

If we look at this line from Robert Burns
once more, and darken the stressed syllables,
it looks like this:

*My **Ma** ry's a **sleep**
by thy **mur** **mur** ing **stream***

Robert Burns put two unstressed
syllables between each of the stressed syllables.

Why would he do that
in a description of a stream?

Do you think a stream has a perfectly regular beat?