In most of the studies, prosodic constituency is viewed as a hierarchy of domains. As in English, an intermediate phrase (ip) is postulated for French (Jun and Fougéron 2002). But Jun & Fougéron’s ip definition is restricted to specific syntactic constructions and unclear phonetics and phonological properties.

Recent studies show phonological evidence for the intermediate phrase in French (ip) D’Imperio & Michelas 2010, Michelas & D’Imperio 2010. An ip right boundary appears at a major syntactic break when the ip is sufficiently long (>=2APs)

Stimuli
Investigation of the phonetic cues associated with the prosodic boundaries within subject NPs

**Corpus variables:**
1. Length of the subject NP (1AP / 2 APs / 3 APs / 4 APs / 5 APs)
2. Length of each AP within the NP subject (short APs / long APs)
3. Number of APs within the Subject NP (1-5 APs)

**Length of the Subject NP**
- Short APs condition: 1 AP
- Medium APs condition: 2 APs
- Long APs condition: 3 APs
- Very Long APs condition: 5 APs

**Length of the Subject NP:**
- Subject NPs with 1 syllable (APs)
- Subject NPs with 2 syllables (APs)
- Subject NPs with 3 syllables (APs)
- Subject NPs with 5 syllables (APs)

**Measures**
- Duration of target syllables (normalization: target/V1 ratio)
- F0 height of target syllables (normalization: target/H1 ratio)

**Task**
2 French native speakers read the 96 sentences 4 times (384 sentences)

**Statistical analyses**
Mixed models

Discussion
Prosodic length does not seem to affect ip-phrasing in French

Additional evidence for an ip discrete boundary: tonal cues

Ratios of f0 values of each AP-final vowel relative to f0 in first LH* for both AP-length conditions

The ip-final syllables are reset relative to the first AP-final LH* of the utterance

Ripb - First LH* after the ip boundary

The ip-break reflects the phonological structure
Discrete (and not gradual) phonetic cues associated to AP & ip breaks

Bibliography

Conclusions
- Prosodic length does not seem to affect phonetic cues of ip-phrasing in French
- APs belonging corresponding to a maximal syntactic projection are grouped within a single ip
- Discrete phonological cues associated to the ip-boundary level

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