24.961   Problem Set #3

[1] English schwa syncope (Hooper 1976)

For words in the first column below, the bracketed vowel [ ] can be deleted. But in the second column deletion is more difficult, except possibly in fast speech. What accounts for the difference? How could this be accounted for in a model that employs rules and constraints, such as that proposed by Calabrese?

sep[a]rate	adj.	sep**a**ration
gen[e]ral		gen**e**rality
des[o]late		des**o**lation
pers[o]nal		pers**o**nality

The suffix *-ic* requires stress on the preceding syllable of the stem it attaches to as seen in the data below. You may assume a rule V -> [+stress]/ ___ Co –ic. Sometimes the stress contour of the stem remains unchanged under –*ic* affixation but other times it changes. Examine the data below to determine the condition that allows "faithful" versus "unfaithful" stem stress. What is the relevance of this process to the phenomenon in [1]? Our transcriptions mark primary stress with the acute accent and secondary stress with the grave. Do not be concerned with this difference in stress level but focus simply whether or not a particular stem syllable retains [+stress] under affixation.

Korán	Korán-ic
Islám	Islám-ic
nómad	nomád-ic
mágnet	magnét-ic
rábbi	rabbín-ic
díplomat	dìplomát-ic
álcohol	àlcohól-ic
télescope	tèlescóp-ic
aróma	àromát-ic
apóstle	àpostól-ic
telépathy	tèlepháth-ic
acádemy	àcadém-ic
chronólogy	chrònológ-ic

[2] Gbe reduplication and V-V assimilation (Capo 1989)

The Gbe (Ewe) dialects are spoken along the coastal regions spreading from Eastern Ghana to Western Nigeria across Togo and Benin. Reduplicated affixes are often the site of the emergence of unmarked structure (abbreviated TETU). One possible reason is that they have no fixed input structure and hence are not subject to the same contrast requirements and input-output constraints as stems and unreduplicated affixes. For the following data, how many of the departures from faithful copy of the stem can be characterized in these terms? Give reasons why you think a particular change is to the unmarked value of a feature or structure. Express the dialect differences in terms of different rankings of OT faithfulness and markedness constraints. Comment on whether there is any hierarchy in the phonological properties which are preserved vs. not across the dialects. The acute accent denotes high tone; unmarked syllables have mid tone. Undertilde denotes nasalization.[1]

Wací	Gen	Pecí	Gun	Maxí	
ɖuɖu	ɖuɖu	ɖuɖu	ɖuɖu	ɖuɖu	'eat'
ɖaɖa	ɖaɖa	ɖaɖa	ɖiɖa	ɖiɖa	'cook'
zazá	zazá	zaza	ziza	ziza	'use'
koko	koko	koko	kiko	kuko	'laugh at'
sɔsə	sɛsɛ	sɛsɛ́	sisɛ́	sisɛ́	'worship'
lyalyá	lyalyá	lalyá			'climb'
fyɔfyɔ	fyɔfyɔ	fɔfyɔ	~	~	'twist'
klakla	kakla	kakla	kikla	kikla	'separate'
blablá	bablá	bablá	biblá	bublá	'tie'
klɔklɔ́	kɔklɔ́	kɔklɔ́	kiklɔ́	kukĺɔ́	'wash'
glɔglɔ	gɔglɔ	gɔglɔ	giglɔ	guglɔ	'bend'

The following paradigms of data are taken from Capo's description of the resolution of vowel hiatus in one of the Gbe dialects. What bearing do they have on the question of markedness? Are they consistent with the reduplication?

[swe]	'small cutlass'	← /so + ı/	'to cut + instr.'
[mw̃ɛ̃]	'art of divination'	← /bɔ̃ + ı/	'to see + instr.'
[gwé]	'misery	← /gó + ı/	'misery + simil.'
[lwé]	'ghost'	← /lo + ı/	'ghost + simil.'
[ywɛ]	'small insects'	← /yɔ + ı/	'insect + dimin.'
[dúkwí]	'neckerchief'	← /dúku + ı/	'scarf + dimin./simil.'
[dokw̃í]	'potato'	← /do + kű + ı/	'hole + seed + cmpd.'

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[1] Capo does not provide the forms for 'climb' and 'twist' in the Gun and Maxí dialects.

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