

# MIMS現象数理カフェセミナー

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## Bayesian phylogenetic analysis on the spatial variation of Japanese lexical accents.

Takuya Takahashi (Meiji University, MIMS)

**Abstract** : The Japanese language is characterized by the presence of pitch accents which distinguish words and phrases by the voice pitch assigned to each mora. The lexical accent of Japanese, however, is extremely diverse, and a variety of accent systems are observed in different dialect regions. This study aims to infer the phylogenetic relationship among various pitch accent systems over the mainland of Japan, taking into account both the transition of accent patterns and the geographic diffusion of dialects. In accordance with traditional studies of comparative dialectology, I perform a Bayesian phylogenetic analysis based on the accent patterns for word classes, proposed by Haruhiko Kindaichi. The method quantifies the posterior distribution of the phylogenetic tree by modelling the geographic contact patterns and the integration of word classes on the tree branches.



問い合わせ: 白石 允梓

Email: [m\\_shiraishi@meiji.ac.jp](mailto:m_shiraishi@meiji.ac.jp)

