Transparent vowels in $A B C$ : open issues

The similarity basis for correspondence in ABC does not on its own provide for a complete account of the distribution of transparency in vowel harmony, and even Rhodes's (2012) extensions to the theory leave it without adequate coverage in this domain. In this paper, I survey a few cases of vowel transparency that are not straightforwardly compatible with $A B C$, including transparent vowel types which have potential harmonic counterparts in the inventory, morphologically idiosyncratic transparency, and transparency that is sensitive to syllable count or syllable position. I show that some modest extensions to the theory allow for accounts for all of these, but also contrast these new accounts with potentially simpler ones under Kimper's (2011) Trigger Competition, a competing theory focused exclusively on vowel harmony.

