Hierarchical alignment
Is there such a thing as hierarchical alignment?

- Haude & Keller; Guildea: YES, defined as \{\text{ARG}_{\text{highest}}\} or \{\text{ARG}_{\text{lowest}}\}
  (cf. Bickel 2010:408 [Handbook of Typology])

- Witzlack-Makarevich et al.: NO, side-effects of a much larger phenomenon:
  sensitivity to co-argument properties (reference) and voice (direct/inverse)
  (also cf. Siewierska and van Lier on ditransitives)

The nature of hierarchies
Are hierarchies ...

- parts of grammars, as per most statements in descriptive grammars and in,
  say, OT modeling?

- functional principles operating over time (Diedrichsen and much earlier func-
  tionalist literature)?

- nothing but low-level analogy effects (e.g. treating some third persons like
  SAP because they are ontologically similar), as in usage-based theories?
  - cf. Cysouw cell extensions in complex paradigms giving rise to “inverse”
    systems

The nature of hierarchies, cont’d

- Arkadiev: gender-based splits doesn’t easily fit into hierarchies (e.g. Jingulu).
  Cf. Diedrichsen’s exceptions in German →
  - what if there are more language-specific splits of this kind?
  - still assume a universal hierarchy?
The nature of hierarchies, cont’d

- Fauconnier: binary feature oppositions (±animate for A and O, ±focal for A, ±definite for O), instead of one single universal hierarchy

Multifactorial vs. simple effects

- Brown & Fedden on AGR: Teiwa (animacy) vs. Kamang and Abui (also volitionality and specificity)
- Zúñiga on CASE (and AGR): Zumaia Basque (±human) vs. Spanish (also specificity and topicality)

→ any systematic differences between CASE and AGR?

Lexical factors

- lexical factors intervening (Brown and Fedden on Teiwa)
  - cf. Siewierska & van Lier: many lexical effects on ref. effects and alignment in ditransitives
  - But lexical classes and verb meanings may be an important source for the development of differential P treatment (though perhaps not differential A treatment)
  - cf. Fauconnier: hierarchies for A ≠ hierarchies for O

Slots

- Can there be hierarchical competition without slot constraints?
  - Guillaume, Jansen, Schackow, Siewierska & van Lier: effect connected to slot constraint
  - Witzlack-Makarevich et al.: all rankings computed per agreement slot
  - Relation to other positional constraints?

Another question about slots: segmental identity of A and P (≠ segmental identity of A and G) but positional difference (Zúñiga)