Morphological truncation in Harmonic Serialism

Deletion is usually taken as a phonological phenomenon but may also occur for morphological reasons. Morphological truncation presents a particular challenge for Optimality Theory (OT) because the grammar can only evaluate surface phonological structure yet must somehow recognise that the correct amount of phonological material has been deleted despite not being "there" in the output form. Within Harmonic Serialism (McCarthy 2000, 2007), after truncation applies once, it must be blocked from applying again. Kimper (2009) therefore suggests that truncation does not involve outright deletion of phonological material but rather delinearisation, in which truncated units are still accessible to the grammar but unpronounceable without linear precedence relationships.

This paper will show how Kimper's delinearisation analysis captures subtractive morphology in Icelandic deverbal action nouns. I propose a modification to his Delinearise() function to account for templatic truncation, exemplified by Italian disyllabic stress-anchored hypocoristics. I also show that this serial analysis may be extended to truncation involving multiple exponence, such as in German *Kurzwörter* hypocoristics.