

Radical suggestions on improved graphical display of multidimensional categorical data

Shizuhiko Nishisato

University of Toronto, Canada

Abstract

In quantification theory of categorical data, it is almost an established procedure to show the configuration of multidimensional categorical data by symmetric scaling, often called a French plot. This talk identifies a number of theoretical problems associated with symmetric scaling, and offers a new look at the problem of graphical display. The proposed procedure is based on total information in data without distorting relations between data points, with implications for discarding the traditional notion of the principle of parsimony (the idea of projection) and overlaying the row space onto the column space. It is an easily understandable, common-sense procedure, the only obstacle being on how to convince researchers to discard a time-honored traditional widely-used current practice.