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The needs for analysing textual data are very large in many fields like sociology, psychology and even economy and forecasting. We present a stastistical method which permits to treat open-ended questions in surveys, depth interviews, meetings texts... This method has been developed at first on responses to open-ended questions in socio-economic surveys. In order to give a better understanding of the manner in which the data are treated, we will explain here this first application, then we will give other kinds of examples.

In socio-economic surveys, the sets of response-items are often very large, diversified and sometimes not completely known. When the response-items are multiple, one open-ended question can replace several closed-ended questions. But open-ended questions are specially helpful when the matter of the survey is new and when the questionnaire is long. The respondent may express his personal opinion and it seems that less fatigue appears than in the case of closed-ended questions.

The statistical programs presented here (S.P.A.D., 1982) are applied to answers computerized in their textual form without coding. The complete process involves three steps : usual lexical statistics, graphical visualization using correspondence analysis (BENZECRI (1969), method also named : dual scaling (NISHISATO, 1981), reciprocal averaging (HIIL, 1974)) and a selection of characteristic responses for each group of individuals.

I - SELECTING PRINTINGS AND LEXICAL STATISTICS.

A basic record is composed of the number of the respondent and his complete answer to a given open-ended question. For each question, the first treatment consists in regrouping the responses according to a relevant partition for the problem under study. For example, we can analyze the living conditions in relation with occupational groups. So the sets of responses of workers, employees, project engineers... are printed. Regrouping of responses can lead to the appearance of homogeneous discourses owing to the repetition of certain topics.

In fact, responses to open-ended questions are statistical elements which can be treated as "sparse vectors". Let us consider a matrix T with n rows (n=number of individuals) and p columns (p=number of different utilized words). Each response can be described by a row of 0, 1, 2, 3... according to the absence or the presence, one, two, three... times of the words in the response. In the example, with 15 occupational groups, the initial matrix T becomes a matrix C with 15 rows and p columns. The element C (i, j) represents the number of times, the word j appears in the group i. The problem is to recognize, compute and classify all the words used. Each line of text is read letter after letter, the words being delimited by separators like blanks, commas, periods... The procedure is fast because memory space is reserved beforehand according to the length of words, up to 16 letters in this program.

The histogram shows the distribution according to the number of letters of the words in a corpus of about 40 000 French words. For other languages, it could be necessary to change these parameters.

Number of	f	letters	Number	of	different	words
	1				30	
:	2				90	
	3				150	
	4				250	
:	5				350	
	6				420	
	7				450	
1	8				420	
•	9				350	
10	0				250	
11	l				150	
12	2				100	
13	3				60	
14	4				50	
15	5				40	
16	5				20	
			Total :	;	3 180	

Thus we obtain the matrix C wich is a contingency table that enables us to calculate the number of different words for all the individuals and for each group. We can compute simultaneously usual lexical statistics. Of course it is possible not to take into account the words used very few times (less than twice for example) and the words with only one or two letters. But we note that even the words like "because", "then"... are important because they often indicate argumentative replies (as opposed to short replies without argumentation).

II - FACTORIAL ANALYSIS.

In this step a correspondence analysis is performed on the contingency table C. The correspondence analysis is a data analysis technique, similar to principal component analysis.

An n x p contingency table K = $\begin{cases} k \\ ij \end{cases}$

specifies the counts of joint occurrences of two discrete variables. In a contingency table, the rows and the columns represent two partitions of the same population. In order that the distances between the row elements and the column elements could be interpreted, the percentage distributions within a row or a column (i.e profiles) are used. We note

 $k = \sum \sum k$ the total of the contingency table ij ij
f = k / k relative frequencies

ij ij

 $\begin{array}{l} f &= \sum f \\ i. & j & ij \\ f &= \sum f \end{array} \end{array} \right] marginal relative frequencies$.j î ij

In the space R of n elements, the coordinates of the element i are :

 $\left\{ \left(f / f \right) ; j=1, 2...p \right\}$ with the weight f i. i.

Because we deal with profiles in the spaces R? and Rⁿ (the formula are symetric), we use the CHI - Square distance. (GUTTMAN (1941), BENZECRI (1969)).

In R^{ρ} , the distance between i and i'is given by: $\begin{array}{c} 1n \ \text{ f} \ \text{ , the distance between 1 and 1 is given by,} \\ 2 \\ d \ (i, i') = \sum 1 / f \ (f / f - f / f) \\ j=1 \quad \text{ , j ij i. i'j i'.} \\ \text{ The solution of correspondence analysis is} \end{array}$

equivalent to a singular value decomposition problem and thus, is solved by extracting the eigen values of a positive semi-definite symetric matrix. Correspondence analysis can be generalized to process multi-way contingency tables : multiple correspondence analysis can also provide scaling of categories (of more than two questions) and individuals.

Thus, the graphical representation enables us to visualize the proximities between words, between groups and between words and groups. Nevertheless the proximities depend on the groups of responses, i. e., the choice of the initial partition. We shall give other possibilities of partition in § 4. We can also directly analyze the responses without before hand grouping (LEBART, 1982).

On the other hand, we work on words and the sentence around is not taken into account. In order to insert the words in their contexts, we introduce the concept of "modal responses".

III - MODAL OR CHARACTERISTIC RESPONSES

In analyzing the matrix C, we do not have the association between words within responses (or sentences). This notion exists in the matrix T which crosses the individuals (or responses) and the words used. But this matrix is very large and sparse and it is difficult to visualize directly all the responses of all individuals. We use an interesting property of Correspondence analysis : the procedure is performed on the aggregated matrix C and the elements of the complete matrix T are printed as "supplementary elements" on the graphics. This can be done because the matrices T and C have the same column elements.

Let us note x the abscissa of the

i response i on the axis \checkmark corresponding to the eigen value 💫.

eigen value A_{2} . The response i contains t = $\sum_{i,j} t$ (i, j) words i. j On this axis \varkappa , the abscissa of the word j is ψ_{j}^{j}

Then the usual formula is $x = (1 / \sqrt{\lambda_{y}}) \ge \begin{bmatrix} t & (i, j) & j \\ t & i \end{bmatrix} / t$

It is the transition relationship or reciprocal average relationship.

Response-points and group-points are in the same space (the space spanned by the words) and so we may interpret the proximities between groups and initial responses. As the complete visualization is impossible due to the large number of responses, we select for each group, the nearest response-points of the group. The distance between response and group is calculated as CHI-Square (χ^2) distance between the rows of the matrix the rows of the matrices C and T. The distance between the response i and the group k is given by :

Note that t.j = C.j represents the frequency of the word j. For each k, these distances are computed and arranged in order of magnitude. The responses corresponding to the smallest distances are printed. These modal responses are real responses using the largest number of characteristic words of the group.

Of course, other criteria can be used to select modal responses. For example, the most utilized words of each group can be used or the relative frequency of a word in a group of individuals can be compared to its relative frequency in the population.

IV - INSTRUMENTAL PARTITIONS

Because of its size, the initial matrix T has to be aggregated and we need to choose a partition of the individuals. One simple way is to consider a partition by means of a qualitative variable like occupational groups for example. If no partition has to be privilegied a priori, we perform a cluster analysis with the maximum of factual variables. The constraint is a minimum number of individuals in each group. The clusters are considered as an instrument, but not as a result in itself. However, the problem of groups do not exist in every application. In the analysis of textual data of meetings, the number of groups are actually small.

V - PRESENT RESEARCH

The research is now being conducted to compare the effects of different modes of communication upon the user's behaviour. The corpus concern in-person meetings, audio and video teleconferences. Now, most of the available corpus are real meetings (face to face audio and video) wich were recorded in companies. Five experiments were also conducted with teachers in the primary school.

For each meeting, there was at least one cine-camera in every room (for example, at least two for an audioconference). For each corpus, we have the complete transcription of the texts from one or two video-tapes.

At first, the statistical programs are applied to the textually transcripted data in order to compare the effects of different media on verbal communication. The automatic process enables us to treat a large number of corpus and in so doing a large number of tasks

(problem-solving, information-exchange). Thus it seems possible to cut out the effects due to the personality of individuals or to the peculiarity of tasks.

The usual lexical statistics are here the speakers'turns, the simultaneous speech events. the numbers of words of each turn, of each speaker. For the visualization through correspondence analysis, the groups can be the different media or the different speakers in order to know if they have specific influence upon the pattern of meetings.

We equally plan to search for a convenient coding in order to analyze non verbal part of the communication (gestures, body posturing, head-nods). In fact, the principle is the same when we consider the succession of codes as textual data. The best thing would be to analyze both the verbal and the non verbal communication in a parallel direction.

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A SHORT EXAMPLE

ANALYSTS OF MICRO-COMPUTER BRANDS

(advertisings in newspapers and magazines)

** TANDY TRS - 80 ** į. 13 PHONE ONE OF OUR CENTRES LISTO BELOW FOR A GENONSTRATION TEN PERSONAL CONFUTER ** 1 MOU TO LANGE A FORCAST 2 TO HELF LEATHER THE STOAM OF ECONOMIC VANIARLES 3 TO HELF LEATHER THE STOAM OF ECONOMIC VANIARLES 3 TOTAL CLASS REALLY AN EXCENTION CONSTRUCT 5 TOTAL CLASS REALLY AN EXCENTION CONSTRUCT 5 TOTAL CLASS FOR THE TO THE THE AND THE CONSTRUCT 5 TOTAL CLASS TO THE THE THE AND THE FORT AND AND THE A SALES FORECAST 5 SONT A REALD AND CHARGE AND CAREST AND ANT THE 1 AND TO TOU OF THE OUEST FOR THE FIGHT ANSWER TO WHAT THE 1 AND THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE THE AND FERTORAL COMPUTER DEALER 1 AND THE THE THE CONST THE FIGHT AND FERTORAL COMPUTER DEALER 1 AND THE THE THE CALLY OF TO THE FIGHT AND FERTORAL COMPUTER DEALER 1 AND THE THE THE CALLY THE OUEST THE AND FERTORAL COMPUTER DEALER 1 AND THE THE THE CALLY THE OUEST THE AND FERTORAL OF THIS TOOL ** 14 AU VAL LEARD, INTEL PURCHAIT FURGE AND CENTURATELY UNLEASE INTEL CONTINUES OF HOREM TIMES 14 Å TOOL CONTINUES LOOK ALIKE BUT 1 ALL SECKTOP HOREM TIMES 200 AN 1 ALL SECKTOP HOREM TIMES 2 A PROCESSOF AND USES AND FEESTION STREAM 2 A PROCESSOF AND USES NOTEES 2 A PROCESSOF AND USES NOTEES 2 AD THE ADARD TO THE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD TO THE ALIKE DOR THE STREAM 2 ADARD TO THE ALIKE DOR THE STREAM 2 ADARD TO THE ALIKE AND THE SAME 2 ADARD TO THE ALIKE AND THE SAME 2 ADARD TO THE ALIKE AND THE SAME 2 ADARD THE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE AND THE STREAM AND THE ALIKE AND THE 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM AND THE ALIKE AND THE 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM AND THE ALIKE AND THE 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM AND THE ALIKE AND THE 2 ADARD THE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE ALIKE AND THE STREAM AND THE ALIKE AND THE ALIKES ANTER 3 A ADTO AND THE ALIKE AND THE ALIKES ANTER AND THE ALIKES ANTER 3 AD THE ALIKE AND THE ALIKES ANTER AND THE ALIKES ANTER 3 A ADTO AND THE ALIKES ANTER ALIKES ANTER AND THE ALIKES ANTER 3 A ADTO AND THE ALIKES ANTER AND THE ALIKES ANTER ** CADO 33333333333 SORD M31. MARK AIT MAR AND AND PARADALANA AND MANY CATERIDARS AND MANY CA 18 VIETVIJE 19 A CHIZELOSE OF NICHOLLUFF. 4 COMPUTERLAND ** 5 SOMEDAT YOU LL OW A COMPUTER, 5 SOMEDAT HAT DE SOOMER THAR TORITIENT. 5 SOMEDAT HAT DE SOOMER THAR TORITIENT. 5 SOMEDAT HAT DE SOOMER THAR TORITIENT. 5 SOMEDAT HAT DE SOMER THAR TORITIENT. 5 SOMEDAT HAT DE SOMER THAR TORITIENT. 6 ARE AS BOUNCESS IST FER THAR THAR TORITIENT. 7 OUGAM HOR A COMPUTER THAR TORITIENT. 7 OUGAM HOR A COMPUTER THE VAR TOU LIFE AND HORK VISIT TODAY 9 COMPUTER LAND WE HAD MALL COMPUTER LET US INTRODUCE YOU 9 COMPUTER AND SOME A COMPUTER COMPUTER. 1 ONEONAL COMPUTER ** SINCLAIR ZX81 **

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1254567890122345678901223456789012345678901234567890123456789012245678901224567890122456789012345678901

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 Number of letters Number of different 0 0 48 86 87 55 67 45 43 23 12 7 7 words used

Total number of words	957
Number of different words	480
Number of different words analysed	71
(words of three letters or more and	
words used twice at least)	



The figure above shows the factorial plane corresponding to the two first axes. This display points out the association between words, between brands and between words and brands. Only the words with the most important contributions (scores) were printed.

The first axis (horizontal, 24 % of total variance) opposes two kinds of professional advertisings. On the lower left hand corner, the advertising insists on the fact that it is "your personal computer "and it can "grow to meet needs". On the lower right hand corner, your the advertising deals with the easiness and the rapidity of training and with the uses for "accounting word processing, data processing". The second axis (vertical, 21 % of total variance) opposes the professional use to the public at large use. In this case (upper part), the discourse is "to learn how computers could change the way you live". The underlined sentences are precisely part of modal responses. underlined

We note that two different lexical forms of a word can play different 'roles according to the context. It is the case for "computer" (your computer at work) and "computers" (the computers, generally speaking).

The example presented here to illustrate the program, is very short but this statistical program is of great use specially for large corpus.