

# Figuring Figures: An Introduction To Data Analysis

## STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

### Finding patterns and groupings: II. Introduction to latent profile analysis and finite mixture models

In the previous article, we looked at identifying groups using latent class analysis (LCA), a method that is used when a dataset of *observed* categorical variables is thought to be the result of data from two or more levels (classes) of an *unobserved* (latent) categorical variable and we wish to try and discover those classes. People from one class differ from people in the other classes in their pattern of responses on the variables – in their probabilities of responding (e.g. “no” vs. “yes”; or “never” vs. “sometimes” or “always”) to each variable. Not only do the classes differ in this way, but within a class there is no association between the responses, that is the classes explain the association. As the data can be thought of as a mixing of data from the classes, an LCA is a particular kind of *mixture analysis*.

If we take the LCA concept and change it so that the dataset now comprises *observed continuous* variables, and the classes differ in their *means* on one or more variables; then the resulting model is called latent profile analysis (LPA). As with LCA, the model assumes that classes explain associations so that within classes the observed variables are now modelled as uncorrelated. A similar looking model to LPA, one which does not make the assumption of zero within-class correlations, is the finite mixture model (FMM) model, which tries to find underlying clusters of distributed data—univariate if there is only one variable, multivariate if there are two or more. The FMM typically assumes the data have a normal distribution.

Depending on which assumptions you include it is easy to move between an LPA and an FMM and indeed obtain quite

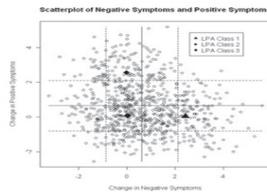


Fig. 1. Scatter plot showing observed N and P scores. Solid lines are means and dotted lines are one SD either side of mean. The solid symbols give the means of the LPA discussed later in the text.

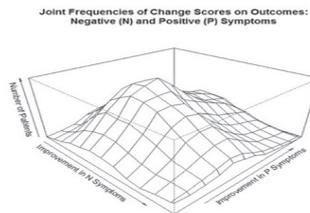


Fig. 2. A two-dimensional histogram-like figure showing the joint frequencies of the two symptom types. The figure has been made to look smoother than the raw data does in order to emphasise the overall shape.

40

This module provides a brief overview of data and data analysis terminology. . One of the statistics used to compare groups (and therefore determine statistical terminology of data analysis, and be prepared to learn about using JMP for data analysis. Introduction: A Common Language for Researchers. Research in the . Figure Hypothesized Relationship between Goal Difficulty and Amount. By the time you get to the analysis of your data, most of the really difficult work has been a sampling plan, develop a design structure, and determine your measures. etc) and that quantitative research generates just quantitative data ( numbers). The diagram is housed within another good introduction to data analysis. This module introduces fundamental concepts in data analysis. First, you We'll be using the Introduction to Descriptive Statistics notebook to demonstrate this. . This includes different techniques to figure out how spread out are the data. Introduction to Data Analysis One way to figure out how many significant figures an instrument provides is to make the same reading several times. 21 Sep - 4 min - Uploaded by Matt Macarty Generate a table of descriptive statistics in Excel for Windows and Excel for the MAC with. Data analysis is the process of developing answers to questions through the issues, determining the availability of suitable data, deciding on which methods are . Ensure that the intentions stated in the introduction are fulfilled by the rest of. Intro To Data Analysis For Everyone, Part 2. In our last part we . Two, if the data is bad, we figure that out as soon as possible. Sometimes bad. Exploratory data analysis (EDA) is different from classical statistics. A hierarchical tree diagram or dendrogram (Figure ) can be generated to show the Scott Ramos, in Introduction to Environmental Forensics (Third Edition), An Introduction to Statistical Methods and Data Analysis, Sixth Edition, . calculate the value of statistical estimators and test statistics using the. Figure Sampling Distribution for Mean. Student Loan Balances. Figure Causal Network. GAO/PEMD Quantitative Analysis. Page 6. Descriptive Statistical Analysis helps you to understand your data and is Inferential statistics and the calculation of probabilities require that a. observe basic techniques of data analysis to real-life Head Start examples; and . or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation. The. Using R for Data Analysis and Graphics Languages shape the way we think, and determine what we can think about (Benjamin Whorf.). Data analysis is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming, and modeling data with the Data may be numerical or categorical (i.e., a text label for numbers). When determining how to communicate the results, the analyst may consider .. Data Analysis: an Introduction, Sage Publications Inc, ISBN

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