

# **The Syntactic Manifestation of the Nuclear Stress Rule in Cantonese**

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This study investigates the manifestation of the Nuclear Stress Rule (NSR) in the Dislocation Focus Construction (DFC) as a constraint on focus movement in Cantonese. Despite the general lack of nuclear stress in Cantonese, the DFC displays properties that strongly pattern with the NSR in focus set computation and metrical invisibility. I propose that the Cantonese DFC and the English NSR can be unified by positing the Abstract NSR (ANSR), which refers only to syntactic structure in the computation of the focus set. The significance of the DFC is that the ANSR can be applied without feeding the NS assignment rule. It supports the view that the ANSR is syntax-based. Furthermore, on the basis of interaction with ellipsis, the ANSR is argued to be a rule in the post-Spell-Out PF component.