Study questions on K&K Ch. 5
To be turned in Tuesday, Oct. 7

Notes/tips

p. 141: The italicized statement is similar, but not identical, to Prince & Smolensky's idea of Lexicon Optimization.

p. 146: The idea behind gap-filling is that a systematic gap in the phoneme inventory or the lexicon is probably part of speakers' implicit knowledge, and thus should be accounted for somehow by the grammar—whether by changing the analysis so that there really is no underlying gap, or with Morpheme Structure Rules (chapter 10).

Questions

1. K&K propose several "corpus-internal" considerations for choosing an analysis (that, it is hoped, will correspond to the grammar in speakers' minds): unique URs where possible, URs identical to surface forms unless evidence to the contrary, phonological solutions instead of lexical or morphological where possible, rule plausibility/naturalness, symmetry and economy of phoneme inventories or UR phonotactics, multiple motivation of a rule. Take two or three of these criteria and discuss how your Malagasy analysis fared.

2. K&K also discuss various types of corpus-external evidence. If you had access to Malagasy speakers, what are one or more things you would try asking or observing to get external evidence bearing on your analysis? Be sure to explain how that thing would be helpful.