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### The phonological status of initial peaks in European Portuguese\*

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**Abstract:** This paper investigates the phonology of initial peaks in European Portuguese intonation. Evidence is presented for two types of peaks: an accentual peak, that is consistently aligned relative to the first stressed syllable; and a phrasal peak, that is aligned relative to the left-edge of the intonational phrase and within the limits of the first prosodic word. The former is best represented as an H\* accent, whereas the latter is a phrasal H tone with a peripheral association to the left-edge of the I-phrase and a secondary association with the first ù. This secondary attachment precludes the phrasal H and a pitch accent from co-occurring at the left periphery of the contour. By offering a new account of initial peaks, the present study contributes to a better understanding of the options available at the left periphery of the Portuguese intonational system.

**Genre/form:** Article

**Keywords:** peaks ; pitch accent ; phrasal tone ; alignment ; association.

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