Abstract: The representation of tone has long been an issue in phonology. While taking sandhi tones as less prominent for languages having complex tone systems, the role of duration or even intensity in signaling prominence remains largely as an assumption. In this talk, I explore the question of what the phonetic evidence is for a metrical representation of tone in complex tone languages via acoustic measurements of duration and intensity. The metrical view hypothesizes that duration and intensity cues are present on top of tone sandhi to determine whether a language has iambic/trochaic-like structure. I examine first hand data in Teochew (Southern Min, Hong Kong/Chaozhou) to illustrate the discussion.

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