Syntactic typology: Basic constituent order

(1)   IHL, Ch 12, pp 229-230 claims that SVO is the most common word order, while the second most common is SOV.

- Go to the *World Atlas of Language Structures Online (WALS)*: <`http://wals.info/`>.
- Click on `Chapters` on the top menu bar.
- Scroll down until you find the section headed "Word Order."
- Can you find any chapters or feature maps in this section that support or oppose the claim about word order from IHL? (It should not take you much time to figure out how to answer this question; don't overthink it.)

(2)   Use your knowledge of syntax from LING 101 to draw X-bar trees for the following sentences.

(a)   Grover ate a cookie.

(b)   Maria bought a postcard from the bookstore.

(c)   My cousin has visited Italy.

(3)   Is English SVO or SOV? What about English makes it that way? (Think about how you approached question (2).)

(4)   A more advanced question, but LING 101 syntax plus the new reading should be enough background—give it a try.

(a)   Does our X-bar model of syntactic structure make any predictions about the relationship between:

- whether the basic constituent order is SVO or SOV, and
- the relative order of a P (which stands for *preposition* or *postposition*, depending on the language; another general term for this type of word is *adposition*) and its object NP?

(b)   Can you test this prediction using another chapter or feature map from *WALS* (as in (1))?