



RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK

# Stress assignment and subsequentality

Nate Koser and Adam Jardine  
Rutgers University  
AMP 2019

# Introduction

- Generative theories of stress traditionally view the component of the grammar that assigns predictable stress describes a *mapping* from unstressed syllables to stressed syllables

$\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \mapsto \acute{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}\sigma$

- What is the nature of stress assignment mappings?

# Introduction

- Formal language theory (FLT) delineates classes of functions that serve as typological hypotheses for stress assignment
- Some work on stress as a phonotactic (Heinz 2007, 2009; Rogers et al. 2013; Baek 2018), almost nothing on stress as a function (though see Hao & Andersson 2019)
- Appears that majority of patterns are *subsequential* (Mohri 1997)

# Results

- All examined *quantity insensitive* (QI) stress is subsequential; not all *quantity sensitive* (QS) stress is<sup>1</sup>
- Within QS, default-to-same (DTS) patterns more complex than default-to-opposite (DTO)<sup>2</sup>
- *Weakly deterministic* (WD) functions (Heinz & Lai 2013; McCollum et al. under review) can capture DTS patterns

---

<sup>1</sup>See also Hao & Andersson (2019)

<sup>2</sup>Terminology from Prince (1985)

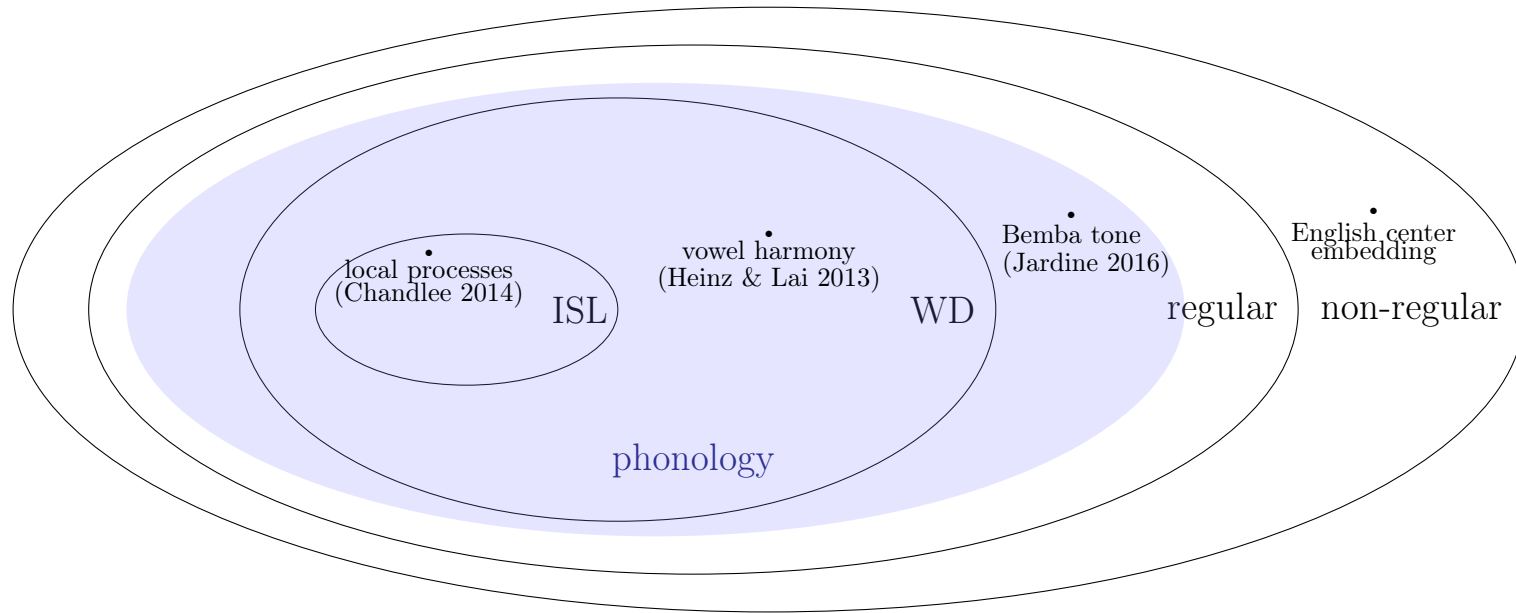
# Why this matters

- Most phonological functions are subsequential (Heinz & Lai 2013; Chandlee 2014)
- Taken with Jardine (2016), suggests that suprasegmental processes may have access to more powerful functions
- Raises representational questions
- Raises questions regarding quality of evidence for stress

# Plan

- Background
- QI stress
- QS stress
- Implications

# Complexity



- FLT complexity classes divide space of possible functions based on expressive power of those functions
- Phonology is *regular* (Johnson 1972; Kaplan & Kay 1994)
- In fact, most is subregular (Rogers et al. 2013; Heinz 2018)

# Stress?

- We take the *subsequential* class (Mohri 1997) as an initial hypothesis for stress
- Restrictive (sub-regular); well-understood (logical and FST characterization); includes most phonological processes (Chandlee 2014; Jardine 2016; Chandlee & Jardine 2019)



# Stress with logic

- *Logical transductions* (Courcelle 1994) between input structure and output structure
- Connected to function classes, know their expressivity
  - quantifier-free* (QF) logic = *input strictly local* (ISL) functions<sup>3</sup>
  - QF with recursion  $\subseteq$  subsequential functions<sup>4</sup>
- Start with QI stress, then QS

---

<sup>3</sup>(Chandlee & Jardine 2019; Chandlee & Lindell forthcoming)

<sup>4</sup>With some restrictions; see Chandlee & Jardine (2019)

# Stress with logic

- Output defined in logical terms of input, preserves order and number of elements
- Stress placed where definition of stress predicate satisfied
- **Example:** Initial stress (Nenets; Decsy 1966)

$$\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(p(x))$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \#\sigma\sigma\sigma\# & \mapsto \#\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\# \\ \#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# & \mapsto \#\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \\ \#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# & \mapsto \#\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \\ \dots & \mapsto \dots \end{array}$$

# QI: Non-iterative stress

- Describes an initial stress function for string of any length
- Can write similar QF transductions for any non-iterative pattern in Gordon (2002)'s typology of QI stress<sup>5</sup>

initial :  $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(p(x))$   $\#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \mapsto \#\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\#$

peninitial :  $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(p(p(x)))$   $\#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \mapsto \#\sigma\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\#$

antepenultimate :  $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(s(s(s(x))))$   $\#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \mapsto \#\sigma\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\#$

penultimate :  $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(s(s(x)))$   $\#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \mapsto \#\sigma\sigma\acute{\sigma}\sigma\#$

final :  $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(s(x))$   $\#\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\# \mapsto \#\sigma\sigma\sigma\acute{\sigma}\#$

---

<sup>5</sup>Later these are employed as useful user-defined predicates e.g.  $initial(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \#(p(x))$

# QI: Iterative stress

- Pintupi (Hansen & Hansen 1969)  
 $\acute{\sigma}, \acute{\sigma}\sigma, \acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma, \acute{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}, \acute{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}\sigma, \acute{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}\grave{\sigma}...$
- QF won't work – need QF plus recursion
- **Implicit definitions:** (Rogers 1997) definition can refer to its output

$$\grave{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \acute{\sigma}(p(p(x)))$$

- Restriction to predecessor *or* successor function (but not both!) in recursion ensures subsequentiality (Chandlee & Jardine 2019)

# QI: Iterative stress

- $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \text{initial}(x)$   
 $\grave{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} (\acute{\sigma}(p(p(x))) \vee \grave{\sigma}(p(p(x)))) \wedge \neg \text{final}(x)$
- $6\sigma$   
 $\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma$   
 $7\sigma$   
 $\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma$
- Pintupi stress function is subsequential

# QI: Iterative stress

- Garawa (Furby 1974)

*ó, óσ, óσσ, óσòσ, óσσòσ, óσòσòσ, óσσòσòσ*

- Sometimes called “bidirectional” (Kager 2007)

# QI: Iterative stress

- $\acute{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} \text{initial}(x)$   
 $\grave{\sigma}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} (\text{penult}(x) \vee \grave{\sigma}(s(s(x)))) \wedge \neg \text{peninit}(x)$
- $6\sigma$   
 $\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma\grave{\sigma}$   
 $7\sigma$   
 $\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \underline{\acute{\sigma}}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma \rightarrow \acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\underline{\grave{\sigma}}\sigma\grave{\sigma}$
- Garawa stress function is subsequential
- Is not truly bidirectional – we will see one that is!

# So far

- All patterns so far subsequential – any potentially unbounded processing of the input only looks in one direction
- All patterns in Gordon (2002)'s typology are subsequential
- This is strong evidence that QI patterns are subsequential
- This is *not* the case for QS stress



# QS stress

- Inputs are strings of L, H syllables
- Look at DTO and DTS patterns
- leftmost-heavy or right (LHOR) of Kwakw'ala, leftmost-heavy or left of Lushootseed (Hayes 1995)

LHOR

*LLĹ*

*́HHHH*

*ĹLLLL*

*ĹLLHL*

LHOL

*́LLL*

*́HHHH*

*ĹLLLL*

*ĹLLHL*

- Are these also subsequential?

# QS stress

- Placement of stress needs to track presence of H syllables
- $\textit{precede-H}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} H(s(x)) \vee \textit{precede-H}(s(x))$

$\overleftarrow{\text{LLLLL}}\text{HLL}$

- $\textit{follow-H}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} H(p(x)) \vee \textit{follow-H}(p(x))$

$\text{LLH}\overrightarrow{\text{LLLLL}}$

- If both are used, *not* subsequential

# QS stress: LHOR

- $\acute{\square}(x) \stackrel{d}{=} (L(x) \wedge \text{final}(x) \wedge \neg \text{follow-H}(x)) \vee (H(x) \wedge \neg \text{follow-H}(x))$
- Correctly describes DTO stress function, is subsequential

$LLLL \mapsto LLL\acute{L}$   
 $HHHH \mapsto \acute{H}HHH$   
 $LHHLLL \mapsto L\acute{H}HLLL$   
 $LHLLHL \mapsto L\acute{H}LLHL$

# QS stress: LHOL

- $\square(x) \stackrel{d}{=} (L(x) \wedge \text{initial}(x) \wedge \neg \text{precede-H}(x)) \vee (H(x) \wedge \neg \text{follow-H}(x))$

- $\overleftarrow{\square} \text{LHLHL} \rightarrow \text{LLHLHL}$

- $\overrightarrow{\square} \text{LHLHL} \rightarrow \text{LLHLHL}$

- Correctly describes DTS stress function, is *not* subsequential!

# Beyond subsequential

- All examined QI subsequential – most even more restricted
- Most QS stress is also subsequential, but some are not
- What is LHOL?

# Beyond subsequential

- *Weakly deterministic* (WD) class<sup>6</sup> describes bidirectional phonological processes, more powerful than subsequential
- Composition of two subsequential functions (with some restrictions)
- LHOL<sup>7,8</sup>

input:	/LLHLHL/	/LLLLLL/
left to right	LLH́LHL	LLLLLL
right to left	LLH́LHL	́LLLLLL

---

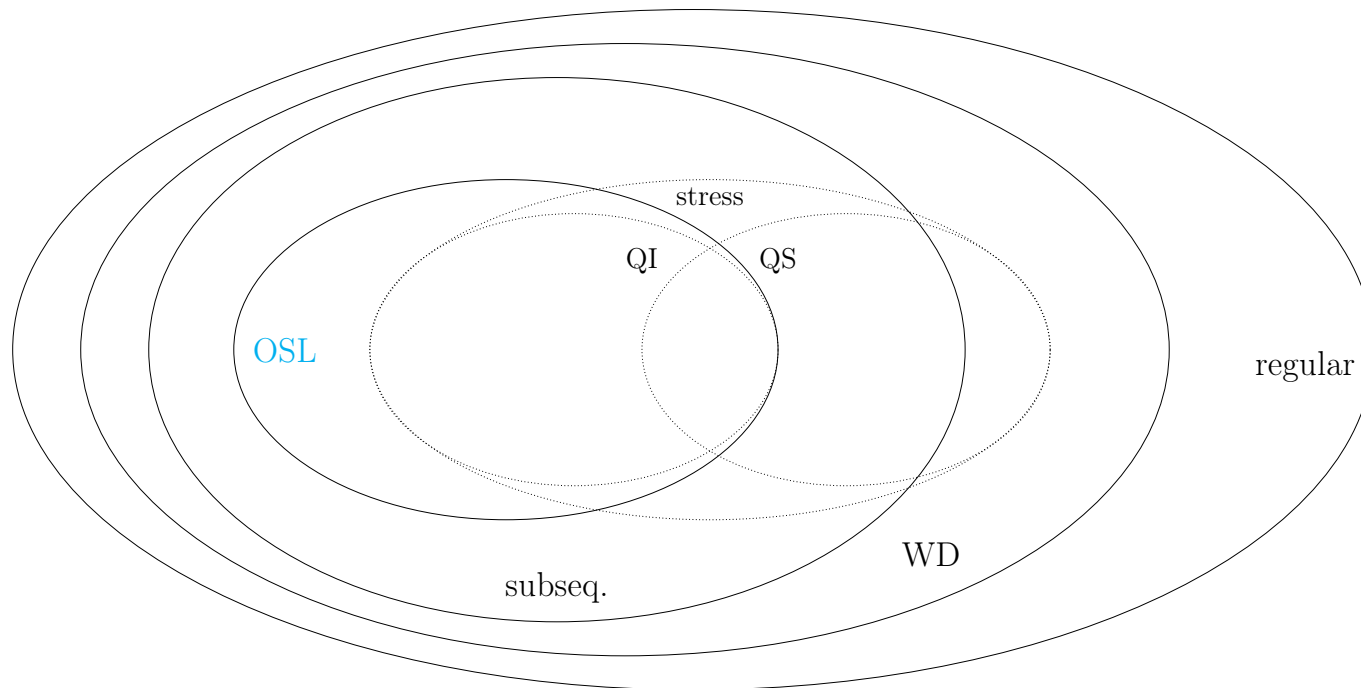
<sup>6</sup>Heinz & Lai (2013); McCollum et al. (under review)

<sup>7</sup>See independent parallel result in Hao & Andersson (2019)

<sup>8</sup>See Appendix for potential issue with WD for stress

# Questions

- What is the class of functions corresponding to stress assignment?



- Output-strictly local class (**OSL**; Chandlee 2014; Chandlee et al. 2015) appropriate for QI stress?

# Evidence for stress

- Worrying about relatively high complexity of DTS is taking the descriptions of the patterns at face value
- Should we do that?



# Evidence for stress

- For DTO, some concerning results
- Gordon (2000) finds that “many, if not all” (p.2) such patterns are subject to reanalysis in other terms
- Concludes that “the general picture which emerges is one of doubt concerning the existence of default-to-opposite stress” (p.2)
- Evidence that the same might hold for DTS stress too (Mongolian; (Karls-son 2005))
- FLT analysis highlights patterns that call for further empirical study

# Summary

- Characterization of stress function in FLT terms
- Examined QI stress patterns subsequential
- Not all QS patterns subsequential
- Class of functions that is a precise fit for stress as of yet undescribed
- Lingering questions of evidence for stress

# Thanks

Thanks to the audience of PhonX (Rutgers phonology reading group) and the members of the phonology seminar of Spring '19 for all your helpful comments!

# References

- Baek, H. (2018). Computatonal representation of unbounded stress. *Proceedings of CLS 53*, (pp. 13–24).
- Chandlee, J. (2014). *Strictly Local Phonological Processes*. PhD thesis, University of Delaware.
- Chandlee, J., Eyraud, R., & Heinz, J. (2015). Output strictly local functions. *Mathematics of Language 2015*.
- Chandlee, J., & Jardine, A. (2019). Quantifier-free least-fixed point functions for phonology. *Mathematics of Language 16*.
- Chandlee, J., & Lindell, S. (forthcoming). A logical characterization of strictly local functions. In J. Heinz (Ed.) *Doing Computational Phonology*. OUP.
- Courcelle, B. (1994). Monadic second-order definable graph transductions: a survey. *Theoretical Computer Science*, 126, 53–75.
- Decsy, G. (1966). Yurak chrestomathy. *Uralic and Altaic Series*, 50.
- Furby, C. (1974). *Garawa phonology*, vol. Series A. Australian National University: Pacific Linguistics.
- Gordon, M. (2000). Re-examining default-to-opposite stress. *Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 26.
- Gordon, M. (2002). A factorial typology of quantity-insensitive stress. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 20(3), 491–552.
- Hansen, K., & Hansen, L. E. (1969). Pintupi phonology. *Oceanic Linguistics*, 8, 153–170.
- Hao, S., & Andersson, S. (2019). Unbounded stress in subregular phonology. *Proceedings of SIGMORPHON 16*.
- Hayes, B. (1995). *Metrical Stress Theory: Principles and Case Studies*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Heinz, J. (2007). Learning unbounded stress systems via local inference. In E. Elfner, & M. Walkow (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 37th Meeting of the Northeast Linguistics Society*. University of Illionois, Urbana-Champaign.
- Heinz, J. (2009). On the role of locality in learning stress patterns. *Phonology*, 26(2), 303–351.
- Heinz, J. (2018). The computational nature of phonological generalizations. In L. M. H. . F. Plank (Ed.) *Phonological typology*. Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

- Heinz, J., & Lai, R. (2013). Vowel harmony and subsequentiality. In A. Kornai, & M. Kuhlmann (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 13th Meeting on Mathematics of Language*. Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Jardine, A. (2016). Computationally, tone is different. *Phonology*, 33(2), 385–405.
- Johnson, D. (1972). Formal aspects of phonological description.
- Kager, R. (2007). Feet and metrical stress. In P. de Lacy (Ed.) *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonology*, (pp. 195–227). Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
- Kaplan, R., & Kay, M. (1994). Regular models of phonological rule systems. *Computational Linguistics*, 20, 331–378.
- Karlsson, A. (2005). *Rhythm and Intonation in Halh Mongolian*. Ph.D. thesis, Lund University.
- Koser, N., & Jardine, A. (to appear). The complexity of optimizing over strictly local constraints. *Proceedings of PLC 43*.
- McCollum, A., Bakovic, E., Mai, A., & Meinhardt, E. (under review). The expressivity of segmental phonology and the definition of weak determinism.
- Mohri, M. (1997). Finite-state transducers in language and speech processing. *Computational Linguistics*, 23, 269–311.
- Prince, A. (1985). Improving tree theory. *BLS*, 11, 471–490.
- Rogers, J. (1997). Strict LT2 : Regular :: Local : Recognizable. In C. Retoré (Ed.) *Logical Aspects of Computational Linguistics: First International Conference, LACL '96 Nancy, France, September 23–25, 1996 Selected Papers*, (pp. 366–385). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Rogers, J., Heinz, J., Fero, M., Hurst, J., Lambert, D., & Wibel, S. (2013). Cognitive and sub-regular complexity. In G. Morrill, & M.-J. Nederhof (Eds.) *Formal Grammar*, (pp. 90–108). Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg.
- Wilson, C. (2003). Analyzing unbounded spreading with constraints: marks, targets, and derivations.
- Wilson, C. (2006). Unbounded spreading is myopic.

## Appendix: beyond sequential

- Issue – consider the following pattern:

*ó*

*óσ*

*óσσ*

*óσσóσ*

*óσσσσσ*

*óσσóσσóσ*

*óσσσσσσσ*

- “sour grapes”-like pattern (Wilson 2003, 2006) for stress (Koser & Jardine to appear)

## Appendix: beyond subsequential

- Whether WD rules this out depends on definition, still being worked out

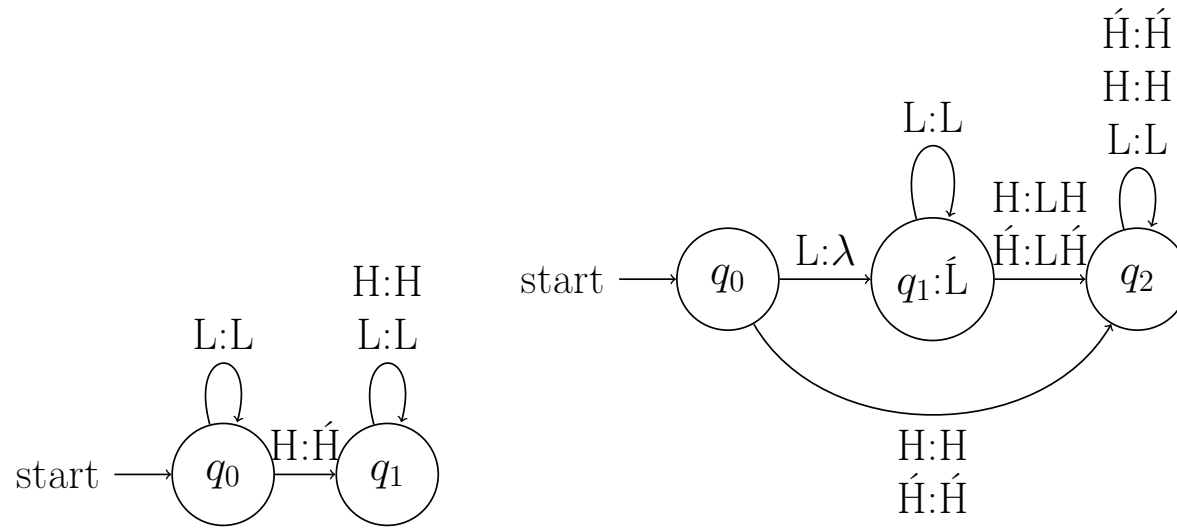
input:             $/\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma/$                              $/\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma/$

left to right  $\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\grave{\sigma}$                              $\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma$

right to left  $\acute{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}\sigma\grave{\sigma}$                              $\acute{\sigma}\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma$

- Subsequential is too strong a hypothesis for QS, status of WD for QI unclear

LHOL transducer; L-to-R left, R-to-L right





SG stress transducer, L-to-R top, R-to-L bottom

