SEOUL KOREAN INTONATION & THE KOREAN INTONATIONAL LABELLING SYSTEM, K-TOBI
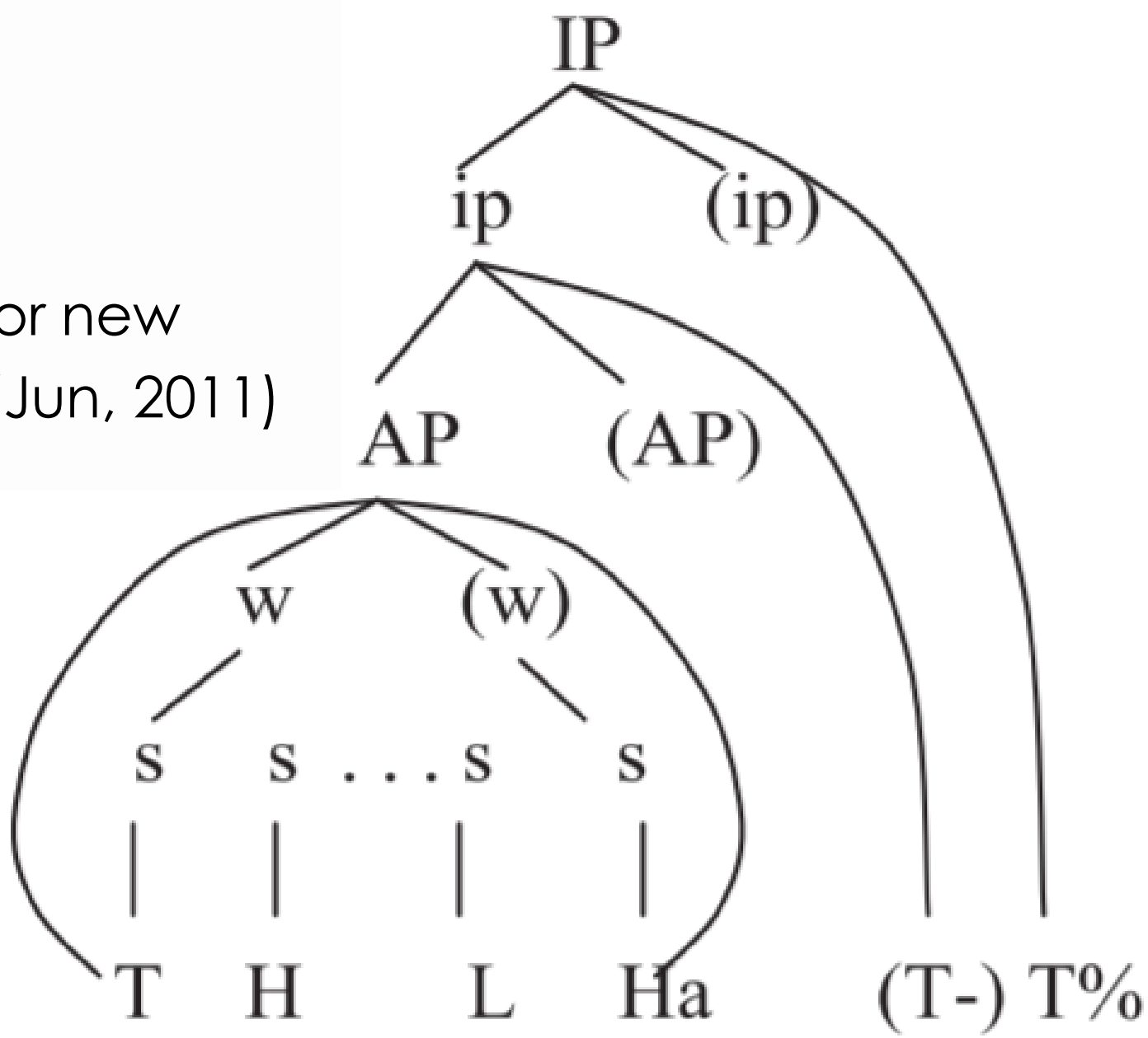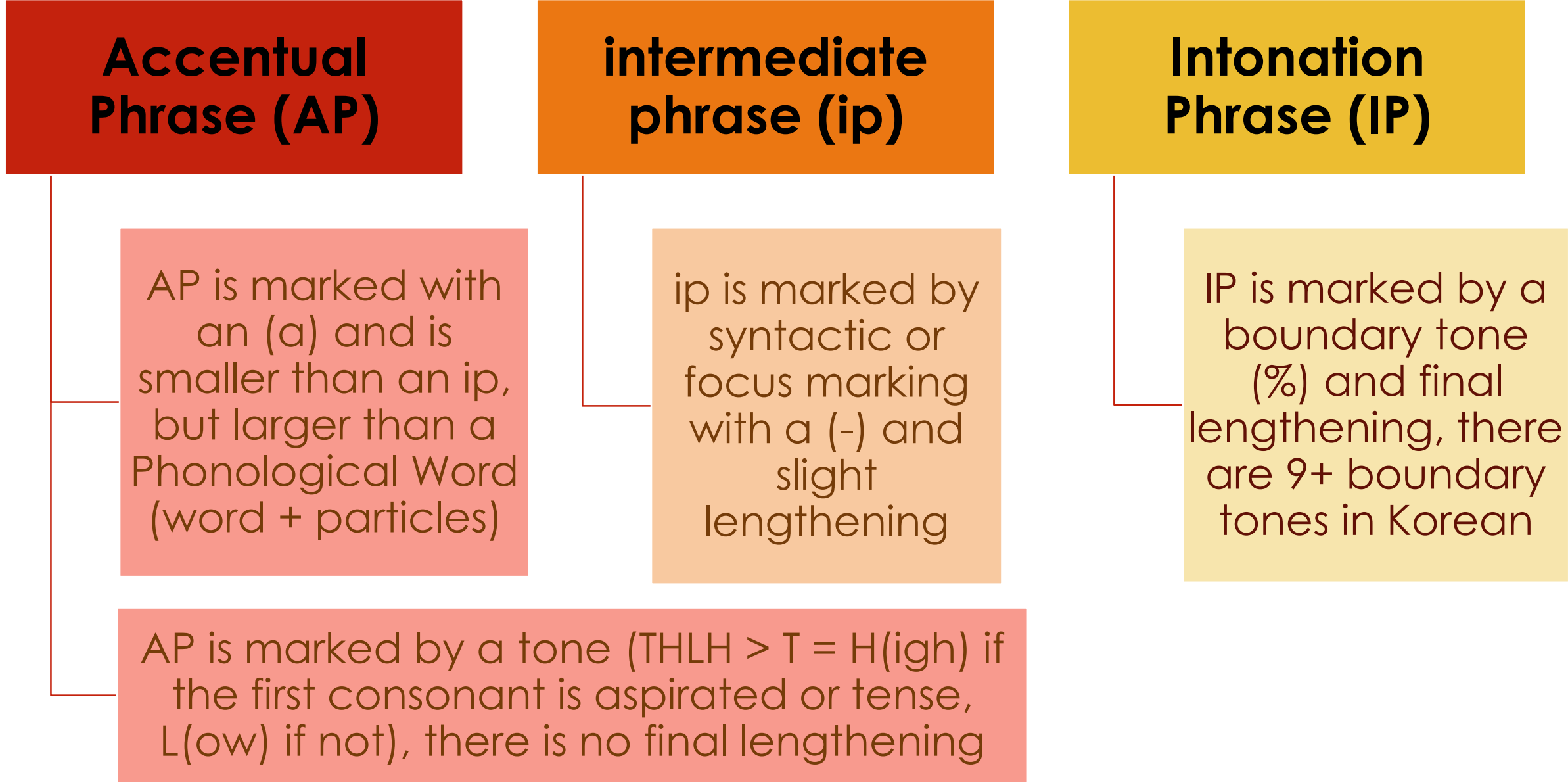
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Background

1. K-ToBI is a transcription system for standard Seoul Korean prosody

2. It follows a hierarchical model of prosody

3. K-ToBI has been revised from previous versions (Jun, 2007) to accommodate for new data indicating certain aspects not previously labelled could be meaningful (Jun, 2011)
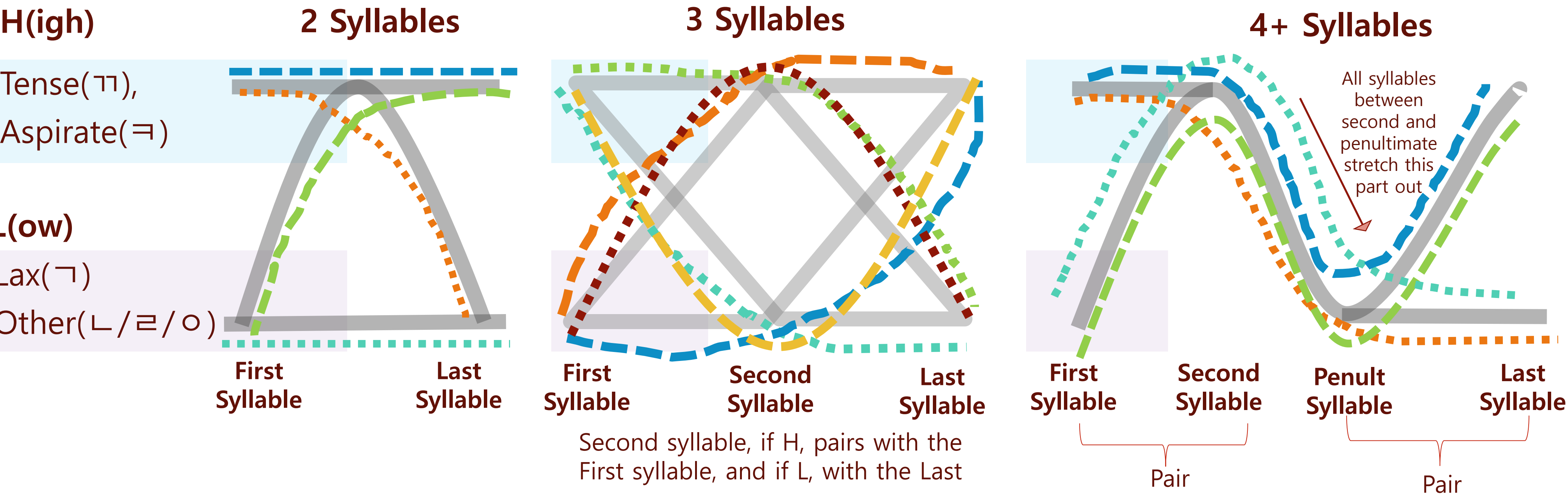
Three Main Prosody Units:

Accentual Phrase (AP)

intermediate phrase (ip)

Intonation Phrase (IP)

AP is marked with an (a) and is smaller than an ip, but larger than a Phonological Word (word + particles)

ip is marked by syntactic or focus marking with a (-) and slight lengthening

IP is marked by a boundary tone (%) and final lengthening, there are 9+ boundary tones in Korean

AP is marked by a tone (THLH > T = H(igh) if the first consonant is aspirated or tense, L(ow) if not), there is no final lengthening

Intonational Model of Seoul Korean
(Reprinted from Jun 2011)
w: phonological word,   **s:** syllable

An utterance in Korean will always have an Intonational Phrase and an Accentual Phrase

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Accentual Phrases: Tunes for Word + Particles → All possible shapes for APs depicted below

H(igh)
Tense(ㄸ), Aspirate(ㅋ)

L(ow)
Lax(ㄱ)
Other(ㄴ/ㄹ/ㅇ)

2 Syllables

First Syllable — Last Syllable

3 Syllables

First Syllable — Second Syllable — Last Syllable

Second syllable, if H, pairs with the First syllable, and if L, with the Last

4+ Syllables

All syllables between second and penultimate stretch this part out

First Syllable — Second Syllable — Penult Syllable — Last Syllable

Pair   Pair

Intermediate Phrases: Mid-Sentence Reset

Manifests with pausing and/or raising the pitch back up at mid-sentence words that are either:
1) focused (highlighted), or 2) at a the edge of a syntactic phrase (like at a sentence connector)
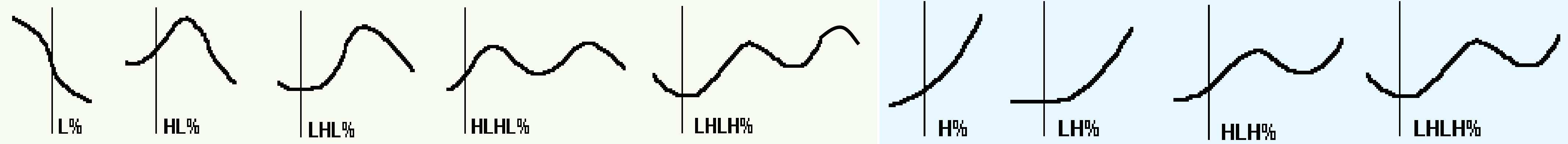
Intonation Phrases: The Boundary Tone

Usually the last syllable of a phrase, this will be longer and can have different patterning than the word tune

9+ Identified Boundary Tones
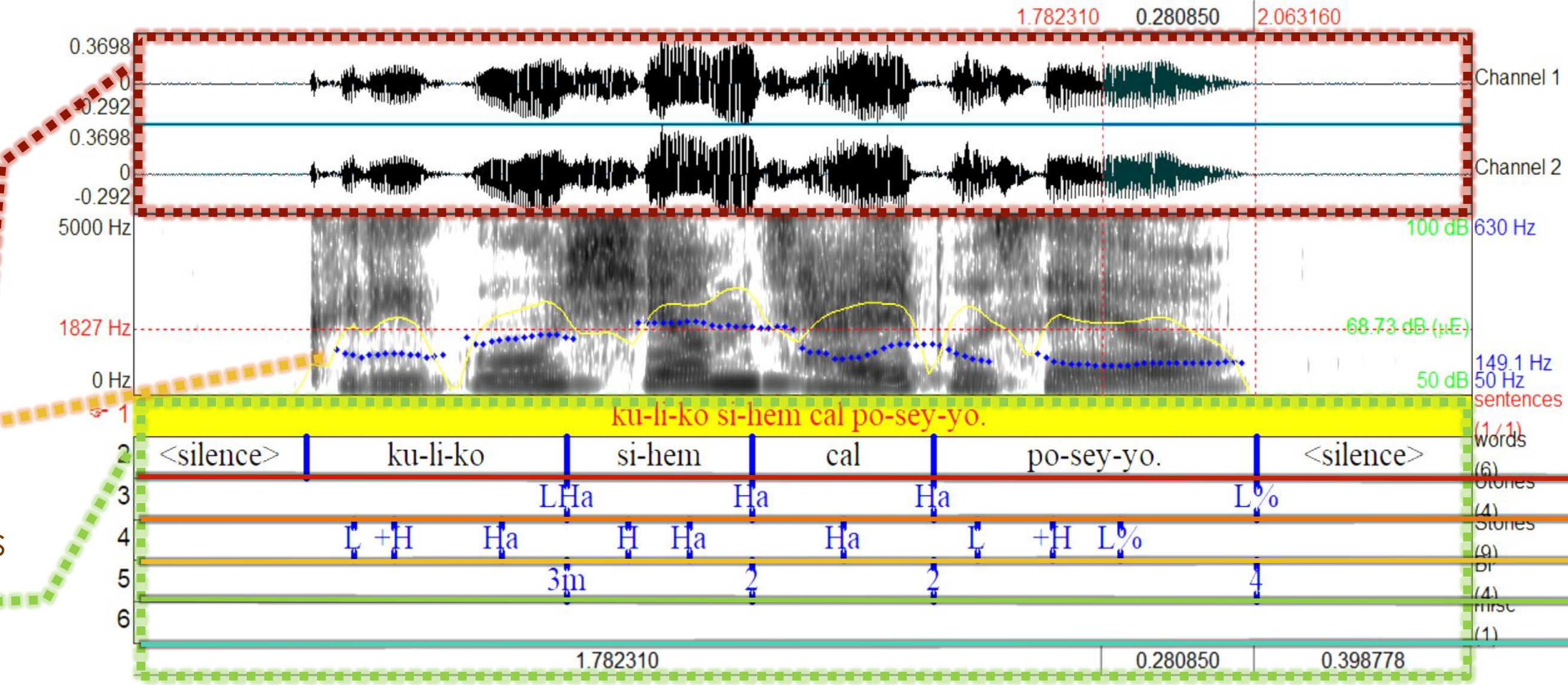(Reprinted from Jun, 2007)

Falling Tones

L%   HL%   LHL%   HLHL%   LHLH%

Rising Tones

H%   LH%   HLH%   LHLH%

A K-ToBI Transcription:

Consists Minimally of a:

1) **Recording** of the speech

2) Record of the **pitch track**

3) **Transcription** with proper symbolic labels for events on 5 parallel tiers

ku-li-ko si-hem cal po-sey-yo.

<silence> | ku-li-ko | si-hem | cal | po-sey-yo. | <silence>

5 Parallel Tiers:
1. A Word Tier
2. A Phonological Tone Tier
3. A Phonetic Tone Tier
4. A Break-index Tier
5. A Miscellaneous Tier

Original Articles:

Jun, S.-a. (2007). The Intermediate Phrase in Korean Intonation: Evidence from Sentence Processing. In C. Gussenhoven & T. Riad (Eds.) *Tones and Tunes: Studies in Word and Sentence Prosody*, (pp. 143-167). Mouton de Gruyter.

Jun, S.-a. (2011). Prosodic Markings of Complex NP Focus, Syntax, and the Pre-/Post-Focus String. In M. B. Washburn, K. McKinney-Bock, E. Varis, A. Sawyer, & Barbara Tomaszewicz (Eds.), Proceedings of the 28th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) (214-230). Cascadilla Proceedings Project. www.lingref.com, document #2454.