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APPENDIX 1: SORTING DATA: MEASURES AND NOTATION

(Based on Arabie and Boorman 1973, Table IV)

I: Partition Definitions and Notation

Definitions:

S = $\{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n\}$ is a set S of n elements or objects
P = $\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m\}$, where the c_i are the cells/categories of P
Q = $\{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_p\}$, where the d_j are the cells of Q

Size of sets:

The cardinality (i.e. the number of elements) in a set A is denoted: $|A|$

$n = |S|$ (size of a set S of n objects)
 $m = |P|$ (number of categories in P)
 $p = |Q|$ (number of categories in Q)
 $|P \& Q| =$ size of P&Q (number of non-empty cells in the intersection matrix z_{ij})

Partition: Given m subsets/categories/cells¹ of a set P of objects: c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m this constitutes a partition of set P if and only if:

- The union of the subsets is the set P ($\bigcup_i c_i = P$)
- For every i and j, their intersection² is the empty set ($c_i \cap c_j = \emptyset$).

That is, the subsets c_i are a partition of P only if each element of P is in one and only one subset.

Intersection of two partitions P and Q: ($P \& Q = \{z_{ij}\}$)

Two elements a, b are in the same cell of Z (P&Q) if and only if they are in the same cell of P and also in the same cell of Q.

e.g. if $P = \{(ab) (cd)\}$, and $Q = \{(abc) d\}$, then P&Q is $\{(ab) (c) (d)\}$

¹ The terminology is varied. Normally "cell" is reserved for use when referring to the divisions (exclusive subsets or "parts") constituting the formal structure of the partition, and "subgroup" or "category" for the corresponding empirical sorting structure .

² In this text, the symbol **&** ("and") is normally used in preference to the symbol \cap to denote intersection

Fine-ness A partition P is finer than a partition Q

if and only if each cell $c \in P$ is contained in some cell $d \in Q$

(equivalently, the fineness of a partition is the least upper bound of distances between c and d)

II: **Supervaluations on the Partition Lattice** (Arabie)

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(P) &= \sum_i (^nC_2) \text{ where } n = |c_i| \text{ (the number of elements in category } i) \\
 M(P) &= \sum_i \log_2 (|c_i|!) \\
 E(P) &= - \sum_i [|c_i|/n] \log_2 [|c_i|/n] \\
 V(P) &= \log_2 n - E(P)
 \end{aligned}$$

Corresponding Arabie Measures

1. PAIRBONDS $D(P) + D(Q) - 2D(P \& Q)$
2. INFOTWO $V(P) + V(Q) - 2V(P \& Q)$
3. MULTINOM $M(P) + M(Q) - 2M(P \& Q)$
4. INFOTHRY $INFOTWO / E(P \& Q)$
5. 1 - NT/SQP $1 - [D(P \& Q)] / [D(P)D(Q)]^{1/2}$
6. 1-NT1+2 $PAIRBONDS / [D(P) + D(Q)]$
7. APPROX $|P \& Q| - \min(|P|, |Q|)$
8. 1-LAMBDA $[(2n - \sum_i |z_{i\cdot}| - \sum_j |z_{\cdot j}|)/2n - |c|_{\max} - |d|_{\max}]$
9. T12MINUS $2|P \& Q| - |P| - |Q|$
10. CHISQUAR $1 - [X^2(P, Q) / (n \min(|P| - 1, |Q| - 1))]$
11. INVRHEIT $[PAIRBONDS / ((^nC_2) - D(P \& Q))]$
12. NVRNTROP $[INFOTWO / (2 \log_2 n - E(P) - E(Q))]$

III: Number of partitions of a set:

The total number of partitions of a set of p objects can be calculated using the recursive relation:

$$J_{p,r} = rJ_{p-1,r} + J_{n-1,r-1},$$

where $J_{p,r}$ = the number of ways of partitioning a set of p objects into exactly r non-empty sets. Then,

$$J_p = \sum_{r=1}^n J_{n,r}.$$

Note:

$$J_{1,r} = 0 \text{ if } r \neq 1, 1 \text{ if } r = 1$$

(See Rubin 1967, p133)

APPENDIX 2: REQUIREMENTS OF A MEASURE

(a) Requirements of a metric measure:

The axioms of a measure are:

_____ (i) Non-negativity and Equivalence

$$d(A,B) \geq 0, \text{ and } d(A,B)=0 \text{ if and only if } A=B$$

(ii) Symmetry

$$d(A,B) = d(B,A)$$

And for a metric measure: For all triples of distinct points (A,B,C):

(iii) Triangle Inequality

$$d(A,C) \leq d(A,B) + d(B,C).$$

n.b. If $d(A,C) = d(A,B) + d(B,C)$, then B lies along a line between A and C

If $d(A,C) < d(A,B) + d(B,C)$ then (ABC) form a triangle, with B off the line.

These axioms specifically exclude the possibility that:

$$d(A,C) > d(A,B) + d(B,C)$$

(b) Requirements of an ultrametric measure:

The first two axioms of an ultrametric measure are identical to a metric measure:

_____ (i) Non-negativity and Equivalence

$$d(A,B) \geq 0, \text{ and } d(A,B)=0 \text{ if and only if } A=B$$

(ii) Symmetry

$$d(A,B) = d(B,A).$$

The crucial difference lies in its requirement for all triples of distinct points (A,B,C) :

(iii) Ultrametric Inequality

$$d(A,C) \leq \max \{d(A,B), d(B,C)\}.$$

c) Requirements for an additive tree (Buneman's 4-point condition)

An additive tree satisfies the axioms of a metric and an ultrametric. In addition it satisfies the four-point condition (Buneman 1972)

Given a set of four distinct points A,B,C,D and their six interpoint distances, the necessary and sufficient condition that d is an additive tree metric is that for all A,B,C,D in the set of points

(iv) Four-point condition

$$D(A,B) + D(C,D) \leq \max \{ D(A,C) + D(B,D), D(B,C) + D(A,D) \}$$

(Buneman also proves (p392) that if C=D, the four-point condition reduces to the triangle inequality, and that an ultrametric satisfies the four-point condition).

APPENDIX 3: FOUR TYPES OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT AMONG OBJECT PAIRS BETWEEN PARTITIONS³

The Intersection matrix between two partitions can be augmented to produce a bivariate contingency table, N , whose entries $n(i,j)$ are the number of objects in category i of partition S and category j of partition T , but which also appends the row and column sums⁴ from which the height of each partition can be calculated:

Category	t_1	t_2	...	t_c	Sums
S_1	n_{11}	n_{12}	...	n_{1c}	$n_{1.}$
S_2	n_{21}	n_{22}	...	n_{2c}	$n_{2.}$
.
.
.
S_R	n_{R1}	n_{R2}	...	n_{Rc}	$n_{R.}$
Sums	$n_{.1}$	$n_{.2}$...	$n_{.c}$	$n_{..} = n$

³This appendix and notation is based on Hubert and Arabie 1985, Tables 1 and 2. The dot-notation signifies summation over the relevant subscript.

Type	Formula	Description
I	$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C n_{ij} (n_{ij} - 1)$	(Pairs in same class)
II	$\frac{1}{2} (n^2 + \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C n_{ij}^2 - (\sum_{i=1}^R n_{i.}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^C n_{.j}^2))$	(Pairs in different classes)
III	$\frac{1}{2} (\sum_{j=1}^C n_{.j}^2 - \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C n_{ij}^2)$	(Pairs in different classes in S and in same class in T)
IV	$\frac{1}{2} (\sum_{i=1}^R n_{i.}^2 - \sum_{i=1}^R \sum_{j=1}^C n_{ij}^2)$	(Pairs in same class in S and in different classes in T)

$$(I) + (II) = A \text{ (Agreement)}$$

$$(III) + (IV) = D \text{ (Disagreement)}$$

n.b. Rand Index: $Rand = A / \binom{n}{2}$

(see Hubert and Arabie 1985 for discussion of correction for chance and methods of normalising the Rand Index).

APPENDIX 4

Software for Sortings Data Collection and Analysis⁵

There are four characteristics which differentiate software relating to sorting data:

1. Data Collection and Input;
2. Calculation of measure/s of dis/similarity between objects and/or individual sortings;
3. Analysis of sorting data / measures, and
4. Cost and Availability factors.

1. Data Collection:

1. Data Generation: whether the program has the facility for the user to produce sortings (usually in a graphical manner, using “click and move” or “drag and drop” object icons to produce piles/categories)
2. Whether the program accepts as input (already produced) sortings, in either rectangular ($N \times p$) “preferred data format” (p18) or textual Anthropac format⁶.

2. Calculation of Measures

3. Measure/s of similarity between objects, especially the Burton measures (section

⁵Web URLs operative on 17 October 2006. Page/section references are to Coxon, A.P.M. (1999) *Sorting Data: Collection and Analysis*, Sage QASS 07-127) unless otherwise specified. See also Harloff and Coxon (2005) *How To Sort* in References below.

⁶PDF: each row consists of a subject’s sorting. Her groups are assumed to be numbered sequentially (but arbitrarily) and the number in the j th column is the group number in which object j is located.

ANTHROPAC: the objects are numbered sequentially, and each group of a subject’s data is entered as a set of space-separated object numbers terminated by a semi-colon.

3.3.1) based upon the frequency with which pairs of objects co-occur in the same group in subjects' sortings. (Section 3.3, pp 41-51). R-analysis of a p x p matrix).

4. Measure/s of similarity between sortings or subjects. These include the Arabie-Boorman Partition measures (section 3.3.2) and the Rand Index.

Analysis of Sorting Data

5. Clustering procedures (section 4.1.2.3), usually include Hierarchical Clustering, but less often include Partition Clustering, and Additive Clustering.
6. Scaling Procedures (section 4.1.2.1), include metric and non-metric MDS, but more direct relevant are Takane's specifically-designed MDSORT and IDSORT (section 4.2.3.1) and also Homogeneity Analysis.
7. Consensus analysis using quadratic assignment methods.

Cost and Availability Factors

8. Cost: Programs differ from fully commercial through educational low-cost to freeware.
9. Platform: MS-DOS and Windows are the main platforms for programs, and increasingly on-line Web (interactive) programs are being produced

A. GENERAL SORTING PACKAGES:

There is no single package for all aspects of the collection and analysis of sorting data. The nearest approximations to a general package for free-sorting data are provided by two programs: SORTPAC and ANTHROPAC.

- SORTPAC 3 (1999) (C++ in MS-DOS) (and MAC using GUI⁷)
 - Author: A.P.M. Coxon (Edinburgh University; apm.coxon@ed.ac.uk)
 - <http://www.methodofsorting.com>
 - provides for input of either row-sorting preferred data format ("PDF") or "Anthropac" format sortings
 - For each sorting, generates (1,0) co-occurrence matrix and aggregates into frequency matrix.
 - Generates any of the four Burton weighted inter-object similarity matrices
 - produces Syntax/Runscript files for direct analysis of inter-object similarity measures by non-metric MDS and HCS for SPSS and for NewMDSX (www.newmdsx.com). NewMDSX uniquely implements Takane's MDSORT.
 - Sub-program DISSIM implements several Arabie-Boorman inter-sorting/subject dissimilarity measures, including Intersection matrices between pairs of sortings.
 - Educational low-cost (\$75; student \$30)
- ANTHROPAC 4.98 (1996) (MS-DOS)
 - Author: S.P. Borgatti (Boston College; borgatts@bc.edu)
 - <http://www.analytictech.com/anthropac/apacdesc.htm>
 - consists of programs for the collection and analysis of several types of systematic data.
 - Includes a number of programs for analysis of free-sorting data, and it (uniquely) contains Consensus Analysis using quadratic assignment.

A.1 Windows-based Programs:

⁷Available from Wolfgang Otto, Zurich:(u_wotto@mac.com)

- CONCEPT SYSTEM (2006)⁸ Windows
 - Author: W.J. Trochim (Cornell University; wmt1ATcornell.edu
 - <http://www.conceptsystems.com/>
 - provides for computer capture of sorting data by “drag and drop” allocation of icons to piles
 - scaling and HCS analysis internal to the package.

A.2 Data Input and Checking

- GOMDS-20.EXE, Version 2.0 (TurboPascal in MS-DOS)
 - Author: J. M. Martz (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; JOHN_MARTZATUNC.EDU
 - http://www.ibiblio.org/pub/academic/data_analysis/gomd-20.ifa
 - A data-entry aid for free-sorting data, producing (1,0) similarity matrices as ASCII files for input into MDS programs. Consistency checks are also performed.
 - Freeware.

B: Web-based Sorting data-collection and analysis

Recently there has been an increase in software designed primarily for web-based Information-Architect and User-centred Design, using Card Sorting Software: In

⁸ See Kane, M., & Trochim, W. (2006). Concept mapping for planning and evaluation. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

particular:

- EZSort, EZCalc: Most popular Card Sorting Software .exe files, emanating from IBM, but no longer supported; (but see WebSort below)
- CardSort (<http://www.cardsort.net/index.php>) Free and Fixed sorting data collection for up to 100 objects; output compatible with subsequent EZCalc analysis. Freeware
- CardZort (<http://www.cardzort.com/cardzort/index.htm>) Sorting data collection and group-naming, combined with CardCluster (average-link HCS) for analysis. Commercial: \$50 individual academic user, \$150 Professional)
- WebSort (<http://websort.net>) web-based Card Sorting company that enables researchers to perform remote card sort studies. Includes creation of a study, sending to participants, and analysis of the results. Subscription service: 1-study \$99; 3-month \$499. Free limited demonstration service. N.b. WebSort hosts the free download for IBM®'s EZ-Calc.
- Xsort (<http://www.ipragma.com/xsort>). The main MAC platform card-sorting program. Integrated collection and analysis. Free and fixed sorting. Free demonstration copy. Single-copy: \$29.
- uzCardSort (<http://ozilla.mozdev.org/cardsort.html>) An open source, MPL licensed, Mozilla based tool for conducting and analyzing card sorts. It runs on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux versions of Mozilla and in other Gecko runtimes supporting XPIInstall. Features include: Drag and drop sorting; fixed and free sorting, with naming. Produces similarity matrix and Non-hierarchical cluster analysis . Freeware.
- WebCAT (<http://zing.ncsl.nist.gov/WebTools/WebCAT/>) Designed primarily for

those testing an existing/proposed category system, but usable more widely.

Considerable user-control of form and content of data collection and analysis.

(Free; in public domain).

- Socratic CardSort (<http://www.sotech.com/main/eval.asp?pID=123>) Online graphical (drag and drop) card sorting. Commercial software

C: GENERAL ANALYSIS PACKAGES

Once sortings data are in the form of a matrix of dis/similarities between objects and/or subjects, general analysis packages can be used to produce a scaling, clustering or tree representation. Most such programs and packages (SPSS, SAS etc) provide at least for standard non-metric multidimensional scaling and hierarchical clustering, and other special purpose programs (mostly emanating from the Bell Laboratories group) are available both as packages and/or as down-loadable programs from the Web.

A: SPSS <http://www.spss.com>

Currently version 15. "Categories" sub-module contains a number of sorting-relevant programs, such as Homogeneity Analysis, and excellent general-purpose MDS program (PROXSCAL), much preferable to older ALSCAL.

B: NEWMDSX for Windows <http://www.newmdsx.com>

Currently version 4. Contains 20 MDS scaling, cluster and related programs, including Takane's MDSORT, Partition-search clustering and Procrustes Individual Differences Scaling.

C: HUDAP (Hebrew University Data Analysis Package)

http://www.europhd.net/html/_onda02/07/PDF/HUDAP%20Manual.pdf

Batch and Interactive implementation of a number of scaling programs in the Guttman

tradition, several of which are applicable to Sorting Data.

D: NETLIB <http://www.netlib.org>

Mostly Fortran programs under MS-DOS, including MDS source programs and several additive tree programs . Documentation. Information and download (FTP) from:

E: MASSORT

Implements the New Zealand tradition of augmenting a fixed sorting by one which asks subjects to agglomerate and to divide the final sorting. Runs under MS-DOS.

Documentation. Obtainable (and further information) through email:

J.Kirkland@massey.ac.nz

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Harloff, J. & Coxon, A. P. M. (2005). How to Sort. A Short Guide on Sorting Investigations / Eine kurze Anleitung für Sortier-Untersuchungen. Version 1.0. - GNU Free Documentation Licence, available on <http://www.methodofsorting.com> .

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