Evaluating Strict Domination: The Typological Consequences of Weighted Constraints

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We present algorithms for the automatic generation of non-harmonically bounded candidate forms in Harmonic Grammar (HG; Legendre et al 1990, et seq), and for computing the linguistic typology representable by a given constraint set in HG. This makes possible systematic comparisons of the typological predictions of Harmonic Grammar and Optimality Theory, which we illustrate with two case studies: the syllable structure theory of Prince and Smolensky (1993/2004), and Gordon's (2002) model of quantity-insensitive stress. In particular, we find that the constraint set of Gordon's model allows the predicted typology to explode from 152 languages in OT to 36,846 languages in HG.