

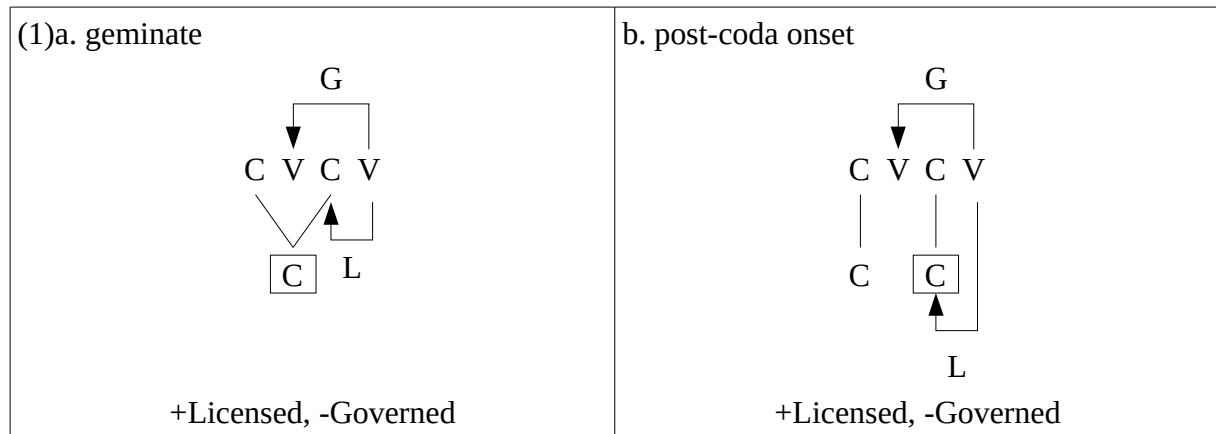
## Representing strength without licensing

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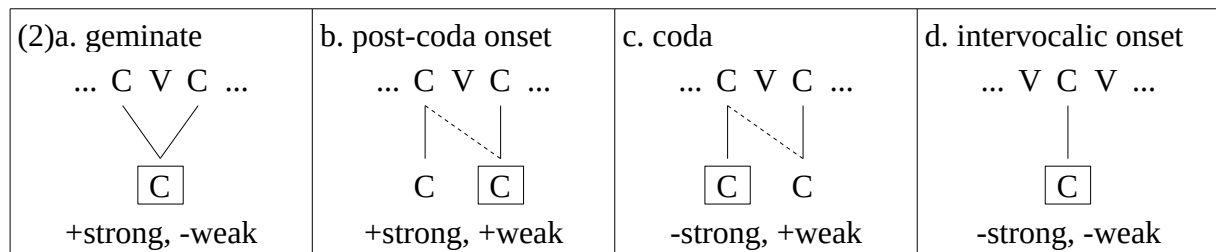
**0.** This presentation focuses on the role of Licensing as a strengthening force. Our aim is to point out some of its limits, and to argue that it can be replaced by phonological length.

**1.** In order to account for the contrast between *lenis* and *fortis* realizations, strict CV assumes two different mechanisms: Licensing and length. Licensing as a strengthening mechanism was proposed by Ségéral & Scheer (2001) in order to account for the strength of consonants; and length as strengthening mechanism was pointed out by Lowenstamm (1991) in order to explain the specific inalterability of long vowels.

**2.** Our claim is that Licensing does not account for the specific inalterability of geminates. Theoretically, post-coda onsets and geminates undergo the same lateral relations: **i.** Government targets the embedded empty nucleus; and **ii.** Licensing targets the onset (1). However, we present three unrelated languages (Tamazight, Old Norse and Koalib) where post-coda plosives are unexpectedly weaker than geminates.



**3.** We aim to argue that length is more likely to account for various strength contrasts than Licensing. Our proposition is that onsets generally branch to codas. In this context, branching has a strengthening effect, and position-sharing have a weakening effect. Geminates, which branch to *unoccupied* positions, are the strongest segments (2a). Post-coda onsets, which branch to an *occupied* position, are weaker than geminates (2b). Codas, which share their position with the following onset (2c), are the weakest segments. Finally, intervocalic onsets do not branch nor share their position with any adjacent consonant (2a). They have the most neutral strength (note that they are also typologically unmarked).



**5.** To conclude, we aim to propose how phonological length can account for strength distinctions. The long-term objective is to unify the effects of Licensing with more common autosegmental representations.

**Lowenstamm, J.** (1991) ‘Vocalic length and centralization in two branches of Semitic (Ethiopic and Arabic)’, in Kaye, A. S. (ed.) *Semitic Studies in Honor of Wolf Leslau on the occasion of his 85th birthday*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, pp. 949–965. **Ségéral, P.** and **Scheer, T.** (2001) ‘La coda-miroir’, *Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique de Paris*, 96(1), pp. 107–152.