

ABC ↔ C

Archive Foreword

The Agreement by Correspondence Conference (ABC↔C) was held on 18–19 May 2014 at University of California, Berkeley. Agreement by Correspondence (ABC) is a theory of similarity-based surface phonological interactions, originally introduced to account for the behavior of long distance consonant assimilation (Walker 2000; Hansson 2001; Rose & Walker 2004; et seq.). The preceding decade (2004–2014) witnessed an upsurge in work that develops and extends ABC beyond its original empirical and formal parameters. This growing body of work positions ABC to be a potentially powerful framework, one that can account for not only long distance consonantal phenomena but also vowel harmony, dissimilation patterns, and local segmental interactions. The aim of the ABC↔Conference was to bring together key participants working in ABC and related areas to address essential issues about the current developments of the theory:

- the developing architecture of surface correspondence theory;
- the extensibility of surface correspondence beyond long distance consonant assimilation;
- the relationship between ABC and alternative frameworks based on licensing or autosegmentalism; and
- the functional bases, in phonetics and psycholinguistics, underlying surface correspondence and phonological similarity.

The workshop resulted in 13 talks, 4 discussion panels, and 13 poster presentations. Presentations covered a number of fundamental themes and open questions relating to theoretical aspects of ABC, including

- the re-examination of the specific architecture of ABC (e.g., Hansson);
- how directionality in harmony systems should be modeled in ABC (e.g., Baković & Rose; Bennett & Pulleyblank);
- the role of locality and transparency in harmony systems and in ABC (e.g., Bowman; McMullin);
- how to define correspondence sets and multiple correspondences in ABC (e.g., Walker; Sylak-Glassman et al.; Lionnet); and
- the division of labor between representational feature spreading approaches and ABC (e.g., Jurgec; Inkelas & Shih; Shih & Inkelas).

All of the presentations—talks and posters alike—brought to bear new empirical evidence from harmony and disharmony systems which clarified the advantages, possible limitations, and scope of ABC. This body of evidence ranged from computational and experimental approaches (e.g., Kimper; McMullin; Ozburn; Roberts; Zymet) to primary evidence from cross-linguistically diverse sources (e.g., Bennett & Pulleyblank; Craioveanu & Godfrey; Falk; Faytak; Geiger; Girard; Kochetov & Ozburn; Kochetov et al.; Lionnet; Noguchi; Sande; Shih & Inkelas; Sylak-Glassman et al.; Walker).

In addition to the papers and posters, eight discussants (Gallagher, Hyman, Mielke, Padgett, Scarborough, Steriade, Yu, and Zuraw) produced written materials in response to the papers they were assigned to discuss. These materials are also included in this archive and, although they were prepared before the conference, serve as a glimpse into the provocative and interesting discussions that followed the papers.

Our hope is that this archive of materials from the ABC↔Conference will facilitate continuing work in the theory and, more broadly, enrich the growing knowledge base of harmony and dissimilation. In addition to this archive, the ABC↔Conference also produced an on-going bibliography of work related to the framework of Agreement by Correspondence. The ABC Bibliography can be accessed at <http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~inkelas/ABCBibliography.html>.

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Select references

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- Walker, Rachel. 2000. Long-distance Consonantal Identity Effects. In Roger Billerey & Brook Danielle Lillehaugen (eds.). *Proceedings of WCCFL 19*, 532–545. Somerville, MA: Cascadia Press.