

## **Alternation types: computation, storage, history**

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Contextual variation in the form of linguistic exponents, i.e. 'alternation' in the broadest sense of the term, comprises an extremely wide variety of phenomena: from probabilistic variation operating over—and affected by—continuous phonetic parameters, to strong suppletion conditioned by syntactic features. This course presents an attempt to derive a fine-grained typology of alternation types in a theoretically principled manner from the interaction of three key elements. The first element is a stratal-cyclic approach to the architecture of phonology (Bermúdez-Otero 2018). The second element is an articulated theory of networked lexical storage involving different ways of listing linguistic expressions (Bermúdez-Otero 2012: §2.3, pp. 15-44). The third element is an understanding of the typical patterns of evolution of alternations over historical time (Bermúdez-Otero 2015). This effort leads to the conclusion that, whilst the synchronic implementation of individual alternations often involves highly complex and redundant interactions between several lexical and grammatical components, the overall typology and diachronic dynamics of alternation presents a remarkably orderly picture at the global level.

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