

## **Prosodic and information-structural constraints in mixed word orders**

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Mixed word order present a problem for directionality based accounts of basic word orders. Mixed word orders occur next to modern Yiddish in the older stages of the Germanic languages, that is in OE, ON and OHG. Traditional accounts of word order in these languages (cf. Behaghel 1932) posit a stylistic type of rule: light elements precede the verb, while heavy elements follow the verb, raising the question whether light and heavy are to be determined prosodically or information-structurally.

I will present a study of word order properties of the OHG-Tatian translation showing that word order in older German was determined predominantly by information-structural requirements. I will then develop a phase-based model in which unmarked word order is derived by two types interface constraints.