

Burzio, L. (2000). 'Zero Derivations', ms. Johns Hopkins University.

Abstract

In LI 31.2, J. Rubach proposes a modified version of OT that features derivations. In the present article I argue that, while some modification to the original formulation by Prince and Smolensky is needed, the correct one is not to re-introduce derivations, but rather to take fuller advantage of OT's inherent parallelism. I propose that outputs must be related not only to inputs, but to other, 'neighboring', representations as well --a feature that is shared by both the 'output-to-output faithfulness approach' and the theory of 'targeted' constraints developed by C.Wilson. I show that all the cases cited by Rubach that would seem to support derivations are in fact handled by the latter two related theories, and that each of these has significant advantages over derivations.