Examine the ranking diagrams in (17) on p. 343 of the Baković (2007) reading and the surrounding discussion. Here there are 5 constraints, which makes for 5! = 5×4×3×2×1 = 120 possible total rankings. Only three partial rankings are shown in (17), however, and it is claimed that those three rankings “exhaust the typological possibilities afforded by just these constraints”, assuming that we have restricted ourselves to the typological space in which both:

(i) “AGREE(place) ≫ IDENT(place) (i.e., that there is assimilation)” and
(ii) “NoNASFRIC ≫ IDENT(cont) (i.e. that nasal fricatives are not constrastive)”.

In your reading response, you should address the following questions. (Please don’t write individual, stand-alone answers to each question — address the questions together in something more like a coherent essay.)

(A) How many possible total rankings are there given the restrictions in (i) and (ii)?
(B) How many total rankings are consistent with each of the three partial rankings in (17)?
(C) There should be a predictable relationship between the answer to (A) and the answer to (B). What is that relationship?
(D) Are your answers to (A) and (B) actually related in the way that you would predict in (C)? If not, why do you think not?

You are not required to do so, but you may find it useful to create an Excel spreadsheet with the tableaux discussed in the section leading up to (17), and to use either OTWorkplace (if you have it running) or OT-Help (find the link to it on the course website) to investigate this typology.

Update: I haven’t tried it yet, but there is also web-based OT software that you can try without installing anything. It’s called OTOrder, and it’s available at http://rc-linguistics.stanford.edu. (This is now also linked from the course website, as is Arto Anttila’s T-Order software mentioned in class — OTOrder appears to be a further development of Anttila’s T-Order.)