

# Subregularity Across Modalities: Evidence from Sign Languages

---

JON RAWSKI

# Who Cares?

---

Open question: Is the phonological system independent?

Some phonological properties influenced by articulatory properties

Berent 2013 – Phonology is an abstract combinatorial system. Mode of articulation is irrelevant

Enter Computational complexity

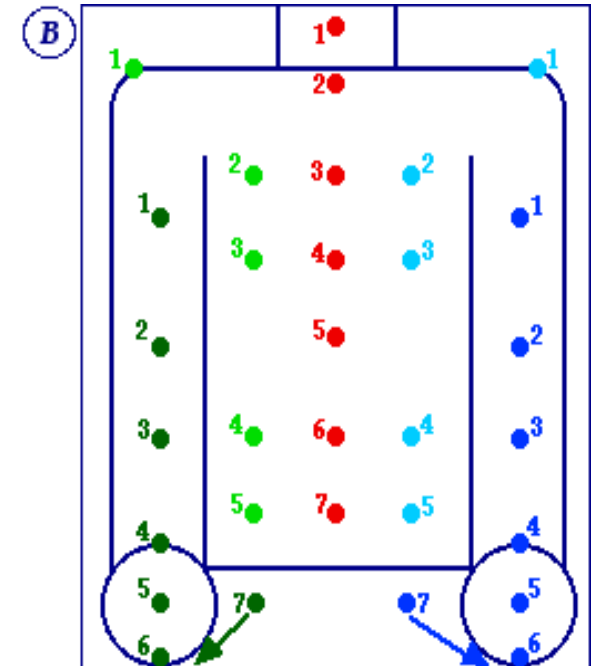
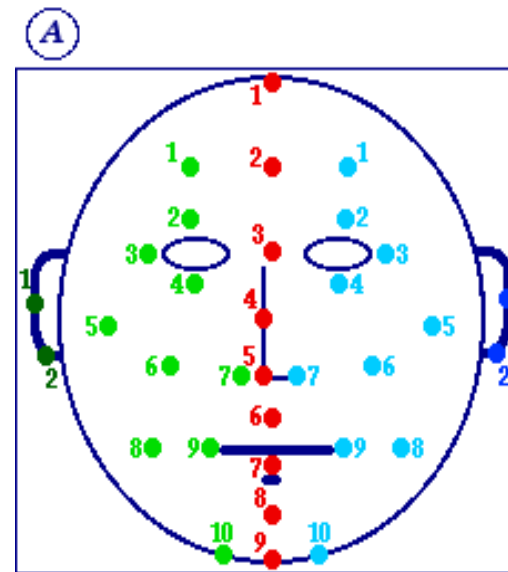
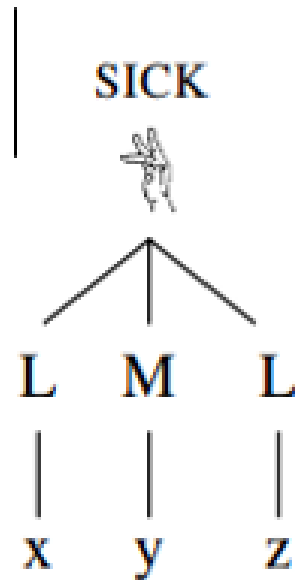
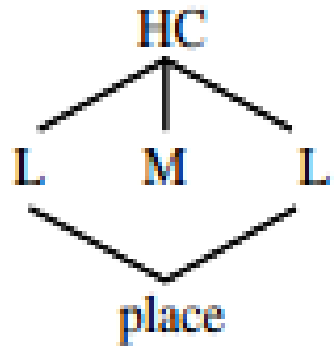
- Phonological processes are regular (Kaplan/Kay 1994)
- maybe subregular(Heinz 2011, 2016)

Restated question: Is sign language phonology subregular?

- If yes: phonology may not care about modality
- If no, either sign language phonology is different/nonexistent or phonology is not subregular

# Structure of Signs

- Tendency toward monosyllabic monomorphemes
- Separate tiers for handshape(HC) and location(L)/movement (M)
- Location/movement contrast is similar to consonant/vowel distinction



# Compound reduction



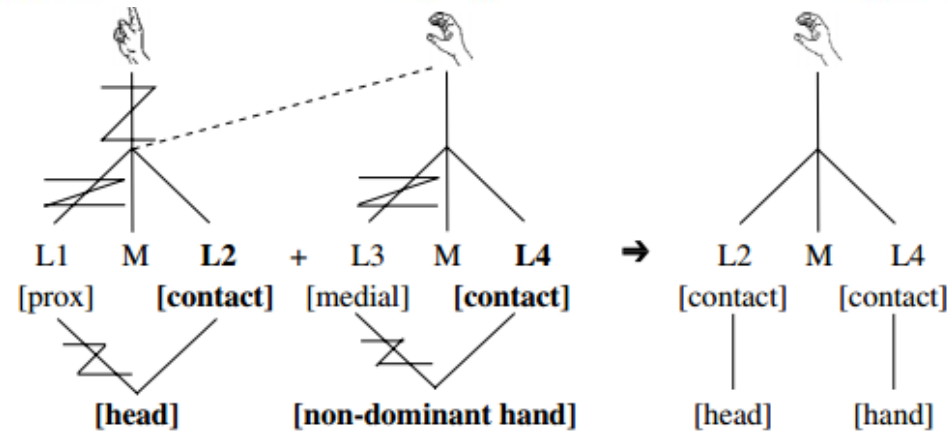
a. THINK



b. MARRY



c. BELIEVE



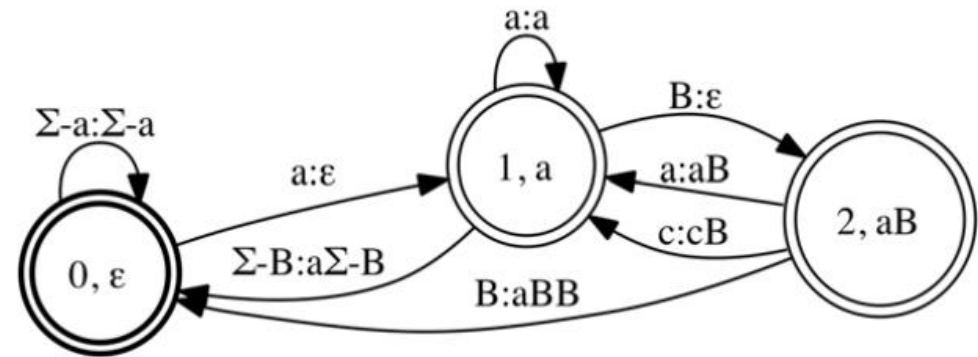
# Metathesis



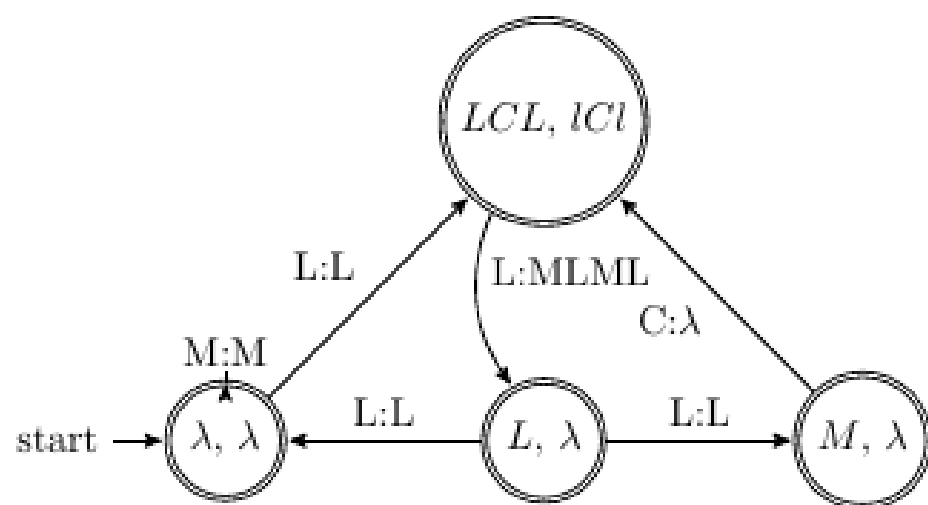
a. FATHER      DEAF (ASL)



b. MOTHER      DEAF (ASL)



# Reduplication



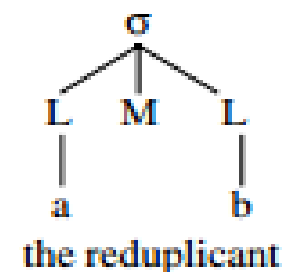
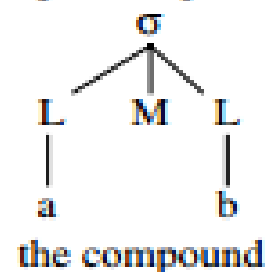
Marshallese

ebbok 'to make full' ebbok-bok 'puffy'

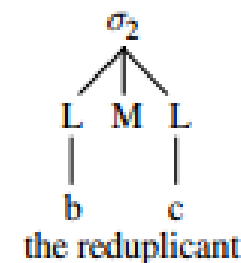
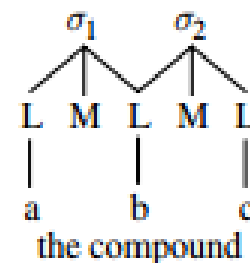
lɔŋɔŋ 'fear' lɔŋɔŋ-ŋɔŋ 'very afraid'

$\emptyset \rightarrow C_1V_1C_2 / C_1V_1C_2\_\#$

FAINT [reduplicated]



SLEEP^SUNRISE = OVERSLEEP [reduplicated]



ACCIDENT [reduplicated]

