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Osaka University

Abstract of Thesis

| | Name (Hironori Satomura) |
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| Title | New developments in statistical methods for sensory evaluation data with individual scaling differences taken into account (尺度化における回答傾向の個人差を考慮した官能評価データのための統計的方法の開発) |

Abstract of Thesis

Sensory evaluation plays various important roles in industry. For example, in the marketing and development of new products, it is important to know the sensory characteristics of (competing) products and to what extent these products are preferred by consumers, and to compare the new product's performance against the performances of these existing products. Even after a new product is launched, sensory evaluation plays a role in quality control and quality assurance by, for instance, verifying whether the quality of the manufactured product meets the specified standard or is within the tolerance range.

When conducting these evaluations, we often encounter a so-called "scaling difference" problem, the problem that different participants use the response scale in different ways — wider or narrower use, or different origins — and as a result, the collected data is affected by these individual differences. This problem of individual scaling differences is often a topic of concern in sensory field, and several statistical approaches of extracting information of interest from data with individual scaling differences have been studied. The (mixed) assessor model is one of the most comprehensive methods for this problem, in which the scaling difference and product effect are handled within single statistical model.

The usefulness of the assessor model has been demonstrated, both by numerical experiments conducted with artificial data and re-analysis of several real sensory data sets. However, we point out that there remain several practical situations that the existing methods cannot handle. For example, the assessor model assumes uni-dimensionality in the product effect; hence it cannot be used in investigating the preference direction or segments of affective evaluation data. Even when analyzing the analytical evaluation data, the model is designed for analytical evaluation with a sequential monadic design (in which only one product is presented at the same time); hence, it cannot handle data of a paired-comparison study (in which two products are presented). Besides the above limitations, there is room for improvement in extracting information from data through the assessor model; i.e., improvements in the parameter estimation procedure.

This study developed new statistical approaches for both affective and analytical sensory evaluation, specifically for traditional and commonly adopted data-collection methods. The statistical approaches proposed in the current study [1] extend the assessor model for another data-collection methods or incorporate new statistical concepts to enhance the interpretability of the results and thus meet practical requirements and [2] integrate the essence of the assessor modeling with other powerful methods.

To begin with, some important mathematical concepts and statistical models including the assessor model were reviewed in Chapter 2. At first, singular value decomposition and ten Berge's theorem were explained; then, maximum likelihood estimation, statistical property of maximum likelihood estimator, and EM algorithm was described. Afterwards, L1 penalized estimation methods and a powerful algorithm to solve L1 penalized problem was explained. Finally, the assessor models and their development were described.

Chapter 3 proposed a new statistical approach to address a practical aspect of analyzing preference data for two different categories, namely understanding how the consumers' preference for one product category is related to that for another product category. Sensory evaluation data are often affected by individual scaling differences, and the traditional canonical correlation analysis procedure is thus incapable of producing practically fruitful analysis results. To tackle this issue, the use of separate oblique bi-factor rotation was proposed, by reformulating canonical correlation analysis as maximizing the generalized coefficient of determination. The usefulness of the proposed approach was illustrated for a real-data example.

In chapter 4, a new method for simultaneous dimensionality reduction and clustering is proposed, taking the individual scale level difference into account. The method was derived by introducing a scale level variance parameter into Fixed Cluster Factor Analysis (FCFA) model. A simulation study confirmed that the proposed method outperformed FCFA in terms of the cluster structure and parameter recovery. A real-data example illustrated how the proposed method works in application.

In chapter 5, an extension of the assessor model for Scheffé-type paired comparison data was proposed. The usefulness of the proposed method was demonstrated in numerical experiments and real-data analysis, with the proposed model showing a greater ability to detect small product differences than the existing method (because the standard errors obtained for the proposed model well reflect the asymmetry of the MSE with respect to the size of the true product difference).

Chapter 6 proposed a new estimation procedure for the assessor model. The method was formulated as the maximization of a cluster-lasso penalized marginal likelihood, which was accomplished by an EM algorithm along with the ADMM. A numerical experiment was conducted to evaluate the performance of the proposed procedure with respect to the recovery of each parameter and the cluster structure. The results suggest that the proposed approach, as is usual in penalized estimation, provides stable estimates for small sample and/or data with large noise. A real-data example demonstrated that the proposed method outperformed the existing unpenalized method in terms of the interpretability of the analysis results.

Chapter 7 summarized the contributions of the proposed approaches and discussed the possibility of extending the concept of modeling individual scaling differences for novel sensory data collection methods, such as temporal methods, Check-All-That-Apply questionnaire, and the combined methodology of these two new methods. Since humans are used as a measurement instrument (in analytical evaluation) or their attitudes are investigated (in affective evaluation), the collected data are inevitably affected by individual differences. The necessity of modeling individual differences in the data analysis is unquestionable and such modeling needs to advance alongside the development of data-collection methods.

論文審査の結果の要旨及び担当者

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論文審査の結果の要旨

官能評価は、人間の感覚を用いて刺激(対象物)の特性を評価することや、人間の刺激への態度を測定することであり、心理学や感覚生理学の測定手法の一領域を占め、食品業界を中心とした産業界で広く応用されている。こうした官能評価から得られるデータを分析するための新たな統計解析法を考案し、論考することが、本論文の主題である。ここで、考案手法において特に考慮されることが、尺度個人差(individual scaling differences)である。この尺度個人差とは、どの程度広く(または狭く)尺度を使うか、および、尺度の原点をどこに置くかが、評価者の間で異なることを指し、こうした個人差がデータに混入することへの対処が、官能評価の領域で重要なテーマとなっている。

冗長さを抑えた上で118頁に及ぶ英文の本論文は7つの章からなり、1章(序論)では、産業界での官能評価の重要性や 尺度個人差の問題が手際よく概観され、本論文で解決する課題が提示される。2章(準備)では、手法を考案するための 基礎となる数学的事実や既存の官能評価の数理モデルが説明される。2章と最終7章(総合考察)の間を占める3~6章(考 案手法の論述)は、次のように二分される。3~4章で論じられる考案手法の対象データは、対象物を利用する一般の人 が評価者となる官能評価から収集され、5~6章の考案手法の対象データは、訓練された専門家の評価者による官能評 価から得られる。3~4章の概略と5~6章の概略を、次の2段落に記す。

3章では、まず、解の斜交回転が許容されるように正準相関分析法を再定式化できることを示す定理が、証明される. その上で、刺激の嗜好に関わる2種の変数群からなるデータの正準相関分析の解に斜交バイファクター回転を施して、原点に関する尺度個人差を表す正準因子と個人差に関係しない正準因子を得ることが提唱される.4章では、原点に関する尺度個人差を考慮しながら、個体の分類と同時に変数の背後にある共通因子を求める因子分析法が考案される.

5章では、対提示される刺激対の一対比較データを、各刺激の主効果の差×尺度の広範さ、刺激対の交互作用効果、および、刺激と評価者の交互作用効果の差の合計によってモデル化し、各効果と尺度の広範さを求めるための解法が考案される。ここで、尺度の広範さは、評価者がどの程度広く尺度を使っているかを表すパラメータである。6章では、単独提示される刺激の評価データを、刺激の主効果×尺度の広範さの関数として表すモデルに基づく目的関数に、ペナルティ関数を加えて、実質的な差のない刺激どうしの主効果の差は0となるように推定する方法(いわゆるスパース推定法)が考案される。この方法によって、主効果の差が0である刺激どうしは同種の刺激と見なせ、刺激の分類ができる。

最後の7章では、考案手法のベネフィットが要約された上で、官能評価データ収集法の近年の発展に伴って、尺度個人差をモデル化した統計解析法の意義も高まり続けることが展望される.

上述の各章の論述からは、いずれの考案手法も優れた洞察に育まれることが読みとられ、それらの解法(アルゴリズム)もエレガントに仕上がっている。また、反復解法を要する4~6章の考案手法の挙動は、特定の値(真値)に設定されたパラメータからモデルを通して生成される人工データを使ったシミュレーション(数値実験)によって評価され、人工データに対する考案手法の解がパラメータの真値を近似することが、該当章に報告される。そして、3~6章の考案手法の実データ(官能評価データ)への適用例と適用結果の考察は、手法の有用性を示すのに説得力の高いものとなっている。以上の点で、本論文で考案された統計解析の諸方法は、良好な挙動を示し、官能評価データに内在する有用な情報を分析者に提供できるものと評価される。さらに、考案手法は、官能評価に限定されず、人間を取り巻く外界の対象物の真の知覚特性や対象物への真の態度を推定するための一般的な数理的方法論と位置づけられる点で、広く人間科学の諸分野に浸透可能であり、人間科学の方法論の発展に寄与できるものと高く評価される。以上の論文審査の結果、本論文は博士(人間科学)の学位を授与するのにふさわしいものと判定した。