Separating Word-Level and Intonational Prominence: 
The Accentual Properties of Negation in Bulgarian

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It is standardly assumed in the autosegmental-metrical approach to intonation that word-level prominence (stress) and intonational prominence (pitch accents) are independent and that stressed syllables attract pitch accents. The empirical aim of this paper is to show that word-level and intonational prominence do not, in fact, have to be aligned to each other. In particular, it focuses on the marker of sentential negation in Bulgarian, which introduces a pitch accent that gets associated with a pronominal clitic that does not behave like a stressed syllable itself. The results of two production studies are presented in support of this claim. The theoretical aim of the paper is to explain the surface position of the pitch accent introduced by negation in Bulgarian in terms of competing constraints on prominence alignment and considerations of locality. Traditional approaches to the phenomenon view the contribution of negation as word-level stress. The present analysis builds on this work but crucially differs from it in that, based on the novel empirical findings, it treats negation as the lexical sponsor of a pitch accent.