Introduction to Linguistic Theory:
Assignment 3

This assignment is based upon the material presented in class during the fourth week. It will be due on Monday, February 25th.

(1) Exercise 1 (80 Points)

For each of the following words, please (i) transcribe the word into IPA, then (ii) show how our syllabification algorithm would syllabify the word.

a. mermaid
b. suspicious
c. benders
d. constitution
e. fixated
f. intermittent
g. strengthening
h. uniformity

Note: You do not have to show the individual steps in the syllabification process, only the final output of the rule.

(2) Exercise 2 (20 Points)

According to most speakers of English, the word “exponential” is syllabified as follows: [ɛk . spow . nen . tʃəl]

a. Question 1 (10 Points)
   Why don’t we syllabify this word in the following way? What general fact about English prevents us from pronouncing it this way?
   [e . kspow . ne . ntʃəl]

b. Question 2 (10 Points)
   Why don’t we syllabify this word in the following way? What general fact about English prevents us from pronouncing it this way?
   [eks . pown . entʃ . əl]