

## Oversaturation and Difference in Degree

*Characterizing Norwegian and Swedish High Vowels*

### ABSTRACT

In particle phonology, the information which describes any given vowel system should be able to be encoded by the traits of the particles; furthermore, any given tier on which the particles appear will be used to focus on a different aspect of the particles' traits, so some of the description of the vowel system can be attributed to the qualities of the tiers as well; however, when a vowel system under analysis introduces a characteristic which is *not already fully represented* by the standard system, there exists the potential to encode the standard particles with too much information, wreaking various types of havoc with the analysis. This analysis examines some of the environments in which such oversaturation occurs, primarily the characterization of the Norwegian and Swedish high vowels, and proposes a way to alleviate the oversaturation problem.

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First Research Paper

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February 24, 1989