Speaker: Erich Round  
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Title: Engaging with exceptionality:  
the case from Swedish

Date: Friday, October 12, 2007  
Time: 12:00pm  
Place: 370 Temple St, Room 201

Abstract:

This paper seeks to extend the phonological analysis of Swedish to a number of areas which traditionally would be regarded as exceptional. By rethinking the underlying representation of segmental length it is possible to accommodate not only exceptional stress patterns but also exceptional alternations in segment lengths and exceptional devoicing.

The reanalysis also reduces the amount allomorphy one needs to posit in a number of past tense verbal suffixes and in the neuter singular nominal suffix, and offers an explanation for why certain adjectival roots appear to lack a distinct neuter inflection. The analysis accounts in a principled manner both for the morphological idiosyncrasies in the distribution of various exceptional phonological patterns and also for the strong regularities within those patterns themselves.

In the talk I will focus predominantly on the crucial Swedish data and fundamental issues of analysis; matters of formalisation within OT which constitute a major part of the written paper, will be mentioned but not focused on especially.