

• Relative clauses with subject gaps (**SRC**s) are generally easier to process than relative clauses with object gaps (**ORC**s) [1], [2].

(1) the writer [_{RC} who _____ inspired the painter]

(2) the writer [_{RC} whom the painter inspired ___]

- SRC ORC
- What explains the Subject Gap Advantage (**SGA**)?
- Syntactic Structure: Universally, subject gaps are highest in the phrase structure and therefore most accessible [3].
- *Linear Distance:* Shorter filler–gap dependencies are better [1].
- **Case Cues:** Gaps associated with informative morphology (ACC/ERG) slow parsing by triggering projection of structure to license it, or by eliminating incompatible continuations [4].
- Typological confound: SGA evidence comes mostly from **Nom-Acc** languages with **N<RC** word order.

	Nom-Acc		Erg-A		
	N≺RC	RC≺N	N≺RC		
Structure	SGA	SGA	SC A		
Distance		OGA	JGA		
e Cues		SGA	OGA		
Previous Findings	English: √SGA [5]	Korean: √SGA [2] Chinese: ? OGA [6], √SGA [7]	Mayan: √SGA [8]	? S	

Key properties of Georgian

• Split Ergativity: Three different case alignments depending on tense, aspect, and mood (TAM) [10].

	SUBJ _{TR}	SUBJ _{INTR}	OBJ _{TR}		Ali
FUTure	NOM		DAT		N
PAST	ERG	NOM			E
PERFect	DAT	NOM			D

• Many relative clause types

- N < RC or RC < N (prenominal 'RCs' are really correlatives): (4a), (4b)
- WhP relative pronoun at left edge, no complementizer/C⁰: (3)
- No relative pronoun, non-initial complementizer: (4)

Subject gaps are still easiest: Relative clause processing and Georgian split ergativity Steven Foley & Matt Wagers 📽 Department of Linguistics, University of California Santa Cruz

