

Compound stress assignment emerges from the lexicon

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presenting joint work with
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English compound stress

- Most N+N compounds in English are stressed on left constituent
e.g. *bóokstore*, *wáitchmaker*
- Compound stress rule, Chomsky & Halle (1968)
- Many exceptions:
Boston márathon, *Penny Láne*, *summer níght*, *aluminum fól*, *morning páper*, *silk tíe* ...
- How can we account for this variability?

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The hypotheses

- H1: The structural hypothesis (e.g. Giegerich 2004)
 - Modifier-head structures are regularly stressed on the RIGHT constituent (*steel bridge*)
 - Argument-head structures are always LEFT-stressed (*opera singer*)
 - Left stress on modifier-head structures is due to lexicalization (*opera glasses*)
- H2: The semantic hypothesis (e.g. Fudge 1984)
 - Stress assignment according to semantic categories (e.g. locative compounds are right-stressed, *Boston harbour*)

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- **H3: The analogical hypothesis** (e.g. Schmerling 1971, Liberman and Sproat 1992, Plag 2006)
 - Stress assignment in analogy to similar compounds in the lexicon.
 - Constituent family stress bias:
 - right (N2) family of street: left stress bias (cf. *Bäuer Street*)
 - right (N2) family of avenue: right stress bias (cf. *Giegerich Avenue*)

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- 'more informative': 'new', less expectable, less predictable (Shannon 1948)
- informativity measures:
 - constituent frequency: less frequent words are more informative, have higher probability of being stressed
 - constituent family size: words with small family size are more informative, have higher probability of being stressed
 - number of synonyms (WordNet 'synsets'): few synonyms = semantically more specific = more informative = higher probability of being stressed

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- Predictive power of deterministic rules based on the structural and/or semantic hypothesis is very bad.
- Probabilistic and exemplar-based models are much better, but still not quite satisfactory.

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1. Analogy: family bias (Plag 2010)
2. Informativity: family size etc. (Bell & Plag *submitted*)
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Data

1. Teschner & Whitley (2004), CELEX (Baayen et al. 1995), Boston Corpus (BURSC, Ostendorf et al. 1996, Plag et al. 2008)
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Major problem: determine the stress pattern of a given compound

- Dictionary data: whose speech or intuition?
- CELEX: dictionary data plus other data of unclear status
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- Compute the constituent families for each compound
- Select data with family size > 1
- Compute constituent family stress bias for each compound's left and right constituents.

An example (from BURSC)

- 31 compounds with the left constituent *state* (*state administration, state aid, state authority, state benefit, etc.*)
- only 3 of them have leftward stress.
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Data

Table: Corpora: size and stress distribution

	T&W	CELEX	Boston Corpus
N	782	2638	535
leftward stresses	89.5%	94.1%	67.1%

Research questions

- How do models perform that have all types of information at their disposal?
- In particular, which factors survive in such an overall model? Is family bias (i.e. analogy) predictive?

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CELEX: family bias alone

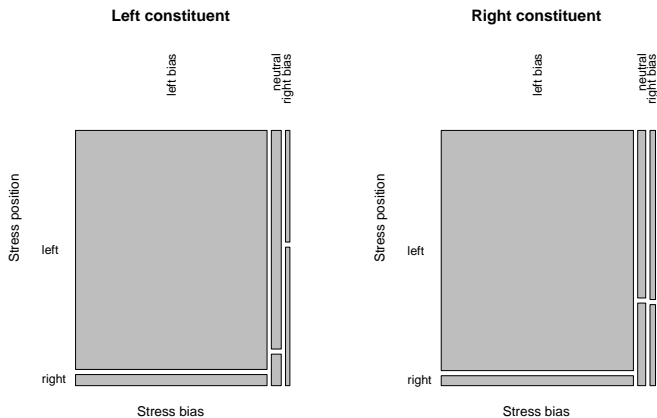


Figure: Stress patterns by left and right constituent family bias, CELEX data.

Boston Corpus: family bias alone

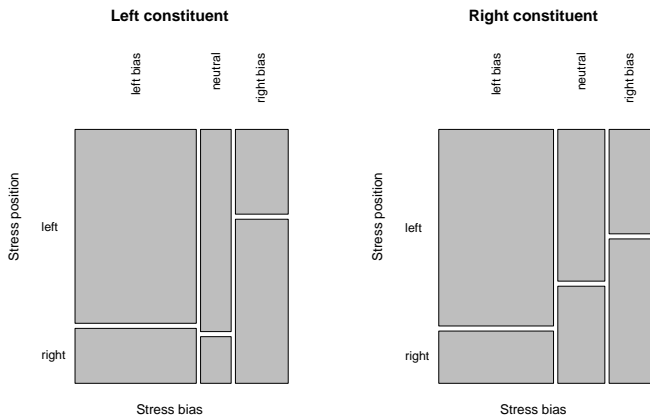


Figure: Stress patterns by left and right constituent family bias, Boston corpus.

Including all predictors: family bias, structure, semantics, lexicalization

- Structural: Argument-head vs. modifier-head
- Semantic categories of constituents or compound
- Semantic relation between constituents

Hypotheses from the literature: stress on N2 if

- N1 refers to a period or point in time (e.g. *night bird*)
- N2 is a geographical term (e.g. *lee shore*)
- N2 is a type of thoroughfare (e.g. *chain bridge*)
- The compound is a proper noun (e.g. *Union Jack*)
- N1 is a proper noun (e.g. *Achilles tendon*)

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Table: List of semantic relations held to trigger rightward stress

	Semantic relation	example
6.	N1 MAKES N2	<i>firelíght</i>
7.	N2 IS MADE OF N1	<i>potato crísp</i>
14.	N2 IS LOCATED AT/IN/... N1	<i>garden pártý</i>
16.	N2 DURING N1	<i>night wáтч</i>

Table: List of semantic relations coded, illustrated with one example each

	Semantic relation	example
1.	N2 CAUSES N1	<i>teargas</i>
2.	N1 CAUSES N2	<i>heat rash</i>
3.	N2 HAS N1	<i>stock market</i>
4.	N1 HAS N2	<i>lung power</i>
5.	N2 MAKES N1	<i>silkworm</i>
6.	N1 MAKES N2	<i>firelight</i>
7.	N2 IS MADE OF N1	<i>potato crisp</i>
8.	N2 USES N1	<i>water mill</i>
9.	N1 USES N2	<i>handbrake</i>
10.	N1 IS N2	<i>child prodigy</i>
11.	N1 IS LIKE N2	<i>kettle drum</i>
12.	N2 FOR N1	<i>travel agency</i>
13.	N2 ABOUT N1	<i>mortality table</i>
14.	N2 IS LOCATED AT/IN/... N1	<i>garden party</i>
15.	N1 IS LOCATED AT/IN/... N2	<i>taxi stand</i>
16.	N2 DURING N1	<i>night watch</i>
17.	N2 IS NAMED AFTER N1	<i>Wellington boot</i>
18.	OTHER	<i>schoolfellow</i>

Lexicalization

- Spelling as a proxy for lexicalization
- More intricate spellings (one word or hyphenated) indicate higher degree of lexicalization (e.g. Plag et al. 2007, 2008)
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Results: all predictors

Table: Effects of different kinds of predictors

Type of effect	significance in corpus	strength (highest odds ratio)
family bias	CELEX, BURSC	13.8, 6.2
semantics	CELEX, BURSC	4.6, 2.0
spelling	CELEX	14.5, -

Results: all predictors

Table: Predictive power of different kinds of variables

Effects included	C for CELEX	C for BURSC
only family bias	0.75	0.78
only other predictors	0.83	0.66
all predictors	0.90	0.79

Study 2 (Informativity): Methodology

- Sample of compounds from BNC demographic
- Production experiment with this sample, 4 elicited tokens per type
- Expert ratings as left or right for each token
- Compute measures of informativity (based on BNC and WordNet)
- Code prevalent semantic categories
- Fit logistic regression models and generalized additive models to non-variable types ($N_{\text{left}}=341$, $N_{\text{right}}=200$)

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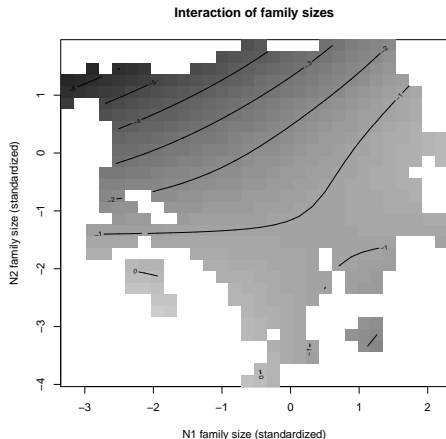
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BNC: Results

Table: Effects of different kinds of predictors, $C=0.923$, (0.80 without semantics)

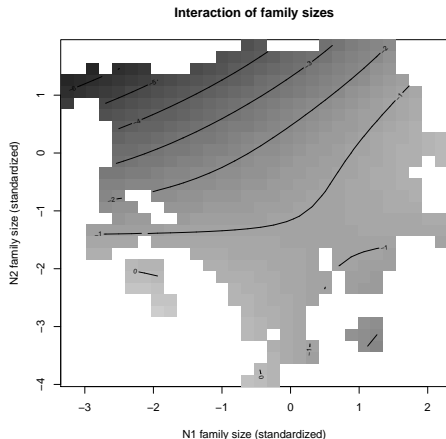
Type of effect	significance
family size/constituent frequency	yes
synsets	yes (lrm)/no (gam)
semantics	yes
lexicalization	yes

BNC: interaction of N1 and N2 family sizes



- Darker shading indicates higher probability of stress on N1
- large N2 family size and small N1 family size: N1 highly informative, hence stress on N1
- small N2 family size and large N1 family size: N2 highly informative, hence stress on N2

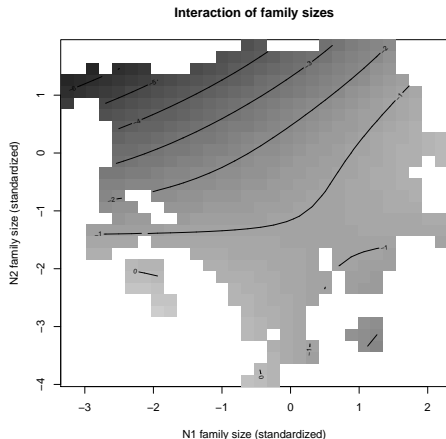
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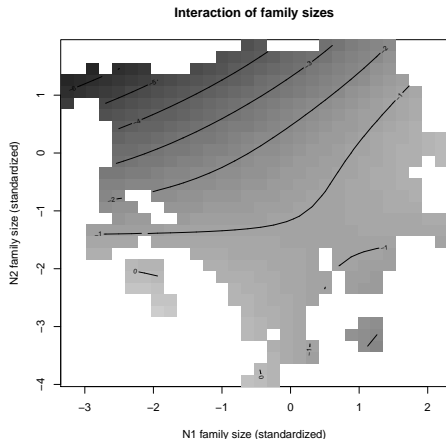
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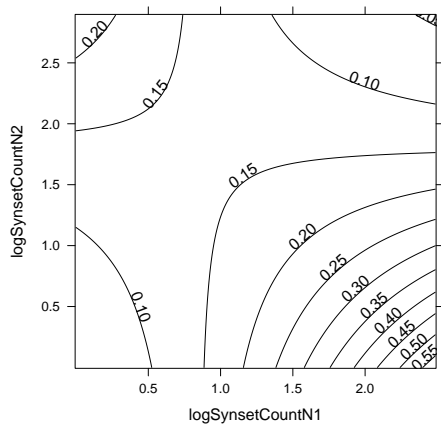
• **small** N2 family size and **large** N1 family size: N2 highly informative, hence stress on N2

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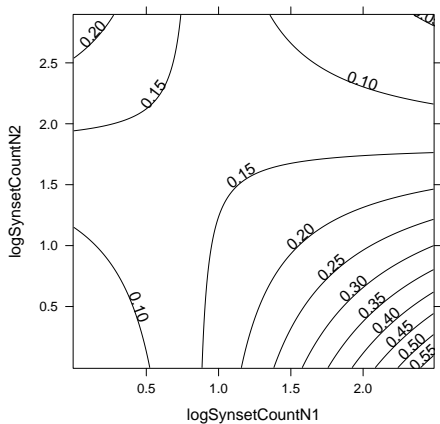
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BNC: interaction of N1 and N2 synsets



- proportions given in the graph indicate the probability of stress on N2
- N2 receives stress if it is highly specific in meaning, hence highly informative, and if N1 is at the same time relatively uninformative.

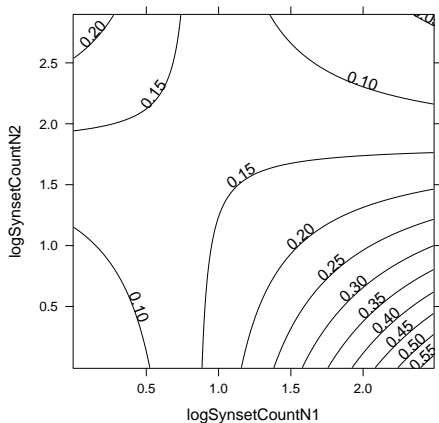
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Summary study 2: Informativity measures

- Constituent frequency and constituent family size are equally good predictors
- Synsets also have an effect in the predicted direction, but are significant only in logistic models (not in the GAMs)
- Lexicalization effects can also be found
- Informativity is a significant and successful predictor of compound stress
- Relation of family size and family bias? Two sides of the same coin?

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- Research question: Analogy or informativity?
- We add informativity measures to data set of study 1 (Plag 2010, family bias)
- family size ratio: \log of $\frac{N2FamilySize}{N1FamilySize}$
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Study 3: Effects of family size and bias

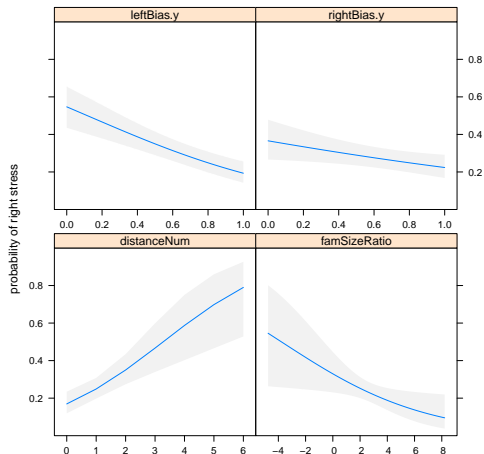


Figure: Partial effects of logistic regression model, BURSC

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Compound stress emerges from the lexicon.

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Thanks

- **Thank you very much for your attention!**
- **Acknowledgements**
 - Special thanks go to Harald Baayen for his help with statistical issues, and
 - to the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* for funding this research (Grants PL151/5-1, PL151/5-3)
- For **full references**, see the papers on our project homepage. (Just google my name!)