enforcing agreement and disagreement among segments in an output.
- Originating studies focused on consonant harmony (Walker 2000a, b, 2001, Hansson 2001, 2010, Rose & Walker 2004).
- Surface correspondence has since been applied to a range of phenomena
 - exx. vowel harmony, dissimilation, tone assimilation, vowel nasalization harmony, reduplication, consonant-tone interactions, restrictions on nasal-consonant sequences, among others (see Shih & Inkelas 2014).
- ABC has been expanded into analysis of vowel harmony systems, but its treatment of weak trigger patterns remains to be examined (e.g. Bowman & Lokshin 2014, Hansson 2006a, Sasa 2009, Rhodes 2012, Walker 2015, 2018, cf. Baković 2000, Krämer 2003).
- Jingulu is an interesting test case, because a single suffix vowel appears to trigger harmony in multiple preceding vowels, even at a distance.
- ABC has potential to shed light on locality and iterativity in this system.

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Analysis

Locality and transitivity in ABC

- **Local assessment** of drivers of identity for surface correspondents (IDENT-XX[F])
 - A violation is assigned for every pair of segments that are adjacent in the surface-correspondence chain that are not identical in specification for [F] (Hansson 2006b, 2007; see also Krämer 2003).
 - Hansson argues that local evaluation of IDENT-XX avoids problematic predictions regarding majority rule effects and indeterminacy of triggers.
 - (cf. McMullin 2016, Hansson & McMullin 2019 for further discussion of long-distance dependencies in relation to ABC.)
- Surface correspondence relations are **transitive** (Bennett 2015b).
 - If $X_1\mathcal{R}X_2$ and $X_2\mathcal{R}X_3$, then $X_1\mathcal{R}X_3$.

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Analysis

Basic elements of ABC

- **Surface correspondence driver:**
 - **CORR-XX[αF]** constraints enforce correspondence among segments in an output that are specified [αF] (e.g. [+vocalic] or [-son, -cont]).
- **Surface identity driver:**
 - **IDENT-XX[F]** constraints enforce identity for a feature [F] in surface-corresponding segments.
- **Faith-IO:**
 - **IDENT-IO[F]** constraints enforce identity for a feature [F] in input-output correspondents.
- Agreement by correspondence occurs when constraints that drive surface correspondence and surface identity both dominate Faith-IO
 - CORR-XX[αF], IDENT-XX[F] >> IDENT-IO[F]**

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Analysis

Illustration

- Local evaluation of identity in surface correspondence chains

/ s ... z ... j /	IDENT-XX[anterior]	Notes
a. / s _x ... z _x ... j _x /	* (z ~ j)	All fricatives correspond with each other
b. / s _x ... z _y ... j _x /	* (s ~ j)	Only [s] and [j] correspond with each other

- IDENT-XX[ant] assigns violations for **chain-adjacent** pairs of segments that differ in specification for [anterior]
 - No violation for [s_x] ~ [j_x] in (a), because they are not chain-adjacent.
 - Note that because [z] corresponds with both flanking fricatives in (a), [s] ~ [j] will nonetheless correspond due to transitivity of surface correspondence.
 - In (b) [s_x] ~ [j_x] are chain adjacent, so they incur a violation.

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Analysis

Question

- If identity for surface correspondents is enforced locally, i.e. over chain-adjacent pairs, why do low root vowels in Jingulu show iterative raising?
 - The suffix vowel will be chain-adjacent with only one root vowel.
 - And (underlying) high root vowels do not trigger raising.

Illustration

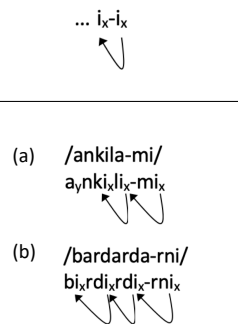
- The vowels in [b_ib_j-rni] ‘daughter’ will form a correspondence chain: [i_x i_x - i_x].
- The first root vowel is chain-adjacent with the second root vowel, but not the suffix vowel.
 - The first root vowel must therefore raise by virtue of identity enforced with the second root vowel.
- But this is puzzling, because (underlying) high root vowels block harmony.

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Analysis

Overview for ABC licensing approach for Jingulu

- Licensing between affix and root
 - Driven by a CORR-XX constraint
 - **Can be satisfied by a single (noniterative) surface correspondence relation.**
- Further constraints governing correspondence chains
 - Prohibit correspondence chains with a leftmost vowel that is neither initial nor faithful.
 - Prevent a correspondence chain that gaps across a syllable.
 - **Produce the effect of iterative surface correspondence with locally enforced identity** that terminates in a faithful high root vowel (a) or an initial syllable (b).



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Analysis

Elaborating CORR constraints for positional licensing

- Weak trigger effects using CORR-XX[αF](Licensee, Licensor)
- Introduces potential restrictors on correspondents based in weakness (licensee) and positional strength (licensor).

CORR-XX[+vocalic][[+high]_{Af}-Infl₀, Root] Short form CORR-VV[+hi]_{Af}, Rt)

Let X₁ be [+voc, +high] and belong to an affixal Infl₀.

Then assign a violation if there is not a surface correspondence relation between X₁ and some X₂ such that:

X₂ is [+vocalic] segment and belongs to a root.

(Infl restriction on X₁ after Pensalfini 2002 and licensing proposal by Kalivoda 2012)

- This constraint can be satisfied by non-iterative or iterative height harmony in the root. In fact, harmony persists for reasons to be addressed shortly.

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Analysis

Constraints

- **CORR-VV[+hi]_{Af}, Rt)**
 - Licensing imperative for raising harmony that targets a root vowel.
- **IDENT-XX[high]**
 - Let X₁ and X₂ be a pair of segments that are in correspondence with each other in the same output and that are chain-adjacent. If X₁ is [αhigh] and X₂ is [-αhigh], assign a violation.
- **IDENT-IO[high]**
 - Let X be a segment in the input and Y be a correspondent of X in the output. If X is [αhigh] and Y is [-αhigh], assign a violation.
- **SYLLADJ-XX**
 - Segments belonging to the same correspondence chain must occupy a contiguous span of syllables (Bennett 2015b).

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Analysis

Observation

- Vocalic correspondence chains for height harmony in Jingulu begin with either a faithful vowel or a vowel in the stem-initial syllable.
- Both such positions could be considered stable (salient) contexts to anchor the beginning of a correspondence chain.
 - A faithful vowel is privileged because it is consistent with the stored lexical representation.
 - Initial syllables are prominent in speech planning, possibly receiving a higher level of activation (see Walker 2011 for a review).
 - Vowels in initial syllables undergo domain-initial strengthening in some languages (Barnes 2006).

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Analysis

Illustration: Various surface correspondence structures for /mamambiyaka-mi/ ‘soft veg’

/mamambiyaka-mi/	Comments
a. $a_3 a_2 i_1 i_1 i_1 - i_1$ [mamambiyikimi]	Optimal output. Satisfies root-licensing constraint. Also satisfies STABLE-ANCHOR because leftmost V in chain ‘1’ is faithful for [high].
b. $a_5 a_4 i_3 a_2 i_1 - i_1$ [mamambiyakimi]	Satisfies root-licensing constraint with one less IDENT-IO[high] violation than (a) but violates STABLE-ANCHOR.
c. $a_4 a_3 i_2 i_1 i_1 - i_1$ [mamambiyikimi]	Same markedness violations as (b) but with one more IDENT-IO[high] violation.
d. $i_1 i_1 i_1 i_1 i_1 - i_1$ [mimimbiiyikimi]	Ties with (a) in satisfying root-licensing constraint and STABLE-ANCHOR (here, leftmost V in chain ‘1’ is initial) but with two more IDENT-IO[high] violations.
e. $a_5 a_4 i_1 a_3 a_2 - i_1$ [mamambiyakami]	Ties with (a) in satisfying root-licensing constraint and STABLE-ANCHOR. Earns two less IDENT-IO[high] violations but violates SYLLADJ-XX.
f. $a_6 a_5 i_4 a_3 a_2 - i_1$ [mamambiyakami]	Violates root-licensing constraint because affix vowel has no surface correspondent in the root.

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Analysis

Proposal: Stable anchoring

- There is an imperative for correspondence chains to begin with a stable anchor.

ANCHOR(XX, Stb, L) Henceforth **STABLE-ANCHOR-XX-L**

Let Stb be a set of stable anchors {IO-faithful, σ_1 }

Assign a violation if the leftmost element in a surface correspondence chain is not an element of Stb, i.e. a stable anchor.

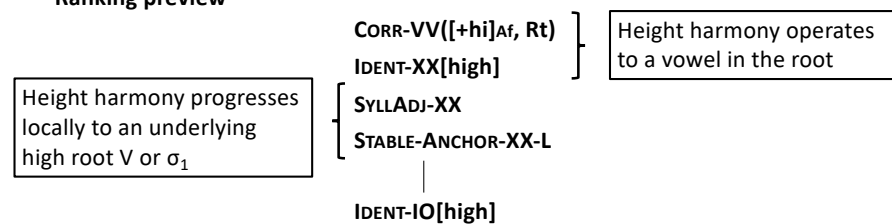
(cf. ANCHOR formalism of McCarthy 2003 and CC-ANCHOR-R proposed by Bennett 2015b.)

- The set of stable anchors might vary to some extent by language, although it is expected to be limited.
- Whether left-edge faithfulness is enforced monolithically or is restricted to faithfulness for a specific feature, remains an open question.

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Analysis

Ranking preview



- Root licensing **activates** STABLE-ANCHOR-XX-L
 - When root licensing causes a root-final vowel to be unfaithful, **STABLE-ANCHOR** drives extension of the correspondence chain to a stable anchor.
- High root vowels are **icy targets** (Jurgec 2011a, b)
 - An icy target participates in harmony but “freezes” propagation beyond it.
 - Emerges here as the effect of the left anchoring constraint.

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Analysis: Height harmony in a root with an underlying high vowel (iterative to icy target)

Comments	/mamambiyaka-mi/	CORR-VV ([+hi]Af, Rt)	IDENT-XX [high]	SYLLADJ -XX	STABLE-ANCHOR -XX-L	IDENT-IO [high]
Harmony up to and including root /i/	a. → a ₃ a ₂ i ₁ i ₁ - i ₁ [mamambiyikimi]					**
Harmony to root-final /a/	b. a ₅ a ₄ i ₃ a ₂ i ₁ - i ₁ [mamambiyakimi]				*! W	* L
Harmony up to vowel before root /i/	c. a ₄ a ₃ i ₂ i ₁ i ₁ - i ₁ [mamambiyikimi]				*! W	**
Harmony to initial /a/, through root /i/	d. i ₁ i ₁ i ₁ i ₁ i ₁ - i ₁ [mimimbiyikimi]					***! * W
Harmony with root /i/ only	e. a ₅ a ₄ i ₁ a ₃ a ₂ - i ₁ [mamambiyakami]			*! W		L
No harmony	f. a ₆ a ₅ i ₄ a ₃ a ₂ - i ₁ [mamambiyakami]	*! W				L
Height identity not enforced in corresponding Vs	g. a ₆ a ₅ i ₁ a ₁ a ₁ - i ₁ [mamambiyakami]		*! * W (i~a, a~i)			L

Analysis: Height harmony in a root with no underlying high vowel (iterative)

Comments	/bardarda-rni/	CORR-VV ([+hi]Af, Rt)	IDENT-XX [high]	SYLLADJ -XX	STABLE-ANCHOR -XX-L	IDENT-IO [high]
Harmony fully throughout root	a. → i ₁ i ₁ i ₁ - i ₁ [birdirdirni]					***
Harmony to root-final /a/ only	b. a ₃ a ₂ i ₁ - i ₁ [bardardirni]				*! W	* L
Harmony up to root-medial /a/	c. a ₃ i ₁ i ₁ - i ₁ [bardirdirni]				*! W	** L
Harmony with root-initial /a/ only	d. i ₁ a ₃ a ₂ - i ₁ [birdardarni]			*! W		* L
No harmony	e. a ₄ a ₃ a ₂ - i ₁ [bardardarni]	*! W				L
Height identity not enforced in corresponding Vs	f. a ₁ a ₁ a ₁ - i ₁ [bardardarni]		*! W (a ~ i)			L

Analysis: Height harmony in a root with a final underlying high vowel (non-iterative)

Comments	/warlaku-rni/	CORR-VV ([+hi]Af, Rt)	IDENT-XX [high]	SYLLADJ- XX	STABLE-ANCHOR -XX-L	IDENT-IO [high]
Harmony to root-final /u/	a. → a ₃ a ₂ u ₁ - i ₁ [warlakurni]					
No harmony	b. a ₄ a ₃ u ₂ - i ₁ [warlakurni]	*! W				
Harmony through /u/ to initial /a/	c. i ₁ i ₁ u ₁ - i ₁ [wirlikurni]					*! * W

Analysis

Summary

- On this account, Jingulu height harmony is understood as driven by a positional licensing imperative such that
 - Agreement by Correspondence is strictly enforced between a [+high] suffix vowel and a root vowel.
 - Raising of a root-final vowel activates a stable anchoring constraint governing a correspondence chain, requiring a faithful or initial leftmost element.
 - Result:
 - Harmony operates to an underlying high vowel.
 - If an underlying high root vowel is not reached, harmony operates to the initial syllable.
- In the correspondence chain, there are no gaps across syllables and identity for [high] is assessed locally over chain-adjacent vowels.

Alternatives

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Alternative: Relational correspondence

Applied to Jingulu height harmony

- A root-licensing constraint for [+high] would minimally compel raising in a root-final vowel.
- To preserve a plateau, **CONTOURCORR-IO(height, plateau)** would drive raising of the maximal contiguous sequence of underlying low vowels that contains the raised vowel (cf. Kalivoda 2012 on FAITH-SHARE).

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Alternative: Relational correspondence

Relational correspondence

- Preservation of plateau or contour relations between input values for segmental features and tones via **contour correspondence constraints** (Steriade 2012).
- Example of a contour correspondence constraint:

CONTOURCORR-IO(height, plateau)

If two vowels in contiguous syllables have identical values for height in the input, those vowels have height values that are identical to each other in the output.

- Prediction
 - Plateau preservation predicts cross-the-board shifts in height for a sequence of vowels with the same height in the input.

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Alternative: Relational correspondence

Comparison with ABC

- Relational correspondence (RC) employs a more powerful evaluation of identity than ABC.
 - ABC evaluates identity between segmental pairs in IO and XX correspondence.
 - RC additionally examines **sequences in the input**, and it compares the **identity of relations** across input and output sequences.

ABC identity evaluations			RC identity evaluations		
Input	a	a	Input	a ↔ a	
	↓	↓		↓	↓
Output	i _x	i _x	Output	i _x ↔ i _x	
IDENT-IO	a ~ i	a ~ i	IDENT-IO	a ~ i	a ~ i
IDENT-XX	i ~ i		RC-identity	(a ~ a) _I ~ (i ~ i) _O	

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Alternative: Needy root vowels

- Root vowels that potentially raise are lexically marked as requiring harmony for [+high]; non-alternating root vowels are lexically [+high].
- A morphological condition restricts the harmony source to a non-root.
- If a needy V fails to find a source, it is assigned default [–high] (Nevins 2004, 2010).

ABC Licensing approach	Needy root vowels
Dependency operates from suffix vowel to root	Dependency operates from root vowels to suffix
Harmony is enforced via over chain-adjacent vowels over a contiguous span of syllables	Harmony is enforced iteratively from the leftmost (furthest) harmonizing root vowel to the suffix vowel
High vowels are icy targets – they terminate harmony because of their status as faithful	High vowels block harmony through defective intervention – they do not meet the morphological condition on a harmony source
Single input-output derivational step	Serial derivation

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Conclusion

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Conclusion

Jingulu height harmony

- A harmony pattern intersecting with several interesting issues, including locality, iterativity, triggering, and the nature of participation by blockers.

Some take-aways from the proposed account

- A weak trigger analysis implemented within an ABC approach.
- An imperative for [+high] vowels in certain affixes to be licensed by correspondence with the root drives minimal (non-iterative) harmony to the root-final vowel.
- Root-licensing can disrupt a stable left-anchor for a correspondence chain, which drives height harmony to persist until it reaches a faithful high vowel or an initial vowel.
- Even though the weak trigger is not adjacent to all harmonizing vowels, identity is assessed strictly over chain-adjacent vowel pairs.

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Further research

Positional licensing in an ABC approach

- The suitability of an ABC approach to positional licensing remains to be explored further.
- Positional licensing phenomena depart from patterns that are classically analyzed using ABC because they are not usually characterized as similarity sensitive.
- In an ABC treatment of positional licensing, it is the licensee/licensor pairing that gives rise to surface correspondence.

Anchoring

- In another vein, further work is need to pursue the implications of edge-anchoring constraints on surface correspondence chains.

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