Refining the Contrastivist Hypothesis

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Acknowledgement

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- Parametric Visibility:
  Any given rule may refer to
  - all features, or
  - only contrastive features, or
  - only marked feature values (Nevins 2005).

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- But what does 'operate on' mean, exactly?
- It can't just be a restriction on the input to the phonology; non-contrastive features could (by definition!) be filled in by rule, as in RU.
- On the other hand, the phonology can't be limited to spreading and delinking features that are already there. . . .

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- Canadian raising does not seem to be characterizable as the spreading of a contrastive feature from a following voiceless consonant to the diphthong.
  - (Maybe it could be treated as delinking of contrastive [low].)
- But we can tell that Canadian raising must be part of the phonological computation.

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	writer	*rider*
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If raising were phonetic, we would not expect this kind of counterbleeding pattern to be possible.

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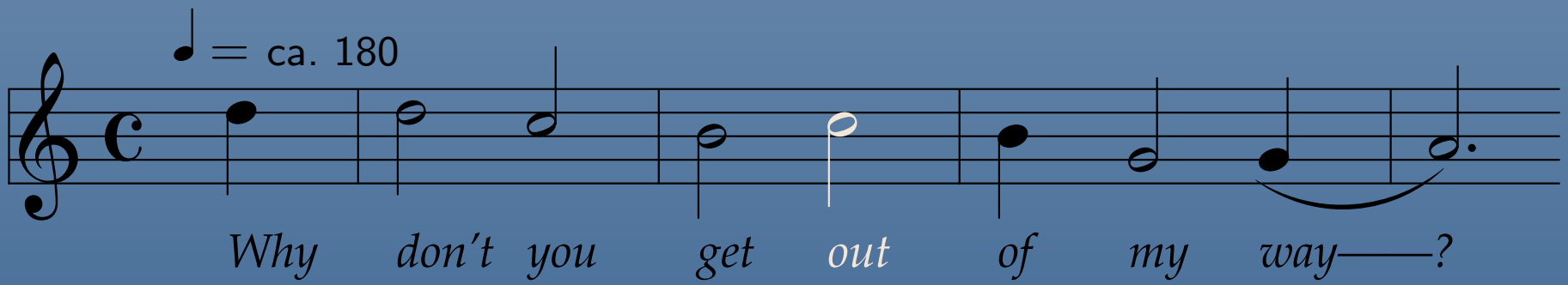
"Leslie"
Josh Finlayson/Andy Maize/Wayne Stokes
Skydiggers, *Skydiggers* (1990)



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- This would involve something like van Oostendorp's (2007) theory of Coloured Containment:
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  - Non-underlying structure is 'colourless'.
  - In this adaptation, colourless features can be introduced, but not subsequently referred to, by phonological rules.

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- In this system, prophylactic features are simply the result of redundancy rules that crucially apply before some other process.
- Like all other non-contrastive features, prophylactic features are invisible to subsequent phonological computation (but are phonetically interpretable).

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  - Laxness optionally spreads leftward to other high vowels:

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- This suggests that phonology needs to be able to see (and spread) redundant features, rather than merely supplying them to the phonetics.

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- This is unfortunate, because Modified Contrastive Specification is not otherwise incompatible with OT (Mackenzie & Dresher 2003).

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☞ So let's try that first, then.

References

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