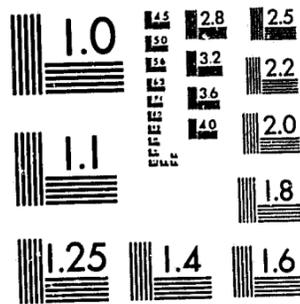


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Office of Justice Assistance, Research, and Statistics

CATEGORICAL GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This recordkeeping requirement falls under the authority of P.L. 96-511, Sec. 3507. The information provided will be used by grant monitors to track grant progress. No further monies or other benefits may be paid out under this program unless this report is completed and filed as required by existing laws and regulations (OMB Circulars A-102 and A-110; Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended; and the Justice System Improvement Act of 1979, as amended).

1. GRANTEE University of Pittsburgh		2. AGENCY GRANT NUMBER 81-IJ-CX-0059	3. REPORT NO. 5
4. IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE		5. REPORTING PERIOD (Dates) FROM: 6/30/82 TO: 9/30/82	
6. SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT Increasing the Statistical Power		7. GRANT AMOUNT \$32,899.00	8. TYPE OF REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST
9. NAME AND TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR Craig S. Edelbrock, Ph.D. Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry		10. SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR <i>Craig S. Edelbrock</i>	11. DATE OF REPORT 10/12/82
12. COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Continue on plain paper)			

Computer evaluations of inverse factor analysis, Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique, and centroid clustering were completed on 20 multivariate normal mixtures generated by Blashfield's 1976. Details regarding both within- and between-method compared comparisons are provided in the following final report. Overall, our research has documented a strong relationship between level of coverage and both accuracy of clustering solutions and the statistical power of cluster based classifications. For each of the three clustering procedures, 100% coverage resulted in less than optimal accuracy in recovering underlying populations from the computer generated mixtures. For all three methods, the accuracy of clustering solutions was substantially increased by leaving 15-25 percent of the subjects unclassified. Our results suggest that accuracy of clustering solutions can be maximized in the range of 55-85% coverage. For all methods we tested, increasing coverage above 85% had deleterious effects on clustering accuracy.

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tical power analyses further indicate that the level of coverage of ions is strongly related to the probability of detecting significant correlates membership. For the three methods we tested, 100% coverage produced less probabilities of detecting significant differences among clusters. Instead, power was maximized in the range of 55-85% coverage. Statistical power d at levels above 85% coverage and levels below 55% coverage. These results typologies having levels of coverage in the medium range will be optimally of external criteria.

sons among the three methods indicate that clustering procedures are not in terms of their accuracy in grouping objects from the computer generated or in terms of predictive power. Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering rformed exceptionally well in both respects and should be given serious n in future clustering efforts. Results on the inverse factoring procedures couraging, considering that this method has been widely criticized as a cedure. The centroid clustering procedure performed exceptionally well in uracy and statistical power. Overall, this method produced the highest levels and statistical power for the computer generated data sets we tested.

13. RECEIPT BY GRANTEE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL (Official signature)	14. DATE
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2.

Efforts to apply these clustering methods to real data regarding juvenile delinquency were not successful. Several clustering methods were applied to this data set, but we were unable to identify homogeneous subgroups of delinquent youth. This is not so much a failure of the clustering methods as an indication that this data set does not warrant cluster analyses. We are currently seeking alternative data sets upon which to further test these clustering methods.

Increasing the Statistical Power of Empirically Derived Taxonomies
in Criminal Justice Research

Final Report
Grant # 81-IJ-CX-0059

Submitted to: Office of Research and Evaluation Methods
National Institute of Justice
633 Indiana Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20531

Submitted by: Craig Edelbrock, Ph.D., Principal Investigator
University of Pittsburgh
3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 624-0446

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Classification in Criminal Justice	1
A. Importance of Classification	1
B. Inadequacy of Current Classification	1
C. Promise of Taxometric Methods	2
II. The Issue of Coverage	4
A. Role of Behavioral Taxonomies	4
B. Bootstrapping - An Example	4
C. Coverage and Statistical Power	5
D. The Continuum of Classifiability	7
III. Methods of Varying Coverage	9
A. Introduction	9
B. Centroid Analysis	10
1. Identification of profile types	11
2. Measure of similarity	11
3. Clustering algorithm	12
4. Classification of new subjects	13
5. Manipulating coverage	14
C. Lorr's Technique	14
1. Introduction	14
2. Clustering algorithm	14
3. Manipulating coverage	15
D. Inverse Factor Analysis	16
1. Introduction	16
2. Grouping procedure	17
3. Manipulating coverage	17
IV. Evaluation and Comparison of Methods	18
A. Goal of this Research	18
B. The mixture model	19
C. "Benchmark" data sets	20
D. Evaluative criteria	21
E. Evaluation strategy	22
V. Application of Methods	23
A. Delinquency data	23
VI. Within Method Comparisons	24
A. Inverted Factor Analysis	24
1. Procedure	24
2. Calculating Accuracy	26
3. Statistical Analyses - Accuracy	27
4. Effect Size and Statistical Power	28

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9 ACQUISITIONS

ii

B. Lorr's Technique	36
1. Procedure	36
2. Calculating Accuracy	38
3. Accuracy Results	38
4. Effect Size and Statistical Power	40
C. Centroid Clustering	42
1. Procedure	42
2. Calculating Accuracy	44
3. Accuracy Results	45
4. Effect Size and Statistical Power	47
D. Between Method Comparisons	47
1. Accuracy Comparisons	50
2. Statistical Power Comparisons	53
E. Summary and Conclusions	53

References	58
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Appendix A Blashfield's multivariate normal mixture #17

Appendix B FORTRAN listing for Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique

Supplement I Manuscript "Inverted factor analysis: An evaluation using benchmark data sets" Craig Edelbrock and Michael L. Reed.

INDEX OF TABLES

Table 1 - Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for Inverse Factoring Procedures	32
Table 2 - Effect Sizes for Inverse Factor Analysis (Varimax Rotation)	34
Table 3 - Statistical Power for Inverse Factor Analysis (Varimax)	37
Table 4 - Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Clustering Technique	39
Table 5 - Effect Size for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Procedure (Correlation)	41
Table 6 - Statistical Power for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Procedure (Correlation)	43
Table 7 - Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for the Centroid Clustering Procedure	46
Table 8 - Effect Sizes for Centroid Analysis (Intraclass Correlation)	48
Table 9 - Statistical Power for Centroid Analysis (Intraclass Correlation)	49
Table 10- Accuracy Results for Inverse Factor Analysis, Lorr's Technique and Centroid Clustering	51
Table 11- Statistical Power Comparison for Three Grouping Methods	54

INDEX OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.	29
Figure 2 - Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.	30
Figure 3 - Relations between accuracy and coverage for inverse factoring procedures.	31

INCREASING THE STATISTICAL POWER OF
EMPIRICALLY DERIVED TAXONOMIES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

I. Classification in Criminal Justice

A. Importance of Classification

Classification is of central importance in criminal justice, so much so that the evolution of the field has paralleled the development of more diversified and refined taxonomies of criminal offenses and offenders (Clinard and Quinney, 1967; Ferdinand, 1966; Gibbons, 1975; Warren, 1970). Classifications serve many purposes in criminological research, theory, and practice including the reduction and ordering of the complex phenomena of deviance and the provision of conceptual frameworks for decision making. The role of classification in summarizing complex data is particularly relevant to criminological research and theory construction. Glaser (1974), for example, has argued that the development of reliable and valid classifications is essential to improve the epidemiological mapping of crime, the evaluation of treatment programs, and the explanatory value of theories of criminal behavior. The importance of classifications is further underscored by their use in decision making in all phases of the criminal justice process.

B. Inadequacy of Current Classifications

Despite the importance of classification in criminal justice, there is consensus regarding the inadequacy of current taxonomies. The entire classification enterprise has been assailed for its lack of cumulative and convergent findings and failure to produce taxonomies having practical or theoretical utility (Ferdinand, 1966; Gibbons, 1975; Hood and Sparks, 1970; Opp, 1973). Criminological taxonomies have been criticized for their subjectivity, inadequate reliability, illogical structure, ambiguous nomenclature, impracticality, and lack of predictive validity. The lack of predictive power is perhaps the most debilitating criticism of criminological taxonomies because of the

implications this carries regarding decision making. If classifications are not predictive of the etiology of criminal acts, offender personality, behavior, risk, recidivism or treatment response, their value in decision making regarding the adjudication, sentencing, management, parole, and release of offenders is severely limited.

This presents a disparaging view of the current state of criminological classification, but the situation is not necessarily any better in the other areas of the behavioral and social sciences. The most widely used taxonomy of psychiatric disorders, for example, is that embodied in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (APA, 1968, 1980). Although this is taken to represent the state-of-the-art taxonomy in psychiatry, it has been widely criticized by psychiatrists, and other mental health professionals on the same grounds as criminological taxonomies (cf. Achenbach and Edelbrock, 1978; Phillips and Draguns, 1971; Zigler and Phillips, 1961). Numerous additional examples of the inadequacies of current classifications can be drawn from the literature of psychology, education, psychiatry, and sociology.

C. Promise of Taxometric Methods

As much as social and behavioral scientists agree regarding the shortcomings of current classifications, there is also agreement among professionals in all fields regarding the potential of numerical taxometric methods to overcome these inadequacies. These methods, variously known as numerical taxonomy, cluster analysis, association analysis, and pattern recognition, have been used in the biological sciences for many years (i.e., Sneath, 1957) but only recently have been added to the methodological armamentarium of social and behavioral scientists. Blashfield (1977), for example, in a comprehensive review of the use of taxometric methods, cited a veritable

"explosion" in the use of numerical clustering and classification methods in the social and behavioral sciences since 1970.

The ability of these methods to summarize and order complex multivariate data has made them a valuable tool for the construction of taxonomies. (For reviews of the myriad applications of taxometric methods in various disciplines see Anderberg, 1975; Bailey, 1974; Blashfield, 1976; Sneath and Sokal, 1973). Numerous researchers in criminal justice have recognized the value of taxometric methods for data description, reduction, and management; and experimental design and evaluation research. Brennan (1979) has compiled a bibliography of criminological studies employing multivariate taxometric methods. A wide variety of methods have been used in these studies including hierarchical cluster analysis (Megargee, 1977), Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique (Blackburn, 1971), inverse factor analysis (Butler and Adams, 1966; Collins, Burger, and Taylor, 1976) and iterative K-means analysis (Brennan, Huizinga and Elliot, 1978).

Taxometric methods show great promise for the construction of valid and reliable taxonomies of criminal offenses and offenders. However, the use of these methods in criminal justice research has just begun and many difficulties have yet to be ironed out. Several problems stem from the fact that many of these methods have been adopted from the biological sciences. This has far reaching implications, not the least of which is that some taxometric methods are conceptually and methodologically inappropriate for criminal justice applications. Thus, in order to derive more useful and predictive taxonomies in criminology and criminal justice, it may be necessary to develop innovative methods tailored to applications in the social and behavioral sciences.

II. The Issue of Coverage

A. Role of Behavioral Taxonomies

The value of any taxonomy is related to its coverage, which is the proportion of subjects it can classify. In the biological sciences, where many taxometric methods were developed, 100% coverage is an important goal because taxonomies are intended to correspond to definitive classifications of biological species. Such taxonomies represent "real" groupings which have been validated against definitive criteria, such as morphological, physiological, and genetic characteristics, that are reliably assessed and have unquestioned validity as taxonomic criteria. In criminal justice, and other sciences in an earlier "natural history" stage of development, there is a lack of definitive criteria against which to validate empirically derived taxonomies. Thus, rather than constructing definitive taxonomies, taxometric methods are used as a heuristic device for summarizing complex relationships. In most applications, classifying everybody is not necessary, possible, or even desirable. It is recognized, for example, that there is a diversity of causes and modes of expression of criminal behavior, and that the personality and behavioral measures available for deriving taxonomies are not perfectly reliable or valid. Thus, it is not always possible to reliably classify all offenders into categories. The issue of coverage, however, extends beyond the simple fact that some subjects cannot be classified.

B. Bootstrapping - An Example

Owing to the lack of definitive criteria, most attempts to validate taxonomies in the behavioral and social sciences involve "bootstrapping-- whereby investigators attempt to "lift themselves by their own bootstraps" by relating taxonomies to other measures known to be imperfect. Megargee, for example, has identified ten types of criminal offenders based on their Minne-

sota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) Profiles (Megargee, 1977). The identification of profile types is not an end product in itself.

As Megargee stated:

"The MMPI-based taxonomy is worthless unless it can be established that the ten MMPI-defined groups differ significantly in other respects". (Megargee and Bohn 1977: p. 150).

Thus, in an exemplary fashion Megargee and his coworkers have proceeded to determine how their types differ in demographic characteristics, academic performance, intellectual ability, and social, developmental, and personality characteristics (Megargee and Bohn, 1977). Moreover, they have extended their research to determine how the types differ in long-term prognosis, recidivism, and differential response to treatment.

The value of the Megargee typology, therefore, does not lie in the identification of types but rather in the degree to which the typology relates to other criteria--particularly criteria that are informative regarding possible predisposing causes of criminal acts, management and treatment of offenders, and treatment outcomes. It is at this step of relating typologies to such criteria that the issue of coverage becomes important because of its effect on statistical power.

C. Coverage and Statistical Power.

The ability to detect significant differences among empirically derived groups is a complex function of the number of groups, sample size, separation and homogeneity of groups, and the size of effects under study. In the behavioral and social sciences, some assumptions can be made which simplify this complex set of interrelations. Most empirically derived taxonomies deal with relatively few types (i.e., ten for the Megargee taxonomy) and researchers can generally obtain samples large enough to permit rigorous statistical

analyses within each group. Furthermore, many of the effects examined in the behavioral and social sciences are small.

Whereas there is no absolute rule for defining "small", "medium", or "large", effect sizes, Cohen (1977) has suggested that a small effect size refer to a difference accounting for less than 10% of the variance in a variable; a medium effect size accounts for 20-25% of the variance; and a large effect size accounts for 40-50% of the variance. In criminal justice research, and other areas of the behavioral and social sciences, most effects are small due to less than perfect reliability and validity of the measures, multiple causation, and the lack of experimental control of many impinging sources of variation. This is not to say that small effects are trivial--quite the opposite. Some of the "small" effects in criminal justice research, such as differences in long-term recidivism rates among groups, are of the utmost importance in decision making.

If we assume that samples are sufficiently large relative to the number of groups and that the effects under study are relatively small, statistical power when validating taxonomies is largely a function of the degree to which the groups are distinct from each other, yet homogenous. As a statistician might phrase it, statistical power is optimized when the within-group variance on the taxonomic criteria is small and the between group variance is large. It is important to emphasize that statistical power in this context refers to the ability to detect differences in external criteria, that is, criteria not included in the construction of the taxonomy.

In a taxonomy, small within group variance implies that groups are similar to one another. Large between group variance implies that the types, and hence the groups representing the types, are distinct from one another on the taxonomic criteria. The ideal taxonomy would, therefore, group subjects into

homogeneous, yet distinct groups. Such groups would be likely to differ in external criteria.

Unfortunately, subjects do not align themselves into stereotypical "pure types". In the Megargee taxonomy, for example, only 63% of the MMPI Profiles could be classified using computerized classification rules (Megargee and Dorhout, 1977). The remaining 37% were more difficult to classify because they had invalid scores, did not resemble any types, or met inclusion criteria for more than one type. Eventually, however, a total of 96% of the profiles were classified on the basis of clinical inspection and judgement.

D. The Continuum of Classifiability

A high degree of coverage is an important taxonomic goal, but classifying everybody is not always necessary. Moreover, for those sciences in a "bootstrapping" stage of development, attempting to classify everybody may have deleterious effects on the statistical power and reliability of the taxonomy. That is, in most classification efforts in the behavioral and social sciences, there is a "continuum of classifiability." At one end of this continuum are subjects who are easy to classify because they bear close resemblance to empirically derived types. In the Megargee taxonomy, for example, 63% of the sample could be classified on the basis of operationalized classification rules. Moving towards the middle of the continuum, subjects become more difficult to classify because they do not resemble pure types or resemble more than one type. Thus, in the Megargee taxonomy, 33% could not be classified by operationalized classification rules but required clinical inspection and judgment. At the opposite end of this continuum are those who cannot be classified because of invalid scores or lack of resemblances to any of the types (i.e., the 4% unclassified in the Megargee taxonomy).

Thus attempting to classify everybody requires the classification of subjects who are difficult or impossible to assign to groups. As one moves down the continuum classifying subjects who are less and less similar to the "types" the within group variance increases while the between group variance decreases. In other words, the groups become more heterogeneous and begin to overlap. This, of course, dilutes the statistical power of comparisons among groups. Moreover, the continuum of classifiability parallels a "continuum of reliability". Thus, moving down the continuum from pure types to unclassifiable subjects, the reliability of assignment decreases. Subjects resembling pure types can be reliably classified because slight changes on their classification criteria (i.e., behavioral or personality scores) do not substantially alter their similarity to the types. On the other hand, among subjects who are less similar to types, or resemble more than one type, a slight change in scores may result in a different group assignment.

The Thesis of This Research

The thesis of this research was that in criminal justice and other behavioral and social sciences, classification should be viewed as a continuum rather than as a purely discrete phenomenon (as in the biological sciences). Thus, based on the continuum of classifiability, the coverage of classifications can be varied to fit the purposes of the research. In an epidemiological study, for example, the goal may be to classify as many subjects as possible, including subjects who are difficult to assign to groups. This procedure results in more heterogeneous groups and decreased reliability of classification but serves a major purpose of epidemiological surveys--namely, accounting for the generality of a phenomena. Alternatively, evaluations of a focused treatment may require small homogeneous groups for study. In this situation, perhaps only 10% of the subjects can be classified according to rigorous

criteria, but the reliability of assignment to groups is high and the subjects represent relatively "pure types". This low level of coverage has the advantage of increased statistical power for comparisons among groups but carries with it the disadvantage of decreased generalizability of findings. Thus, findings cannot be extrapolated to the population as a whole but only that portion who resemble pure types.

In simple terms, therefore, the issue is whether it is better to "classify some of the people some of the time," or attempt to classify everybody. In order to resolve this issue, it is necessary to determine if the benefits of reduced coverage outweigh the costs. In this "bootstrapping" stage of criminal justice research, however, it may be more valuable to construct taxonomies which classify fewer individuals, if the benefit is increased statistical power and reliability. Unfortunately, conventional taxometric methods available to researchers in criminal justice do not permit the manipulation of the coverage of the resulting taxonomy. Most methods are aimed at simply partitioning (or amalgamating) subjects into a discrete set of groups--despite the fact that the group members differ widely in the degree to which they represent "types". Thus, in order to resolve the issue of coverage, it is necessary to develop, evaluate, and apply new taxometric methods.

In the following section, some innovative methods for manipulating the coverage of empirically derived taxonomies are proposed. These methods represent modifications and extensions of conventional taxometric procedures which have been used by researchers in criminal justice and other areas of the behavioral and social sciences.

III. Methods of Varying Coverage

A. Introduction

Most taxometric methods are not designed to manipulate the coverage of a classification, but rather to identify groupings of individuals based on some

statistical criteria. This is not to say that these methods produce taxonomies having 100% coverage. Many empirically derived taxonomies include a subset of subjects who are "unclassified" (i.e., Carlson, 1977; Megargee, 1977).

These unclassified groups represent only a tiny proportion of multivariate outliers and do not result from manipulating coverage along a continuum of classifiability. Many taxometric methods, however, are amenable methodological changes that would permit manipulating coverage along this continuum.

In this program of research, innovations are proposed for three methods which have been used successfully to create empirical taxonomies in the social and behavioral sciences. The three methods include (a) a method called centroid analysis (Edelbrock and Achenbach, 1980). (b) Lorr's nonhierarchical clustering technique (Lorr, Bishop, and McNair, 1965; Lorr and Radhakrishnan, 1967), and (c) inverse factor analysis (Monro, 1955; Ryder, 1964; Stephenson, 1936). These methods are not the only candidates for such innovations, but they cover a range of taxometric approaches used in the social and behavioral sciences, have produced useful taxonomies, and have direct applications in criminal justice research. The goal of comparing a range of methods is to determine the degree to which the principle underlying the manipulation of coverage is valid, apart from the idiosyncrasies of one particular method. In the following section, each method is outlined and the innovations proposed to manipulate coverage are described in detail.

B. Centroid Analysis

Centroid analysis is a new taxometric procedure and has several advantages over previous methods, including the abilities to (a) construct hierarchical taxonomies, (b) determine the reliability of profile types, and (c) classify new subjects who were not in the original analysis. Moreover, centroid

analysis embodies a mechanism for manipulating the coverage of the classification - although this feature has not yet been fully explored.

Centroid analysis involves three steps:

- Step 1 Identification of profile types.
- Step 2 Determining the reliability of profile types.
- Step 3 Classification of subjects according to the profile types.

1. Identification of profile types. In centroid analysis a conventional hierarchical clustering algorithm is used to identify subgroups of individuals having similar characteristics or patterns of scores. The patterns characterizing such subgroups are termed "profile types". Specifically, the centroid clustering method, also known as the weighted pair group method (Sokal and Michener, 1958), is used. Several issues are involved in the identification of profile types. For one, clustering algorithms will identify homogeneous subgroups of individuals even when applied to random data. That is, to some degree clustering algorithms impose structure on data as well as reveal inherent structure. Thus, some profile types are likely to be methodological artifacts rather than representing reliable profile patterns that characterize subgroups of individuals. One way to deal with this problem is replicate profile types across samples, retaining only those profile types identified in two or more analyses. In almost all applications where this is done, some profile types are identified in one sample that do not replicate in subsequent samples.

2. Measure of similarity. A second issue involves the choice of the measure of similarity among individuals. A variety of similarity measures are available for use in cluster analysis (of Cattell, 1949; Cronbach and Gleser, 1953; Gregson, 1975; Tatsuoka, 1974) and they determine, to a large extent, the nature of the profile types that are identified (i.e., whether the profile

types differ predominantly in elevation, shape, etc.) Some parametric comparisons of clustering methods using different measures of similarity have been performed on computer generated data sets. The results indicate that certain similarity measures (i.e., correlation, intraclass correlations) result in more accurate clustering solutions than other measures (Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980; Mezzich, 1978). Two measures of similarity will be systematically explored when using centroid analysis, including correlation, and the one-way intraclass correlation (cf. Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980). These measures cover a broad range of approaches to quantifying profile similarity and are sensitive to various aspects of profile elevation, shape, and scatter.

3. Clustering Algorithm. Assuming that the sample size is large enough to permit replication of profile types and that an appropriate measure of similarity has been chosen, Step 1 of centroid analysis involves separate hierarchical cluster analyses of the data using the centroid method. The centroid algorithm proceeds by first calculating the similarity between each possible pair of profiles in the sample. Next, the two profiles which are most similar to each other are located and combined into a cluster. These two profiles are then replaced by their centroid which is the profile created by averaging the two subject's scores on each scale. On the next step, this centroid is treated just like the profile of a single subject and the similarities between all possible pairs of profiles are recomputed. In each cycle, the two profiles which are most similar to each other are located, combined into a cluster, and replaced by their centroid. Whenever an individual profile or cluster is combined with another cluster, the centroid is computed using a "weighted" procedure. That is, the centroid is obtained by calculating the average

As cycles proceed, larger and larger clusters are formed and combined in a hierarchical manner. The result is a hierarchical clustering of all profiles, in which groups of subjects having similar profile patterns, and the hierarchical relations among these groups, can be identified. At low levels in the hierarchy, profile types are identified which have very specific patterns characterizing small subgroups of subjects. At higher levels, these groups are combined into larger groups of subjects representing more global patterns. Thus, hierarchical taxonomies permit comparisons among groups of various levels of generality. Many small groups having very distinct profile patterns may be compared or a few larger groups representing more global patterns may be analyzed. These multiple levels of analysis are extremely valuable in research. For example, it is difficult, time consuming, and expensive to obtain long-term recidivism data on offenders receiving different treatments. It is possible that significant differences among groups may be detected at one level of the taxonomy but not at other levels. It is a mistake, therefore, to invest research resources in a study wherein the taxonomy permits only one level of analysis.

4. Classification of new subjects. Most taxometric methods classify only those subjects included in the original analysis and do not embody procedures for assigning new cases to groups. This is unfortunate because if empirically derived taxonomies are to have any applications in decision making it will be necessary to classify new subjects. Step 3 of centroid analysis, therefore, involves procedures for classifying new subjects. In order to classify an individual, the similarities between the subject's profile and the reliable centroids identified in the previous two steps are calculated. The subject is then classified according to the profile type with which his/her profile is most similar. Thus, if correlation is the similarity measure, the

subject's profile is correlated with each profile type and is classified according to the type having the highest correlation.

5. Manipulating coverage. The procedure of assigning subjects to groups permits direct manipulation of the coverage of the classification. A minimum similarity required for classification can be specified, such that profiles whose similarities to any of the profile types are less than the minimum cutoff point are not classified. By changing this minimum cutoff point, the coverage of the classification can be varied. That is, the use of the high cutoff point will result in a small proportion of subjects being classified into relatively homogeneous, non-overlapping groups that represent "pure types". Conversely, the use of a low cutoff point results in the classification of a higher proportion of subjects into larger and more heterogeneous groups which have a higher degree of overlap.

C. Lorr's Technique

1. Introduction. Lorr has developed a non-hierarchical taxometric method that has been used to construct a variety of taxonomies (Berzins, Ross, English, and Haley, 1974; Goldstein and Linden, 1969; Lorr, Bishop, and McNair, 1965; Lorr, Pokorny, and Klett, 1973; Lorr and Radhakrishnan, 1967). In most applications of Lorr's technique, Q-correlations were used to measure similarity among profiles, although a variety of similarity metrics could be used. In this research, two measures of similarity (correlation, and the one-way intraclass correlations) will be systematically compared using Lorr's technique.

2. Clustering Algorithm. To illustrate this method, assume correlation is used as the similarity measure. The first step in identifying clusters is to calculate the Q-correlations between all possible pairs of profiles. Considering only those correlations above a certain cutoff point, the profile

having the highest average correlation with other profiles becomes a "pivot" profile. A pivot profile is essentially the "seed" or foundation for building a cluster. To build the first cluster, all profiles with correlations greater than a cutoff point (C_{in}) with the pivot profile are combined into one cluster. Among the remaining profiles, those with average correlations with cluster members that are greater than a lower cutoff point (C_{ex}) are removed from the sample and are not classified. Those with average correlations of $< C_{ex}$ are candidates for other clusters.

In each cycle, all profiles having correlations with the pivot profile C_{in} are combined into a cluster. Profiles with correlations C_{in} but $> C_{ex}$ are removed from the sample and are not classified. This is because even though they may qualify for membership in another cluster, such profiles would still be relatively similar to the first cluster --which would result in overlapping groups. Profiles with correlations $< C_{ex}$ are considered for other clusters. In each cycle, a pivot profile is identified and cluster membership is determined by C_{in} . Those profiles with correlations between C_{in} and C_{ex} are removed and those with correlations $< C_{ex}$ remain for another cycle. Cycles proceed until all profiles are either classified or deemed inappropriate for classification.

3. Manipulating Coverage. Due to the use of the dual cutoff criteria, this method does not result in taxonomies having 100% coverage. Moreover, the cutoff criteria are a convenient mechanism for manipulating the coverage of the classification. By varying C_{in} and C_{ex} the coverage (as well as the homogeneity and degree of overlap) of the groups can be directly manipulated. Specifically, coverage is decreased by setting a high C_{in} value (implying that cluster members are highly similar to the pivot profile) and a low C_{ex} (implying that cluster members are not very similar to other clusters). To

increase coverage, C_{in} is decreased and C_{ex} is increased. Coverage of 100% can be achieved when C_{in} is low and $C_{in} = C_{ex}$. This would, of course, produce relatively heterogeneous, overlapping groups.

Although this mechanism for manipulating coverage is built into Lorr's technique, most researchers employing this method have chosen a single set of C_{in} and C_{ex} values to construct taxonomies and have not systematically explored the effects of varying C_{in} and C_{ex} on the statistical power of their taxonomies. In most applications, C_{in} has been chosen according to some significance criterion (i.e., $p .05$ at the degrees of freedom determined by the number of variables), and C_{ex} has been chosen to represent a lower significance criterion (i.e., $p .10$ or $.20$). This is a rational approach that produces useful taxonomies, but does not take advantage of the built-in mechanisms for manipulating coverage.

D. Inverse Factor Analysis

A. Introduction. Inverse, or Q-type, factor analysis is one of the oldest taxometric methods and has been widely used to construct taxonomies in psychology (Monro, 1955; Overall and Klett, 1972; Stephenson, 1936) and criminal justice (i.e., Butler and Adams, 1966; Collins, Burger, and Taylor, 1976). Although the inverse factor analysis has been criticized as a taxonomic tool (i.e., Baggaley, 1964; Fleiss, Lawlor, Platman, and Fiede, 1971; Fleiss and Zubin, 1969; Jones, 1968; Lorr, 1966), it remains a popular method for taxometric problems and has produced useful taxonomies. Since factor analysis methods have become somewhat standardized and have been discussed in detail elsewhere (Harman, 1976; Fruchter, 1954; Mulaik, 1972) they will not be described in detail here. Instead, the focus of the following section will be on methods for manipulating the coverage of taxonomies constructed using inverse factor analytic methods.

B. Grouping Procedure. Factor analysis is typically used to summarize the matrix of correlations among variables in terms of the limited number of "factors". Each factor is a vector of weights or factor loadings which indicate the degree to which each item is associated with that factor. Since one factor only accounts for a proportion of the variance in a correlation matrix, most applications of factor analysis yield many factors which account for more and more of the remaining variance. Each factor is determined by a group of items which are highly intercorrelated and thus have high loadings on that factor.

As typically applied, factor analysis identifies grouping of items. Simple modifications of the factoring procedure result in the identification of groupings of individuals. In Q-type factor analysis, profile data describing individuals is inverted and intercorrelated producing a correlation matrix representing similarities among individuals, rather than similarities among items. Thus, the factor analysis identifies groups of individuals having similar patterns of scores, rather than identifying groups of intercorrelated items. The factor loadings indicate the degree to which the subjects are similar to the "type" represented by the factor.

C. Manipulating Coverage. In Q-type factor analysis, the factor loadings serve as a way to manipulate the coverage of classification. That is, the loadings represent the continuum of classifiability whereby subjects with high loadings are very similar to the "type" represented by the factor. As loadings decrease, subjects become less similar to the "type". Thus, coverage of the classification can be manipulated by varying the minimum loading required to be classified. A high cutoff point classifies relatively few subjects into homogeneous groups, whereas a low cutoff point classifies more subjects into more heterogeneous groups. Although this is an obvious way to vary coverage,

previous researchers employing factor analysis as a taxometric method have simply chosen a single cutoff point (i.e., $\geq .30$) for determining groups.

One problem with using minimum loadings to vary coverage is that subjects may have relatively high loadings on more than one factor. This is because a single factor does not account for all of the variance in a subject's pattern of scores. One solution to this problem is to adopt dual cutoff criteria in a manner similar to Lorr's technique. Specifically, in order to be classified a subject must have a loading greater than a cutoff point on one factor and the loadings on all other factors must be below a second cutoff point. By varying the magnitude and relative difference between the cutoff points, the coverage of the classification can be effectively varied.

IV. Evaluation and Comparison of Methods

A. Goal of this Research. The goal of this research involved the evaluation and comparison of these previously described taxometric methods. Computer generated data sets were used because they have the advantages of having predetermined groups with known correlates. This makes it possible to compare and evaluate the taxometric methods on their ability to recover the groups or "types" built into the data and determine if the resulting taxonomies are predictive of predetermined differences among the groups. One goal of these analyses is to determine, for each method, if systematically reducing coverage improves the statistical power of the taxonomy. That is, we seek to establish the general relations between coverage and statistical power. However, between-method comparisons are also important. Thus, we seek to identify which methods produce the most accurate and predictive taxonomies having the highest coverage.

In the following section the statistical model, data sets, evaluative criteria, and strategy for this phase of the research will be outlined.

B. The mixture model. The mixture model has been proposed as a statistical model for evaluating taxometric methods (Blashfield, 1976; Sclove, 1977; Wolfe, 1970). According to this model, the task of taxometric analysis is to resolve a mixture of populations into its components when the underlying populations and their parameters are unknown. In statistical terms, suppose X is a mixture of k populations; such that

$$X = (x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_k),$$

where x_i denotes an $n_i \times p$ matrix based on n_i entities samples from the i th population measured on p variates. Each population has an associated probability distribution, $f(x_i)$, and is defined by parameters \underline{u} and Σ , where u is a p -length vector of population means, and Σ is a $p \times p$ population covariance matrix. The probability distribution for the mixture X is

$$f(K) = \sum_{i=1}^K (N_i/n) f(x_i),$$

$$f(X) = \sum_{i=1}^K (n_i/n) f(x_i),$$

where

$$n = \sum_{i=1}^K n_i.$$

The taxonomic problem is to resolve the mixture X into its component populations (x_i) such that the parameters (n_i , \underline{u} , and Σ) and members of each population can be specified.

Drawing an example from research, suppose a sample of criminal offenders is described in terms of their scores on a personality inventory (e.g., Megargee, 1977). The total sample (X) is assumed to be composed of several underlying populations or "types" of individuals ($x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_k$). Each type is defined by a particular personality pattern, which can be

described in terms of an average pattern of scores (\underline{u}) and a covariance structure (Σ). Unfortunately, the underlying populations and their parameters are unknown. Thus, a taxometric method, such as hierarchical cluster analysis, would be used to identify the underlying types in the sample.

The mixture model provides a basis for evaluating and comparing taxometric methods. Using "Monte Carlo" procedures, computer generated data sets can be constructed which simulate a mixture of populations. Unlike real data, the parameters of the underlying populations are predetermined and known. Thus, taxometric methods can be evaluated and compared on their ability to resolve mixtures into their component populations (Blashfield, 1976; Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980; Gross, 1972; Kuiper and Fisher, 1975; Mezzich, 1978; Mojena, 1977; Rand, 1971). Mixture model comparisons are extremely valuable because a wide variety of taxometric methods are available for use and different methods are likely to produce different results when applied to the same data. Such comparisons help identify those taxometric methods which are most likely to produce fruitful research results when applied to real data.

C. "Benchmark" data sets.

Comparisons are planned for computer generated data, including 20 multivariate normal mixtures generated by Blashfield (197). Each mixture consists of two or more multivariate populations representing underlying groups or "types" which differ in their profile characteristics and external correlates. These mixtures simulate the type of taxonomic problem encountered in the behavioral and social sciences. The profile data consists of scores on continuous, quasi-normal distributions which correspond to the type of data provided by many behavioral and personality measures. The scores on each profile dimension also embody a certain degree of error, which simulates the

less than perfect reliability of real data. This error variance implies that the underlying populations overlap to some extent and that population members represent a range in similarity to the population "type". This corresponds to the continuum of classifiability encountered in research applications.

Finally, the populations are constructed to differ in external criteria and these differences represent small to medium effects. This is analogous to a researcher validating a taxonomy of criminal offenders against external criteria such as background variables, recidivism, etc.

These data sets represent a range of parameters describing mixtures and their underlying populations, as well as a range in difficulty of solution. They were selected in preference to generating new mixtures because they have been well characterized, extensively studied, and are available to other researchers (cf. Blashfield, 1976; Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980; Mojena, 1977). The advantage of using these previously analyzed "benchmark" data sets is that the results of this study can be directly compared to previous studies of different taxometric methods. The generation of new mixtures would preclude direct comparisons to previous work. That is, differences due to methodological innovations would be confounded with differences among the data sets analyzed.

D. Evaluative criteria. The taxometric methods will be evaluated and compared in terms of their accuracy and statistical power.

Accuracy refers to the degree to which a taxonomy recovers the underlying groups in the mixtures. Thus, an accurate taxometric solution is one that groups together members of the same underlying populations in the mixture, whereas an inaccurate solution would group together members of different populations. A variety of measures of accuracy have been used, most of which are based on quantifying the degree of agreement between the empirically

derived groups and the underlying populations. In this research, the statistic lambda was used to calculate accuracy.

The statistical power of taxonomies refers to the degree to which differences among taxonomic groups can be detected. This involves detecting differences in external criteria, that is criteria not involved in the construction of the taxonomy. This would correspond to a researcher validating a taxonomy based on behavioral or personality measures against external correlates such as background variables, recidivism, etc. In this research, statistical power is estimated by testing differences among the empirically derived groups on artificially generated data. These differences will be tested using one-way analyses of variance (ANOVAs) with group membership serving as the classification variable. These ANOVAs will reveal the degree to which the groups differ on the external criteria. These differences will be quantified in terms of "effect size". Based on the effect size and sample size, statistical power can be derived using tables provided by Cohen (1975). Statistical power is measured on a scale from zero to 1.00, which represents the probability that the null hypothesis will be rejected if it is in fact false. In other words, statistical power is the ability to detect a significant difference if the difference is real.

E. Evaluation strategy. The strategy of this research was to determine the effect of manipulating coverage on the accuracy and statistical power of the taxonomies produced by each method. For each method, mean accuracy and statistical power values calculated separately for the multivariate normal mixtures at various levels of coverage. Since coverage can be directly manipulated, the levels of coverage to be analyzed can be determined in advance. Analyses were made at levels between 100 and 0% coverage at various intervals. These levels thus cover the broadest possible range of cover-

-age. For the multivariate data sets, mean accuracy and statistical power values were based on 20 mixtures.

V. Application of Methods

The mixture model comparisons described above will contribute to a more comprehensive theory and statistical model of taxometric analysis. Moreover, they will identify those methods that are most likely to produce fruitful research results when applied to real data. However, even if the advantages of these innovative methods can be demonstrated on computer generated data sets, these methods will not automatically be used by researchers in criminal justice. In order to be used, the advantages of these methods must be demonstrated on real data relevant to criminal justice. Thus, the third phase of this research involves the application of these new methods to criminal justice data.

Delinquency data. Data collected in a longitudinal study of delinquency and dropping out of school will be analyzed. Data on 2,617 junior and senior high school students were collected using teacher reports, parent interviews, student questionnaires, and school records. The dependent variables were dropping out, self-reported delinquency, juvenile offense record, and adjudication as delinquent. These data and the design of study are described in detail in Elliot and Voss (1974). The taxonomic problem is to determine if subgroups of youth, differing in patterns of scores on such variables as success at home, success at school, normlessness, punitiveness, commitment to peers, and commitment to parents, differ in subsequent school failure, delinquent behavior, criminal offenses, and adjudication. The strategy will be to systematically evaluate the effect of manipulating the coverage of such taxonomies on the ability to detect significant differences in self-reported delinquency.

RESULTS

VI. Within Method Comparisons

A. Inverted Factor Analysis

1. Procedure. Data were double-centered according to the rationale and procedure given by Overall and Klett (1972; pp. 203-204). Variables were standardized (mean = 0, sd = 1) and scores were then standardized equivalently across objects. Each of the 20 (object X variable data sets was then inverted (i.e., to represent a variable X object matrix) and subjected to principal-components factor analysis using the BMDP4M - program. It is important to note that double-centering the data results in bipolarity of the unrotated factors. However, it does not necessarily result in bipolarity in the rotated factors, which were used here.

Two procedures were used to determine the number of factors. First, for each mixture, the number of factors was set to equal the number of underlying populations. Since the rotated factors were not bipolar, each factor comprised only one group of objects having high loadings in the same direction. Thus, determining the number of factors in this way is tantamount to setting the number of groups (j) equal to the number of underlying populations (k). These 20 analyses are subsequently designated by the notation $j = k$.

Second, the number of factors was determined by examining eigen values. For these data sets, the commonly used eigen value greater than 1" rule resulted in considerable over-factoring. A few factors having large eigen values were obtained followed by several having eigen values slightly greater than 1.00. This problem was also encountered by Blashfield and Morey (1980). Following their procedure, Cattell's (1966) scree test was used to determine number of factors. In this study, two investigators examined the eigen value plot for each mixture and independently selected the number of factors.

Although we agreed for all 20 mixtures, the number of factors indicated by the scree test did not always equal the number of underlying populations. For eight mixtures, the number of factors equalled one more than the number of underlying populations (i.e., $k + 1$). These 20 analyses are subsequently designated by the notation $j \neq k$ (i.e., the number of groups did not necessarily equal the number of populations).

One issue in factor analysis is whether to construct orthogonal (uncorrelated) or oblique (correlated) factors. This is an important consideration when deriving typologies because rotational procedures substantially affect final factor loadings, which are the basis for constructing groups. Most previous applications of inverted factor analysis (e.g., Blashfield & Morey, 1980; Collins et al, 1976; Fleiss et al, 1971; Katz & Cole, 1965) involved the varimax rotation--an orthogonal procedure. In this study, both varimax (orthogonal) and direct quartimin (oblique) rotations were compared. This yields four analyses of 20 mixtures each: $j = k$ and $j \neq k$ with either varimax or direct quartimin rotation.

A crucial issue that arises in inverted factor analysis involves translating factor loadings into discrete groups of objects or individuals. A common procedure has been to assign individuals to groups on the basis of highest factor loadings (in terms of absolute value). Some investigators have specified a minimum loading required for classification. Fleiss et al (1971), for example, selected a minimum loading of .40. Individuals whose highest loadings were less than .40 were left unclassified. In their Monte Carlo study, Blashfield and Morey (1980) selected a minimum loading of .60, with the additional criterion that an object could not have a loading of .60 or higher on any other factor. These rather stringent criteria reduce coverage substantially, but result in more distinct and homogeneous groups.

In this study, objects were assigned to groups on the basis of their highest loadings. This is a simple procedure for constructing groups, but the coverage of the resulting classification can be manipulated by simply changing the minimum loading required for assignment. A low cutoff point results in the classification of a high proportion of objects into relatively heterogeneous groups, whereas a high cutoff point results in the classification of a low proportion of objects into more distinct, non-overlapping groups. This assignment procedure therefore makes it possible to evaluate classifications at several levels of coverage.

2. Calculating Accuracy. The accuracy of the inverted factor solutions was defined as the agreement between the obtained groups and the underlying populations in the mixtures. A wide variety of statistics have been used to measure accuracy in mixture model studies, and there is little regarding the "best" accuracy measure. Kappa (Cohen, 1960) and Rand's statistic (Rand, 1971) have been used in many studies (e.g., Blashfield, 1976; Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980; Kuiper & Fisher, 1975; Milligan & Isaac, 1980; Mojena, 1977; Rand, 1971). Both of these measures have drawbacks. Kappa has the advantage of correcting for chance level of agreement in a cross-classification, but it is appropriate only for square matrices (i.e., $j = k$). Rand's statistic does not require that $j = k$, but the scale is not uniform from matrix to matrix. That is, the lower bound of Rand's statistic is not zero but is determined by the marginal distributions of the cross-classification.

One way to overcome the idiosyncracies inherent in individual measures is to use multiple criteria for evaluating accuracy. Six measures, including kappa, Rand's statistic, asymmetric lambda, tau, Kramer's v, and the contingency coefficient were used in this study. We chose to report our main

findings in terms of asymmetric lambda for several reasons. This statistic is appropriate for nominal level cross-classifications, has a range of zero to 1.00, and can be used with either square ($j = k$) or rectangular ($j \neq k$) matrices. The "asymmetrical" aspect of this statistic also seems well suited to the task of measuring accuracy. The term "asymmetrical" refers to the fact that lambda indexes the degree to which one classification predicts another, and not vice versa. In mixture model studies, the underlying populations comprise a fixed or dependent classification, predicted by empirically derived groups that are free to vary.

Finally, it is worth noting that our conclusions regarding the relative accuracy of various methods were identical for all six measures we explored. This is not surprising, since such measures are all founded on the same information extracted from the cross-classification matrix (cf. Hubert & Levin, 1976). Furthermore, in these analysis, the six measures of accuracy correlated $> .95$ with one another.

3. Statistical Analyses - Accuracy. For each of the 80 inverted factor solutions, objects were classified according to levels of coverage dictated by the following minimum loadings: .0, .4, .5, .6, .7, .8, and .9. These minimum loadings between were selected because: (a) all objects had highest loadings (b) very few objects had highest loadings between .0, and .4 so accuracy and coverage varied little in this interval, and (c) there were too few loadings above .9 to calculate accuracy.

Accuracy and coverage values were analyzed in separate $2 \times 2 \times 7$ analyses of variance representing: number of factors ($j = k$ vs. $j \neq k$) rotational methods (varimax vs. direct quartimin), and minimum loading (.0 to .9), respectively.

Main results are portrayed graphically in Figures 1 and 2. These figures show the relations between the minimum loading leverage (right axis). Figure 1 depicts accuracy and coverage results for the $j \neq k$ solutions. Overall, accuracy and coverage were significantly related to the minimum loading ($p. < .001$), but in opposite ways. Raising the minimum loading uniformly increased accuracy, but decreased coverage to a greater and greater extent. No significant differences ($F < 1.00$) were detected between varimax and direct quartimin rotations for either $j = k$ or $j \neq k$ solutions. Varimax solutions resulted in consistently higher accuracy and coverage, however.

Paradoxically, $j \neq k$ solutions resulted in significantly higher accuracy and coverage than $j = k$ solutions ($p. < .01$). This was the case for both rotational methods. Figure 3 portrays accuracy differences between $j = k$ and $j \neq k$ solutions in a manner that equates them for leverage. Accuracy is shown as a function of coverage, rather than as a function of the minimum loadings as in Figures 1 and 2. At all levels of coverage, $j \neq k$ solutions resulted in significantly higher accuracy and $j = k$ solutions. Examination of the eight mixtures where $j \neq k$ confirmed that constraining the number of factors to equal the number of underlying groups substantially reduced accuracy. For these mixtures, higher accuracy was achieved when the number of groups was determined empirically by Cattell's scree test.

4. Effect Size and Statistical Power. To evaluate statistical power of the inverted factor analyses, we analyzed one of the computer generated data sets (Blashfield's Data set #17, See Appendix A) in depth. This data set includes seven external criteria. That is, seven variables which were not included in the cluster analyses, but are statistically related to the clustering variables. These external variables thus serve as "validity" criteria against which to evaluate the empirically derived classifications. This would be analogous to

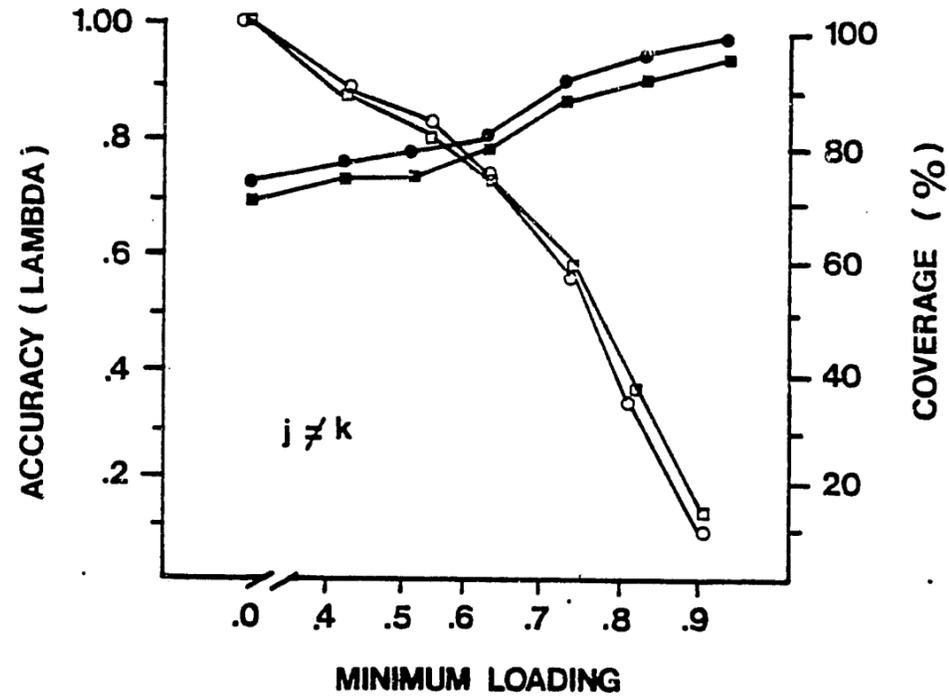


Figure 1. Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.
 (● Accuracy-Varimax ■ Accuracy-Direct Quartimin
 ○ Coverage-Varimax □ Coverage-Direct Quartimin)

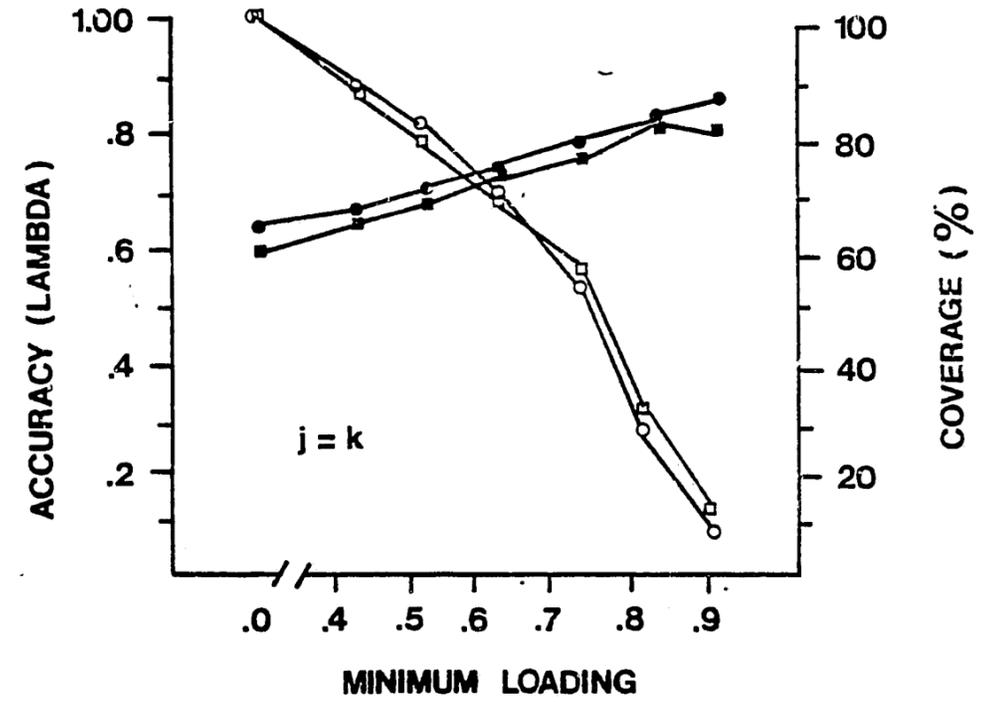


Figure 2. Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.
 (● Accuracy-Varimax ■ Accuracy-Direct Quartimin
 ○ Coverage-Varimax □ Coverage-Direct Quartimin)

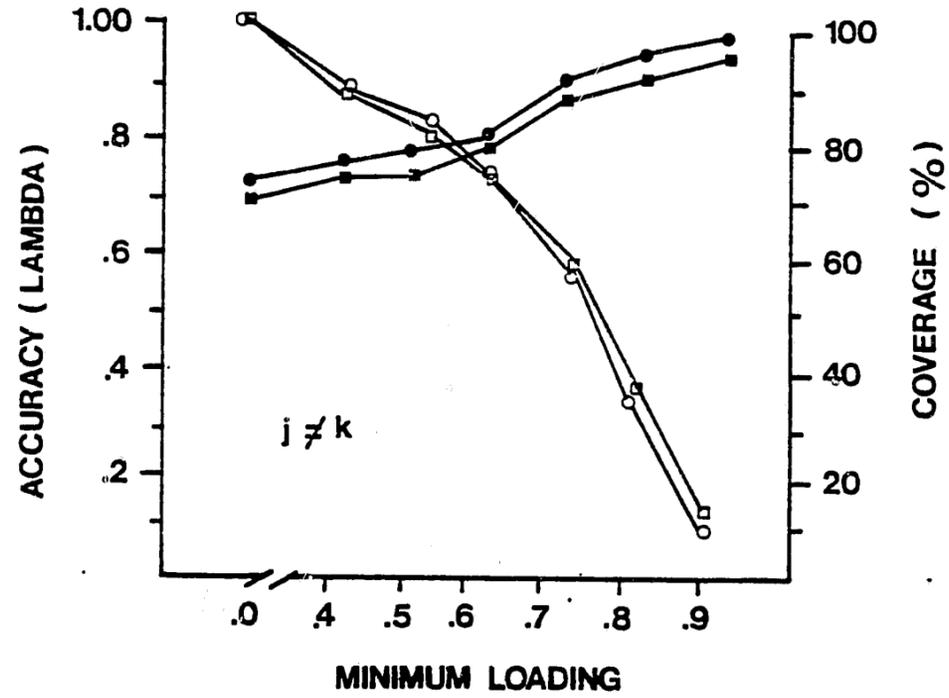


Figure 1. Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.
 (● Accuracy-Varimax ■ Accuracy-Direct Quartimin
 ○ Coverage-Varimax □ Coverage-Direct Quartimin)

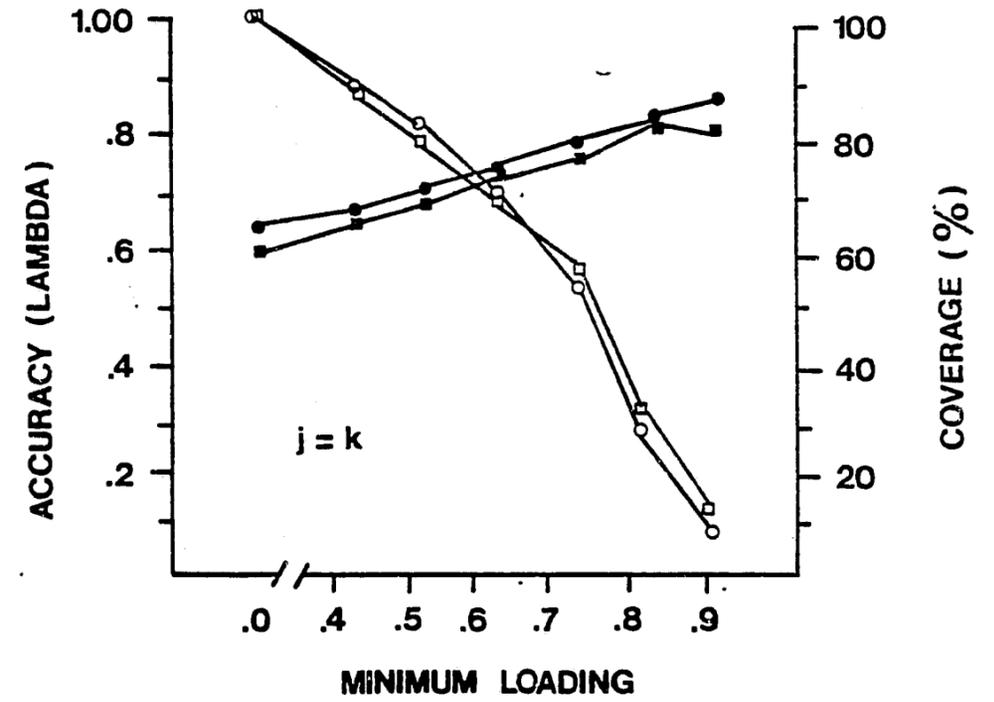


Figure 2. Relations between the minimum loading, accuracy (left axis), and coverage (right axis) for the inverse factoring procedures.
 (● Accuracy-Varimax ■ Accuracy-Direct Quartimin
 ○ Coverage-Varimax □ Coverage-Direct Quartimin)

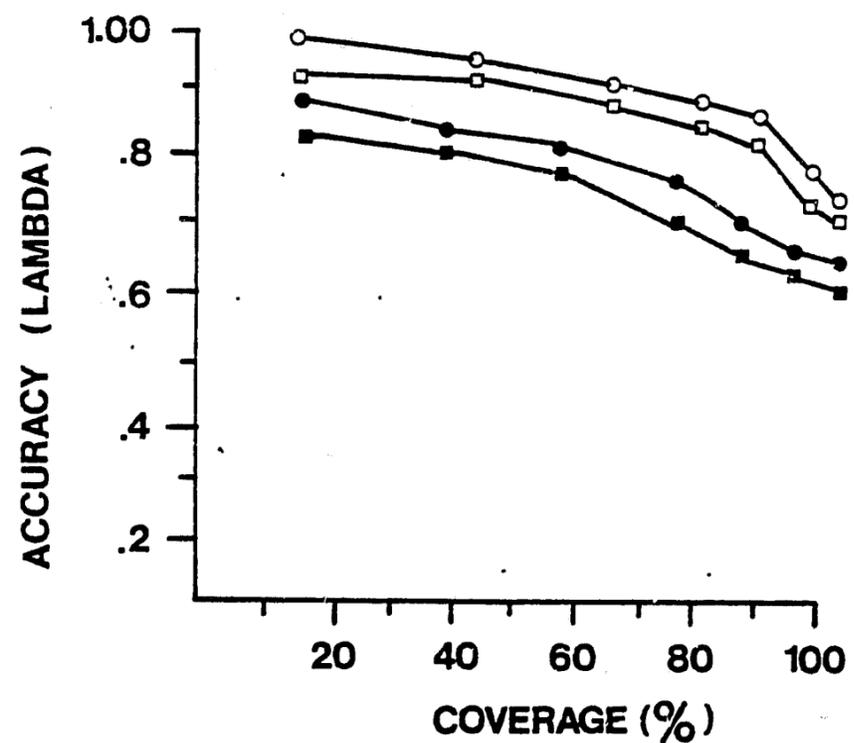


Figure 3. Relations between accuracy and coverage for inverse factoring procedures. (○ Varimax-j≠k □ Varimax-j=k ● Direct Quartimin-j≠k ■ Direct Quartimin-j=k)

Table 1 - Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for Inverse Factoring Procedures

		j=k (#clusters=#populations)						
		Cutoff point (loading)						
		.0	.4	.5	.6	.7	.8	.9
Varimax								
Accuracy		.66	.68	.71	.74	.80	.83	.88
Coverage (%)		100	90	83	71	52	30	9
Direct Quartimin								
Accuracy		.61	.66	.69	.73	.78	.82	.83
Coverage (%)		100	88	81	70	54	33	13
		j≠k (#clusters determined via Cattell's scree test)						
Varimax								
Accuracy		.73	.76	.78	.81	.85	.90	.95
Coverage (%)		100	93	87	76	58	34	11
Direct Quartimin								
Accuracy		.71	.74	.77	.80	.84	.88	.90
Coverage (%)		100	92	86	75	59	37	15

to a researcher evaluating an empirically derived taxonomy based on MMPI data against external criterias such as recidivism, subsequent violent behavior, etc. In other words, statistical power is the degree to which the empirically derived clusters differentiate among subjects in terms of external criteria. Statistical power is thus an index of the "predictive power" or "predictive validity" of a classification.

One-way analysis of variance procedures were used to evaluate effect size and statistical power for the clustering solutions obtained via the inverted factor procedure. Since results were almost identical for the varimax and direct quartimin procedures, findings based on only the varimax procedure are reported here. This seemed warranted because the varimax procedure produced slightly higher accuracy values than the direct quartimin procedure in the previous comparisons. Thus, we sought to obtain an estimate of the optimal statistical power of the inverted factoring procedure.

In each of the seven one-way analyses of variance, the empirically derived clusters served as the independent variable and the seven external criteria served as dependent variables. One question we sought to answer was the degree of separation between clusters on the external criteria at various levels of coverage. The statistic f (Cohen, 1977) was used as an index of effect size. The statistic f serves as an index of the degree to which the clusters explained or accounted for variance in the external criteria. As a rule of thumb, $f=.10$ is considered a small effect size; $f=.25$ is considered a medium effect size; and $f=.40$ is considered a large effect size. Thus, effect size is greater than .40 reflect large differences between clusters on the dependent variables.

Table 2 reports effect sizes for each of the seven external criteria for the varimax grouping procedure. Effect sizes are given at each cutoff point ranging from 0 to .9. This encompasses a range of coverage from 100 to 22%. As shown in Table 2, most effect sizes were in the moderate range. Moreover, there were

Table 2

Effect Sizes for Inverse Factor Analysis (Varimax rotation)

External criteria	Cutoff point (loading)						
	<u>.0</u>	<u>.4</u>	<u>.5</u>	<u>.6</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.8</u>	<u>.9</u>
1	.12	.09	.07	.08	.14	.35	.70
2	.22	.29	.42	.46	.46	.60	.68
3	.32	.30	.31	.27	.46	.48	.35
4	.41	.47	.48	.52	.54	.64	.92
5	.34	.35	.38	.40	.48	.53	.57
6	.44	.50	.57	.61	.71	.76	.75
7	.19	.27	.28	.29	.44	.48	.35
Mean ES	.29	.33	.36	.38	.46	.55	.62
Coverage (%)	100	92	87	83	70	50	22

differences between the dependent variables. External criterion #1, for example, demonstrated low effect size at all levels of coverage and particularly for high levels of coverage. The most important finding, however, is the relationship between effect size and coverage. Averaging across all seven dependent variables, there is a linear and inverse relationship between coverage and effect size. As coverage decreased, effect sizes increased. In other words, as one classifies fewer and fewer subjects into groups, differences in the external criteria became more pronounced. This can be interpreted in terms of the "continuum of classifiability." At 100% coverage many subjects were grouped into clusters even though they bear little resemblance to other cluster members and do not differ in the same manner on the external criteria. Thus, effect sizes are diluted. At lower levels of coverage, cluster members resemble each other to a greater extent and the clusters themselves are more representative of "pure types." Thus, differences in external criteria become more pronounced.

Considering the linear relationship between coverage and statistical power, one may conclude that the lowest levels of coverage offer the best chance of detecting significant differences in external criteria. This is clearly faulty reasoning. Statistical power, which is the ability to detect significant differences among groups, is a function not only of effect size, but also sample size. As sample size decreases below a certain threshold statistical power also decreases. Given a cutoff point of .9, for example, one would obtain a large effect size (.62) but only 22% of the subjects would be classified. With such a small sample size the probability of detecting significant differences in the external criteria is low, despite the fact that the differences among clusters are relatively "large." Thus, it is important to distinguish between the size of differences between clusters and the significance of these differences.

To evaluate the effects of coverage on statistical power, the probability of

detecting significant differences among groups was calculated according to the procedures provided by Cohen (1977). The $p > .01$ level of significance was used in these statistical power calculations. Results for the inverse factor analysis procedure (varimax rotation) are reported in Table 3. As shown in this table, there was a curvilinear relationship between statistical power and coverage. For these analyses, 100% coverage yielded a .52 probability of detecting a significant difference in external criteria. In other words, one had about a 50/50 chance of finding a significant difference among clusters. However, statistical power increased substantially as coverage decreased. Leaving only 8% of the subject unclassified, for example, boosted statistical power to .60. Leaving 30% of the subjects unclassified boosted statistical power to .78. At lower levels of coverage (e.g., 22%), statistical power again declined to only .51.

These results suggest that classifying all subjects will not result in optimal statistical power. They further suggest that the optimal level of statistical power may be obtained in the range from 70-83% coverage. Reducing coverage from 70 to 50% resulted in negligible gains in statistical power. Moreover, classifying too few subjects had a deleterious effect on statistical power, even though this results in larger effect sizes (See Table 2).

B. Lorr's Technique

1. Procedure. Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering procedure, called "Build-Up," was also evaluated on Blashfield's 20 multivariate normal mixtures. Special computer software was written to perform these cluster analyses and permit us to manipulate the inclusion and exclusion cutoff points as described previously. Lorr's clustering technique was evaluated using 11 combinations of inclusion and exclusion cutoff points, ranging in significance levels from .10 to .001. We expected the lowest levels of coverage to arise from high inclusion cutoff points (.001) and low exclusion cutoff points (.10), as explained previously. The

Table 3

Statistical Power for inverse factor analysis (VARIMAX)

	Cutoff point (loading)						
	<u>.0</u>	<u>.4</u>	<u>.5</u>	<u>.6</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.8</u>	<u>.9</u>
External criteria							
1	.05	.03	.03	.03	.05	.36	.65
2	.21	.54	.90	.94	.84	.95	.60
3	.65	.54	.52	.40	.85	.73	.10
4	.91	.95	.94	.99	.97	.97	.99
5	.70	.74	.80	.84	.90	.82	.42
6	.95	.99	.99	.99	.99	.99	.74
7	.19	.40	.42	.47	.84	.73	.10
Mean SP	.52	.60	.66	.67	.78	.79	.51
Coverage (%)	100	92	87	83	70	50	22

highest levels of coverage would arise from inclusions/exclusion cutoff points that were low and close together (.10/.10).

2. Calculating Accuracy. The accuracy of Lorr's clustering solutions were evaluated using asymmetric lambda as described previously for inverse factor analysis. Additional accuracy measures were also employed, but they yielded the same conclusions. Accuracy results were reported in terms of asymmetric lambda because this statistic has conceptual advantages and this would permit direct comparisons with the results obtained for the inverse factoring solutions.

3. Accuracy Results. Mean accuracy results for the 20 multivariate normal mixtures are reported in Table 4. This table reports mean levels of coverage and accuracy for each of the 11 combinations of inclusion/exclusion cutoff points, for both the product-moment correlation and the intraclass correlation. Unexpectedly, there was a curvilinear relationship between accuracy and coverage. In general, accuracy was relatively low at both high and low levels of coverage. For analyses employing the product-moment correlation, accuracy was maximized in the range from 49-72% coverage. For analyses employing the intraclass correlation, the highest accuracies were obtained in the range from 48-68% coverage. The two measures of profile similarity (product-moment correlation and intraclass correlation) did not differ significantly in either accuracy or coverage. These results are similar to those previously reported for inverse factor analysis in that high levels of coverage produced low accuracy.

These accuracy results differ from those obtained for inverse factor analysis in that low levels of coverage did not produce increasingly higher accuracy values. This can be attributed to the idiosyncratic way in which Lorr's clustering procedure builds clusters. In order to achieve low levels of coverage the inclusion/exclusion cutoff points must be extended beyond reasonable and recommended range.

Table 4

Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Clustering Technique.

	C_{in}	<u>.001</u>				<u>.01</u>			<u>.025</u>		<u>.05</u>
		<u>.01</u>	<u>.025</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.025</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.10</u>
Intraclass correlation											
Accuracy		.74	.74	.74	.71	.96	.95	.96	.94	.93	.88
Coverage (%)		31	29	27	25	59	53	48	68	61	75
Product-moment											
Accuracy		.73	.73	.73	.69	.95	.95	.94	.92	.91	.87
Coverage (%)		34	31	29	26	62	55	49	72	62	77

Note: Table entries are mean values based on the analysis of 20 mixtures.

That is, the inclusion value must be set exceedingly high while the exclusion value is set exceedingly low. This results in the construction of very peculiar clusters which are not representative of the "pure types" that would be expected at low levels of coverage.

Another unexpected finding was that not combination of inclusion/exclusion criteria resulted in 100% coverage. Even the lowest combination of inclusion/exclusion criteria (.10/.10) failed to classify all subjects. It is possible that 100% coverage could be achieved with even lower inclusion/exclusion criteria, but such cutoff points are not recommended, given the rationale of the grouping procedure.

4. Effect Size and Statistical Power. Effect size and statistical power for Lorr's technique were evaluated on the same multivariate data set used with the inverse factor analysis described previously. Again, clusters defined on the basis of Lorr's grouping procedure served as the independent variable and each of the seven external variables served as the external criteria or dependent variables. One-way analyses of variance were used to evaluate effect size and statistical power according to procedures described previously. Since results for the product-moment correlation and one-way intraclass correlation were almost identical, only results for the product-moment correlation (the measure originally recommended by Lorr) are reported here.

Effect size, as measured by Cohen's f statistic, are reported in Table 5. The effect size, coverage, and number of clusters obtained for each of the 11 combinations of inclusion/exclusion criteria are given. Overall, the effect sizes were high, mostly in the medium to large range and showed a linear/inverse relationship to coverage. That is, high levels of coverage resulted in lower effect sizes. As coverage decreased there was a general increase in effect size. These results are similar to those previously reported for inverse factor analysis.

Table 5

Effect Size for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Procedure (correlation)

	Cin	.001				.01			.025		.05	.10
		Cex	.01	.025	.05	.10	.025	.05	.10	.05	.10	.10
External criteria												
1		.74	.71	.74	.72	.40	.39	.40	.34	.38	.35	.30
2		.88	.88	.89	.90	.64	.62	.63	.56	.59	.60	.40
3		.56	.58	.51	.53	.57	.58	.50	.51	.50	.54	.39
4		.86	.85	.86	.88	.66	.67	.63	.61	.62	.54	.39
5		.57	.49	.32	.22	.54	.51	.29	.43	.39	.41	.39
6		.58	.67	.69	.44	.65	.65	.66	.51	.54	.50	.41
7		.45	.40	.41	.38	.44	.42	.36	.42	.41	.46	.30
Mean ES		.66	.65	.62	.58	.56	.55	.49	.48	.49	.49	.37
Coverage (%)		32	30	26	22	64	56	52	78	71	84	95
#Clusters		6	6	5	4	8	7	6	8	7	7	7

Table 5 also shows an unexpected relationship between the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the number of clusters obtained. With Lorr's technique, the number of clusters is not determined a priori, but is free to vary and is determined by the inclusion/exclusion criteria. Overall, the number of clusters ranged from 4 to 8 and was clearly dependent upon the relative values for inclusion and exclusion. Specifically, combinations of inclusion and exclusion criteria which were close together resulted in more clusters than combinations that were far apart. This can be explained easily, in that the closer the cutoff points, the fewer the subjects excluded from the clustering in each clustering cycle. This leaves more subjects available in subsequent cycles for constructing more clusters. In addition, the number of clusters appear to be related to the absolute value of the inclusion criterion. In general, the lower the level of the inclusion cutoff point the greater the number of clusters.

Statistical power for each of the seven external criteria were also calculated for the 11 runs of Lorr's technique. Statistical power results are reported in Table 6. Overall, statistical power values were high, reflecting a high probability of detecting a significant difference among clusters. Statistical power was also related to coverage. Statistical power was relatively low at extremely high (< 85%) and low (> 55%) coverage. For these data, statistical power was maximized in the range of 64-84% coverage. There were clear disadvantages to reducing coverage below 50%. Classifying only 22% of the sample, for example, resulted in only a .49 probability of detecting a significant difference in external criteria. This can be compared to the .82 probability of detecting a significant difference at 84% coverage.

C. Centroid Clustering.

1. Procedure. The 20 benchmark mixtures were also analyzed using the centroid clustering/nearest centroid assignment procedure previously described by Edelbrock

Table 6

Statistical Power for Lorr's Non-hierarchical Procedure (correlation)

Cin	<u>.001</u>				<u>.01</u>			<u>.025</u>		<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>
	<u>.01</u>	<u>.025</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.025</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.10</u>
External Criteria											
1	.90	.73	.86	.74	.49	.39	.46	.44	.55	.50	.41
2	.99	.95	.95	.95	.95	.90	.94	.93	.95	.99	.76
3	.52	.48	.38	.40	.90	.86	.74	.90	.85	.95	.74
4	.99	.93	.94	.93	.97	.94	.94	.98	.98	.95	.74
5	.60	.31	.10	.10	.86	.70	.20	.69	.57	.68	.74
6	.61	.62	.76	.25	.97	.92	.95	.90	.90	.92	.77
7	.32	.16	.12	.14	.60	.48	.32	.69	.62	.79	.41
Mean SP	.70	.60	.59	.49	.82	.74	.65	.79	.77	.82	.65
Coverage (%)	32	30	26	22	64	55	52	78	71	84	95
#Clusters	6	6	5	4	8	7	6	8	7	7	7

and Achenbach (1980). The strategy by which this method constructs clusters was described previously. One practical problem with this method is that it does not yield a discrete number of clusters, but rather a hierarchical arrangement of objects and groups. Determining the appropriate number of clusters in a hierarchical solution is a difficult and thorny problem (cf. Mojena, 1977). In this research, the number of clusters was set to equal the number of underlying populations in the mixture. Outliers were excluded from determining the number of clusters to avoid the problem of a single outlier being considered a "cluster" (See Edelbrock, 1979 for a discussion of this methodological problem).

Two measures of profile similarity were tested using the centroid clustering procedure: the product-moment correlation and the one-way intraclass correlation. Previous research on the centroid clustering procedure (Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980) had suggested that the intraclass correlation would result in higher accuracy, but it was necessary to explore this question further here. Running analyses on both of these measures would also maximize comparability with Lorr's technique as reported in previous section.

Each of the 20 multivariate normal mixtures was analyzed separately using the centroid clustering technique employing either the product-moment correlation or the one-way intraclass correlation as the measure of profile similarity. For each clustering solution, the appropriate number of clusters was determined (excluding outliers) and the cluster centroids were calculated. Each object was then classified according to the cluster centroids, using the nearest centroid assignment procedure described previously. The minimum value required for classification could be varied to manipulate coverage. Six minimum cutoff points were used, ranging from .0 to .9.

2. Calculating accuracy. After objects were assigned to clusters using the nearest centroid procedure, asymmetric lambda was calculated as an index of the

accuracy of the clustering solution. Again, cluster membership served as the "independent variable" in the cross-classifications, while true population membership served as the "dependent variable." The accuracy values thus reflect the degree to which the true population membership could be predicted by the clustering solution.

3. Accuracy Results. Mean accuracy results for the 20 multivariate normal mixtures are reported in Table 7. This table shows mean accuracy (lambda) for the centroid method using either the product-moment correlation or the intraclass correlation. Mean accuracy and coverage values are given for cutoff points of .0, .1, .3, .5, .7, and .9--corresponding to coverage levels ranging from 100 down to 9.4%. As shown in Table 7, accuracy values were moderately high and were related to coverage in the expected way. That is, accuracy increased relative to declines in coverage in a quasi-linear way. Thus, accuracy was lowest at 100% coverage and increased monotonically as coverage decreased. Unlike Lorr's technique, accuracy did not deteriorate at the lowest levels of coverage. For the centroid clustering procedure, accuracy continued to increase even below 15% coverage.

Table 7 also indicates that the intraclass correlation yielded higher accuracy values than the product-moment correlation. For example, at 100% coverage, the intraclass correlation resulted in an accuracy value of .73, whereas the product-moment correlation resulted in an accuracy value of .68. This difference is significant ($p > .05$) by the paired t-test. Although the cutoff points did not yield perfectly comparable levels of coverage for the product-moment correlation and the intraclass correlation, the results in Table 7 indicate that the intraclass correlation resulted in consistently higher accuracy values at lower levels of coverage. This is consistent with previously reported comparisons between these two similarity measures (Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980).

Table 7

Mean Accuracy and Coverage Values for the Centroid Clustering Procedure.

	Cutoff Point					
	<u>.0</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.3</u>	<u>.5</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.9</u>
Intraclass correlation						
Accuracy	.725	.733	.762	.807	.905	1.00
Coverage (%)	100	96.1	84.9	56.3	26.6	1.3
Product moment correlation						
Accuracy	.688	.690	.715	.778	.853	.968
Coverage (%)	100	97.9	92.7	73.0	38.8	14.9

NOTE: Table entries are mean values based on 20 mixtures.

4. Effect Size and Statistical Power. The effect size and statistical power of the centroid clustering procedure was evaluated on Blashfield's data set #17, in a manner described previously for inverse factor analysis and Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique. The results for the product-moment correlation and the intraclass correlation were similar. We chose to report the results for the intraclass correlation since this measure produced significantly higher levels of accuracy and appeared to be the similarity measure of choice for this clustering method.

Mean effect sizes for the clustering procedure are reported in Table 8. This table summarizes effect size as measured by Cohen's f statistic, for each of the seven external criteria at six levels of coverage dictated by the cutoff points. As shown in Table 8, effect sizes were predominantly in the high range. As expected, effect size had a curvilinear relationship to coverage: effect size was lowest at 100% coverage and increased as coverage declined to about 30%. Below 30% coverage, effect size dropped slightly.

Statistical power results are reported in Table 9. As shown, statistical power was very high for all cutoff points and showed a moderate relationship to coverage. A pronounced curvilinear relationship is also evident. Statistical power was relatively high at 100% coverage, increased moderately as coverage decreased to 60%. Below 50%, statistical power deteriorated rapidly. At extremely low levels of coverage (6%) statistical power was extremely low (e.g., indicating only a .02 probability of detecting a significant difference). Overall, statistical power was maximized at 60% coverage although it was high even at 100% coverage.

D. Between Method Comparisons

A major goal of this research was to document relations between coverage and both accuracy and statistical power for a variety of clustering procedures. An

Table 8

Effect Sizes for Centroid Analysis (intraclass correlation)

External criterion	Cutoff point (ICC)					
	<u>.01</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.3</u>	<u>.5</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.9</u>
1	.49	.50	.55	.87	.79	.99
2	.16	.16	.31	.54	.99	.99
3	.65	.64	.72	.63	.25	.10
4	.67	.65	.80	.86	.99	.82
5	.76	.75	.80	.99	.99	.99
6	.34	.34	.37	.56	.96	.99
7	.52	.52	.53	.50	.43	.21
Mean ES	.51	.51	.58	.71	.77	.72
Coverage (%)	100	98	87	60	29	6

Note: Table entries reflect effect size (f) calculated from analysis of variance according to procedures described by Cohen (1977). Separate one-way analyses of variance were used, with clusters (k=4) serving as the independent variable and the external criteria serving as the dependent variable.

Table 9

Statistical Power for Centroid Analysis (intraclass correlation)

External criteria	Cutoff point (ICC)					
	<u>.0</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.3</u>	<u>.5</u>	<u>.7</u>	<u>.9</u>
1	.98	.98	.99	.99	.84	.10
2	.08	.07	.48	.89	.99	.10
3	.99	.99	.99	.96	.05	.01
4	.99	.99	.99	.99	.99	.09
5	.99	.99	.99	.99	.99	.06
6	.72	.69	.71	.97	.99	.10
7	.98	.98	.99	.99	.20	.10
Mean SP	.82	.82	.88	.97	.72	.02
Coverage (%)	100	98	87	60	29	6

Note: Table entries reflect probability of detecting significant differences (p<.01) in external criteria between 4 clusters.

equally important goal, however, was to compare clustering methods against each other on the same data sets. Thus, three clustering methods--inverse factor analysis, Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique, and centroid clustering--were compared in terms of (a) accuracy in solving 20 multivariate normal mixtures and (b) effect size and statistical power these methods afford on external criteria on the test data set. Our goal was to be able to judge the relative merits of different clustering procedures on the same criteria, even though they construct clusters in vastly different ways. These comparisons provide a basis for selecting the best clustering procedures in future research using real data.

1. Accuracy comparisons. Direct comparisons among the three best clustering procedures (inverse factor analysis-varimax, Lorr's technique-product-moment correlation, and centroid clustering-intraclass correlation) is complicated by the fact that these procedures do not necessarily produce the same number of clusters or identical levels of coverage. Nevertheless, some comparisons between methods are possible, despite the fact that they construct clusters in different ways and employ different mechanisms for manipulating the coverage of the resulting classifications. These comparisons were possible here because the three grouping procedures were evaluated on the same 20 data sets and identical measures of accuracy and statistical power were employed.

Accuracy results for the three grouping procedures are reported in Table 10. This table reports mean accuracy values (λ) and levels of coverage based on the analysis of the 20 multivariate normal mixtures. Table values reflect some minor interpolation between raw data points to permit comparisons across methods (i.e., coverage values were grouped according to 5% levels). Among the four inverse factoring procedures $j \neq k$ solutions were consistently more accurate than $j = k$ solutions for both the varimax and direct quartimin rotations. In addition, varimax solutions were consistently more accurate than the direct quartimin solutions

Table 10

Accuracy Results for Inverse Factor Analysis, Lorr's Technique and Centroid Clustering.

Method	COVERAGE (%)																	
	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	10								
Inverse Factor Analysis																		
Varimax (j=k)	.66	..	.68	..	.71	..	.74	..	..	.80	..	..	..	.83	..	..	..	.88
D-Quart (j=k)	.61	..	..	.66	.69	..	.73	..	..	.78	..	..	..	.82	..	..	..	.83
Varimax (j≠k)	.73	.76	.78	..	..	.81	..	..	.85	..	..	..	..	.90	..	..	..	.95
D-Quart (j≠k)	.71	.74	.76	..	..	.80	..	..	.84	..	..	..	..	.88	..	..	..	.90
Lorr's Technique																		
Correlation	..	.75	..	..	..	.87	.92	..	.92	..	.94	..	..	.73	.73	.69	..	..
Intraclass r	..	.77	..	..	..	.88	.94	..	.95	.95	.96	..	..	..	.74	.71	..	..
Centroid Clustering																		
Correlation	.69	.69	.72	..	..	.78	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.85	..	..	..	.97
Intraclass	.73	.73	..	.76	..	..	..	..	.81	..	..	..	..	..	.91	..	..	1.00

NOTE: Table entries represent mean accuracy results (lambda) for 20 multivariate normal mixtures.

at all levels of coverage. Thus, the most accurate inverse factoring procedure was the varimax rotation with the number of clusters determined empirically via Cattell's scree test. For both Lorr's technique and centroid clustering, the one-way intraclass correlation yielded slightly higher accuracy than the product-moment correlation. This is presumably because the intraclass correlation utilizes information based on elevation and scatter of profile scores in addition to shape (cf. Edelbrock and McLaughlin, 1980).

Considering the most accurate of each of the three grouping procedures (inverse factor analysis-varimax, Lorr's technique-intraclass correlation, and centroid clustering-intraclass correlation), differences in accuracy are negligible in the range from 90-100% coverage. For example, the varimax procedure yielded clustering solutions with a mean accuracy of .76 for approximately 95% coverage, whereas Lorr's technique resulted in a mean accuracy of .77 and centroid clustering produced a mean accuracy of .73. These differences are not statistically reliable. At medium levels of coverage (50-85%) there was significant differences among the 3 procedures. Lorr's technique proved to be the most accurate method at medium levels of coverage, with accuracy values ranging from .88-.95. Inverse factor analysis was the next most accurate, with mean accuracy values ranging from .81-.85. Centroid clustering proved to be the least accurate of the 3 procedures, with mean accuracy values ranging from .76-.81 at medium levels of coverage. At lower levels of coverage (10-45%) the situation was reversed, with inverse factor analysis and centroid clustering (.90-.95 and .91-1.00, respectively) performing better than Lorr's technique (.71-.74).

This finding indicates that comparative evaluation of clustering procedures depends upon level of coverage at which comparisons are made. At high levels of coverage, the three best clustering procedures were comparable in terms of accuracy. However, at medium levels of coverage, Lorr's method proved to be the

most accurate method, followed by inverse factor analysis, and finally the centroid clustering procedure.

2. Statistical Power Comparisons. Mean values for statistical power, averaged across the seven external criteria on Blashfield's data set #17 are reported in Table 11. These mean accuracy values are reported for the most accurate of each of the three grouping methods: (a) inverse factor analysis-varimax, (b) Lorr's technique-intraclass correlation, and (c) centroid clustering-intraclass correlation. As shown in Table 11, centroid clustering produced the highest levels of statistical power, whereas inverse factor analysis produced the lowest. The inverse factoring procedure produced lower levels of statistical power with one exception: at 50% coverage inverse factor analysis produced a higher level of statistical power than Lorr's technique (.79 vs. .65, respectively). However, in the range of coverage in which accuracy is maximized (55-85%), the centroid technique was clearly superior to the other two procedures in terms of statistical power. This suggests that the centroid technique is more likely than other methods to construct clusters that will differentiate among subjects in terms of external criteria. This is particularly true if the procedure is used to construct classifications having coverage in the range of 55-85% coverage. If classifications having high coverage are to be constructed (< 95% coverage), inverse factor analysis and Lorr's technique would appear to be promising methods.

E. Summary and Conclusions

Our research results have documented a strong relationship between level of coverage and both accuracy of clustering solutions and the statistical power of cluster based classifications. For each of the three clustering procedures tested here, 100% coverage resulted in less than optimal accuracy in recovering predetermined populations from computer generated mixtures. For all three methods, the accuracy of clustering solutions was substantially boosted by leaving a portion

Table 11

Statistical Power Comparison for Three Grouping Methods

Method	COVERAGE																		
	<u>100</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>									
A	.52	.60	--	.66	.67	--	.78	--	--	--	.79	--	--	--	--	.51	--	--	
B	--	.57	--	.82	--	.79	.77	.82	--	.72	.65	--	--	.70	.60	.59	.49	--	--
C	.82	--	--	.88	--	--	--	--	.97	--	--	--	--	--	.72	--	--	--	.02

NOTE: Method A: Inverse Factor Analysis - Varimax rotation, $j \neq k$.

Method B: Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique - intraclass correlation.

Method C: Centroid clustering - intraclass correlation.

of subjects unclassified. In fact, leaving only 15-25% of the subjects unclassified resulted in a substantial increase in clustering accuracy for all methods. These results further suggest that the accuracy of clustering solutions can be maximized in the range of 55-85% coverage. For all of the methods we tested, increasing coverage above 85% had deleterious effects on clustering accuracy. In other words, pushing the level of coverage above 85% is likely to result in an increasing probability of misclassification.

Taken together, these results support the concept of a "continuum of classifiability" in the behavioral and social sciences. Based on these findings, we would not recommend that behavioral and social scientists attempt to classify 100% of their subjects into mutually exclusive groups. Alternatively, taxonomists should experiment with the heuristic and predictive value of classifications having less than 100% coverage. Our results further suggest that predictive power of empirically derived taxonomies can be maximized by constructing classifications having coverages of approximately 55-85%.

The statistical power results further indicate that the level of coverage of classifications is strongly related to the probability of detecting significant correlates of cluster membership. For all of the methods we tested, 100% coverage produced less than optimal probabilities of detecting significant differences among clusters. Instead, statistical power was maximized in the range of 55-85% coverage. At the other extreme, statistical power also deteriorated at low levels of coverage (at least for sample sizes in the range of 100-150). These results suggest that typologies or classifications having levels of coverage in the medium range will be optimally predictive of external criteria. Although a high level of coverage may be desirable when constructing classifications, it is clear that attempts to classify everybody will result in increasing misclassifications and reduced predictive power.

An additional point to be emphasized, however, is that with the development of methods for manipulating the coverage of empirically derived taxonomies, it is not necessary to derive a single classification of subjects with one level of coverage. Researchers should be encouraged to experiment with various levels of coverage (using procedures such as those developed and presented here). Researchers should also attempt to determine the optimal level of coverage for the classifications they derive. Of course, the level of coverage one seeks is also related to the purpose of the classification. If the goal is to optimize statistical power of a typology, coverage in the medium range may be warranted. Alternatively, if the goal is to characterize "pure types", lower levels of coverage would be useful. In an epidemiological study aimed at accounting for the generality of a phenomena in a population, very high levels of core coverage may be warranted.

The between method comparisons reported here indicate that the clustering procedures we tested are not equivalent in terms of their accuracy in grouping objects drawn from computer generated populations or in terms of predictive power. Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering procedure performed exceptionally well in both respects and should be given serious consideration in future clustering efforts. For Lorr's technique, both the product-moment correlation and the intraclass correlation resulted in high accuracy and high predictive power. Nevertheless, the intraclass correlation performed slightly better. In evaluating inclusion and exclusion criteria for Lorr's technique, inclusion criteria no higher than .01 and exclusion criteria no lower than .05 were optimal. The inclusion/exclusion combination of .01/.025 is recommended as the best compromise in terms of accuracy, coverage, and statistical power. This is, of course, only a general guideline, and the optimal inclusion/exclusion combination will depend upon many factors, including the number of clusters one seeks to derive, the sample size, etc.

Results on the inverse factoring procedures are also encouraging, considering that this method has been widely criticized as a grouping procedure. In our comparisons, varimax procedures performed quite well, both in terms of accuracy and statistical power. This was particularly the case when the number of clusters was determined empirically via Cattell's method. In fact, at high levels of coverage, the varimax procedure produced clustering solutions that were as accurate as those produced by Lorr's technique and the centroid clustering procedure.

The centroid clustering-neura centroid assignment procedure performed exceptionally well in terms of both accuracy and statistical power. Overall, this method produced very high levels of accuracy and statistical power. A major obstacle to this method, however, is the difficulty in determining the appropriate number of clusters. The other two procedures (inverse factor analysis and Lorr's technique) determine the number of clusters empirically. The centroid method, which is a hierarchical clustering procedure does not. Future research is clearly needed to operationalize reliable and objective rules for determining number of clusters in a hierarchical clustering solution (e.g., Mojena, 1977). Unfortunately, comprehensive research on various stopping rules for hierarchical clustering algorithms was beyond the scope of this research. It is possible that the development of objective stopping rules for the centroid clustering procedure would result in even greater accuracy and statistical power. Thus, we would recommend that the centroid clustering procedure be seriously considered, by cluster analysts doing methodological investigations as well as by applied researchers.

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Appendix A

Blashfield's multivariate normal mixture #17

9,126

4

36,30,35,25

(13,6X,9F7,3/)

BLASHFIELD DATA SET 17 MIX17.DAT

17	1	1	60.340	54.450	31.090	47.366	49.555	44.217	39.482	42.662	57.960	50.455
17	1	2	55.120	57.820	37.394	48.418	48.461	50.768				
17	1	2	56.373	57.155	35.772	43.578	48.686	47.238	43.038	45.584	58.043	57.893
17	1	3	51.767	45.981	40.274	47.552	53.348	51.641				
17	1	3	55.455	55.470	28.816	45.621	48.560	44.981	41.964	44.257	52.645	58.357
17	1	4	54.317	56.540	38.657	44.471	50.696	44.147				
17	1	4	60.415	47.471	49.670	49.143	50.913	38.488	34.377	40.749	51.788	64.180
17	1	5	56.369	53.610	39.252	60.264	44.935	39.473				
17	1	5	65.395	35.209	47.207	60.807	61.632	29.217	26.566	34.332	43.169	75.071
17	1	6	65.618	47.140	34.406	64.050	31.020	41.049				
17	1	6	56.095	49.052	44.774	50.476	50.150	38.715	36.174	41.146	49.489	43.726
17	1	7	55.318	32.522	39.390	68.558	45.223	36.211				
17	1	7	60.959	47.676	46.361	49.870	52.961	40.620	36.887	41.086	53.969	64.137
17	1	8	57.846	37.908	36.058	58.874	44.856	40.174				
17	1	8	54.993	52.030	50.393	45.497	50.460	42.614	38.003	42.913	53.445	61.026
17	1	9	52.559	52.286	42.096	55.463	50.257	39.781				
17	1	9	66.157	42.624	46.468	55.119	55.031	35.852	32.701	37.049	48.876	69.845
17	1	10	62.748	52.650	33.340	54.180	37.921	57.798				
17	1	10	56.388	61.726	53.736	38.379	40.561	49.924	45.362	49.726	59.047	50.209
17	1	11	45.965	36.669	47.061	59.982	60.907	35.612				
17	1	11	51.443	63.232	43.909	37.780	41.761	50.580	45.748	49.055	61.071	49.360
17	1	12	45.479	48.753	46.494	41.587	62.204	34.611				
17	1	12	53.733	57.640	46.000	44.861	46.674	46.529	45.953	45.611	59.629	57.096
17	1	13	51.895	64.556	42.548	62.166	53.961	52.225				
17	1	13	62.886	44.259	47.239	54.497	52.805	37.110	32.680	39.098	48.279	65.607
17	1	14	59.257	48.002	38.638	52.719	40.587	35.715				
17	1	14	58.238	52.835	40.809	47.733	52.661	42.907	40.774	43.073	54.804	63.184
17	1	15	53.898	53.148	38.515	48.852	48.177	56.838				
17	1	15	63.588	41.242	31.807	58.857	55.055	33.482	29.596	35.497	48.322	71.186
17	1	16	65.772	46.430	33.833	57.856	35.426	51.705				
17	1	16	55.389	56.356	40.940	45.411	51.227	46.094	42.959	44.171	56.706	60.268
17	1	17	53.759	55.205	38.286	45.958	50.589	53.040				
17	1	17	65.315	38.869	54.569	58.382	57.301	32.476	28.326	35.220	45.791	71.261
17	1	18	61.368	35.846	35.849	67.855	33.498	35.068				
17	1	18	55.522	63.107	36.876	39.378	43.565	51.766	47.560	48.638	65.053	52.246
17	1	19	47.157	56.945	44.193	46.530	60.249	51.098				
17	1	19	52.835	59.042	46.231	39.410	47.388	49.281	46.645	48.789	62.672	53.237
17	1	20	46.100	50.483	43.941	42.249	58.510	42.140				
17	1	20	64.778	42.455	57.233	55.993	57.232	33.954	30.742	37.772	49.502	70.192
17	1	21	61.155	53.146	36.312	50.530	36.993	41.823				
17	1	21	47.896	66.109	23.971	36.489	40.818	53.771	49.267	48.660	63.619	50.313
17	1	22	45.911	43.876	40.568	40.745	61.896	33.714				
17	1	22	60.022	45.981	35.398	53.291	50.755	27.021	33.093	37.365	48.668	67.475
17	1	23	61.689	42.926	37.286	68.498	40.770	38.429				
17	1	23	61.228	48.509	43.384	52.499	52.914	39.473	37.043	40.791	51.708	65.010
17	1	24	57.932	56.722	43.519	44.339	48.461	46.295	40.378	45.517	54.612	57.462
17	1	25	50.721	48.882	43.102	46.548	55.179	46.674				
17	1	25	59.811	49.425	38.744	52.344	51.757	38.598	36.089	40.571	50.308	64.696
17	1	26	57.845	35.437	38.887	63.755	43.491	40.770				
17	1	26	57.909	54.275	48.988	43.994	47.016	44.901	42.576	44.872	55.545	58.833
17	1	27	53.687	53.730	42.309	52.124	52.526	39.154				
17	1	27	60.452	57.249	46.197	44.527	46.110		42.233	45.762	57.363	57.033
17	1	28	53.125	52.875	43.204	54.150	54.482	47.752				
17	1	28	55.737	46.479	26.344	54.598	54.539	37.267	37.930	38.632	49.121	68.406

17			60.685	49.959	34.544	59.349	39.429	49.891				
17	1	29	56.006	57.319	46.721	46.840	49.319	44.844	39.582	43.868	56.776	60.329
17	1	30	53.858	51.825	42.365	59.754	51.826	40.961				
17	1	30	55.672	56.029	31.731	44.323	47.131	46.566	40.428	44.599	58.021	58.077
17	1	31	50.854	40.532	41.206	51.547	52.779	46.399				
17	1	31	58.591	52.894	42.813	47.823	49.699	41.965	36.791	42.950	54.602	62.240
17	1	32	54.304	47.928	37.557	43.480	47.994	44.019				
17	1	32	62.484	48.064	40.055	50.873	52.699	38.689	34.580	39.283	51.529	66.062
17	1	33	59.526	46.153	35.102	63.316	41.941	38.589				
17	1	33	54.642	56.225	36.983	46.136	48.838	44.644	38.754	43.632	57.464	59.775
17	1	34	51.120	45.159	40.357	50.601	51.467	46.675				
17	1	34	59.509	57.395	48.814	42.269	47.325	46.859	41.440	46.130	57.235	56.333
17	1	35	50.924	39.148	43.291	44.941	54.895	31.475				
17	1	35	59.617	48.600	50.167	49.993	51.324	40.538	36.245	41.566	50.421	65.136
17	1	36	57.047	41.633	38.023	67.513	44.317	39.475				
17	1	36	58.415	53.490	37.069	47.861	50.868	42.103	38.427	42.402	51.440	60.876
17	2	1	53.583	46.587	39.738	56.223	46.788	39.941				
17	2	1	54.969	64.507	51.570	62.837	52.125	39.081	56.376	49.371	56.170	60.463
17	2	2	49.035	53.889	59.164	64.093	34.858	58.753				
17	2	2	45.968	44.437	55.979	55.625	65.251	41.908	59.047	60.509	43.153	48.733
17	2	3	65.496	60.608	54.297	54.038	46.771	44.710				
17	2	3	47.084	52.349	58.300	57.226	49.472	44.011	61.009	61.393	49.953	47.499
17	2	4	62.545	64.141	65.133	58.021	49.584	41.485				
17	2	4	44.918	63.431	50.987	60.817	43.655	38.781	59.517	50.003	48.753	60.593
17	2	5	51.088	56.161	53.754	61.704	35.738	53.188				
17	2	5	44.167	68.979	48.851	65.440	49.572	35.227	53.226	46.732	51.659	67.959
17	2	6	40.272	52.323	83.527	66.221	30.027	62.330				
17	2	6	48.782	55.679	49.228	59.846	52.911	37.463	56.940	54.497	49.346	58.499
17	2	7	59.088	60.596	64.899	58.142	38.295	49.417				
17	2	7	47.213	54.131	57.880	54.864	53.610	47.554	62.152	60.643	45.421	53.325
17	2	8	64.466	58.232	47.981	55.126	44.720	40.776				
17	2	8	45.883	51.981	51.451	54.999	40.622	52.200	66.569	63.162	44.191	48.691
17	2	9	70.564	64.071	51.127	56.561	48.770	41.315				
17	2	9	40.889	35.430	61.124	48.408	48.583	53.471	65.551	50.428	39.219	43.880
17	2	10	77.053	66.885	42.281	46.999	50.256	30.344				
17	2	10	51.943	58.597	48.556	57.780	52.393	47.780	63.595	58.178	50.518	57.744
17	2	11	56.009	53.562	49.284	57.120	40.586	49.511				
17	2	11	48.822	57.465	47.734	56.725	53.396	42.025	60.437	53.085	47.705	61.320
17	2	12	62.119	57.716	58.998	58.198	34.321	47.230				
17	2	12	47.362	51.070	51.228	54.434	48.389	51.774	66.493	41.083	44.579	48.983
17	2	13	59.913	61.545	57.300	54.090	44.098	40.741				
17	2	13	39.580	45.185	64.596	54.590	62.299	46.918	60.561	55.370	41.916	47.179
17	2	14	75.742	62.272	52.984	54.243	40.438	39.983				
17	2	14	55.811	51.853	53.194	58.684	57.663	40.419	53.909	50.280	50.194	56.532
17	2	15	54.789	59.636	64.183	60.871	37.923	52.603				
17	2	15	52.490	54.891	57.448	58.475	58.312	41.299	58.635	52.348	54.619	59.712
17	2</											

17		54.263	47.402	61.640	36.653	51.684	50.124						
17	4 18	52.927	47.029	37.810	52.708	59.450	58.306	39.703	48.486	52.188	51.982		
17		45.745	38.215	51.823	47.075	48.309	40.838						
17	4 19	53.724	44.959	30.034	45.786	50.870	51.213	36.866	35.245	59.035	48.936		
17		43.373	34.452	37.974	42.303	33.667	37.308						
17	4 20	63.756	49.125	32.137	47.349	48.139	48.791	29.100	40.552	51.878	42.508		
17		38.310	28.540	51.818	52.581	43.411	35.678						
17	4 21	48.772	48.986	36.671	50.264	52.812	53.954	40.557	43.397	53.470	48.418		
17		41.957	30.154	49.218	40.171	38.282	38.467						
17	4 22	41.931	49.557	55.240	55.995	59.043	60.352	44.010	48.175	56.254	77.219		
17		52.956	51.143	58.549	44.135	51.711	49.832						
17	4 23	55.600	50.612	39.839	49.979	55.359	52.588	36.545	44.839	48.054	46.749		
17		40.442	31.432	51.961	41.151	38.224	31.740						
17	4 24	48.330	45.269	33.043	50.604	56.157	58.910	46.062	45.432	55.758	65.278		
17		51.948	46.752	40.632	39.429	36.446	54.477						
17	4 25	57.751	44.168	44.825	51.126	56.008	54.574	45.696	43.206	52.200	66.100		
17		43.497	41.273	52.064	37.331	40.895	38.333						

Appendix B

FORTRAN Listing for Lorr's non-hierarchical clustering technique

```

*****
* BRIEF DOCUMENTATION FOR LORR'S NON-
* HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING TECHNIQUE
*
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PROGRAM CORR.FOR

THIS PROGRAM COMPUTES THE PEARSON CORRELATION COEFFICIENT BETWEEN SUBJECTS. IT GENERATES AN OUTPUT DATA FILE OF CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS.

PROGRAM INTRA.FOR

THIS PROGRAM IS SIMILAR TO CORR.FOR EXCEPT THAT THE ONE-WAY INTRA CLASS CORRELATION COEFFICIENT IS USED.

PROGRAM LORR.FOR

THIS PROGRAM USES LORR'S TECHNIQUE TO FIND A CLUSTERING SOLUTION.

THESE PROGRAMS ALL REQUIRE SUBROUTINES FROM THE IBM PACKAGE INTERNATIONAL AND MATHEMATICAL STATISTICAL LIBRARY.

PROGRAM USAGE

FIRST RUN EITHER CORR.FOR OR INTRA.FOR TO GENERATE A RELATIONSHIP MATRIX TO BE PLACED ON DISK. EACH PROGRAM WILL PROMPT FOR THE RAW DATA SET TO BE CLUSTERED. NEXT RUN LORR.FOR TO GENERATE THE CLUSTERING SOLUTION.

DATA PREPARATION

THE DATA SET TO BE CLUSTERED MUST HAVE SOME INFORMATION AT THE START OF THE FILE.

FOR EXAMPLE:

```

N,M
NCUT
(CUT(I),I=1,NCUT)
FORMAT
TITLE
RAW DATA

```

WHERE N IS THE NUMBER OF FACTORS, M IS THE NUMBER OF CASES, NCUT IS THE NUMBER OF CUT POINTS IF GROUPS ARE KNOWN IN ADVANCE, CUT(I) ARE THE CUT VALUES WHEN THE GROUPS ARE KNOWN IN ADVANCE (THESE MUST ADD UP TO M). FORMAT IS THE FORMAT STATEMENT TO USE WHEN READING THE RAW DATA, AND TITLE IS ANY TITLE UP TO 80 CHARACTERS, WHEN THE GROUPS ARE NOT KNOWN

IN ADVANCE NCUT AND CUT(I) CAN BE SET TO ARBITRARY VALUES WHICH SATISFY THE RESTRICTIONS.

```

*****
*
* LORR.FOR
* THIS PROGRAM USES LORR'S NON-
* HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING PROCEDURE TO
* IDENTIFY HOMOGENEOUS SUBGROUPS OF
* SUBJECTS. EITHER THE PRODUCT-MOMENT
* CORRELATION OR THE INTRAClass CORRELATION
* MAY BE USED THE MEASURE OF PROFILE SIMILARITY
*
*****

```

```

COMMON IDEL(149),PROF(149),R(149,149),ICLUS(149),
1 NR,NC,CL,CU,NDEL,NPROF
1 DIMENSION ICTOT(30),ICMAX(30),IVMAX(30)
1 ,IRMAX(30),IRTOT(30),IWMAX(30)
1 ,IOUT(149)
DIMENSION ICROS(20,0/20)
INTEGER PROF
DIMENSION TITLE(20),NCS(6)
READ(12)TITLE
READ(12)METH
D WRITE(6,126)TITLE
D126 FORMAT(' TITLE ',20A5)
105 FORMAT(20A5)
READ(12)N,M,IDNUM
NR=M
NC=M
D WRITE(6,125)M
D125 FORMAT(' NO. ROWS ',I10)
READ(12)NCUT
READ(12)(NCS(I),I=1,NCUT)
IT=0
K1=1
M1=1
D WRITE(6,122)NCUT,M1S
D122 FORMAT(' NCUT ',I10,' CUTS ',6I5)
DO 106 J=1,M
READ(12)(R(J,I),I=1,K1)
K1=K1+1
106 CONTINUE
12 CONTINUE
CDO 11 I=2,NC
CWRITE(6,13)((R(I,J),J=1,I-1))
C13 FORMAT(8F10.6)
C11 CONTINUE
READ(1,502)CL
READ(1,502)CU
READ(1,502)IWRIT
IF(CL.GT.CU)WRITE(6,611)
611 FORMAT(' WARNING FIRST PROB MUSTBE LOWER THAN SECOND ON INPUT ')
C COMPUTE T VALUE FOR SPECIFIED PROBABILITY LEVEL
C USE R**2=T**2/(T**2+(N-2)) TO COMPUTE CL AND CU
IF(CL.GT.CU)STOP
SCL=CL
SCU=CU

```

```

IF(METH.EQ.2)GO TO 131
Q1=2.*CL
Q2=2.*CU
F=N-2
CALL MDSTI(Q1,F,X,IER)
CL=X
CALL MDSTI(Q2,F,X,IER)
CU=X
CL=(CL**2)/(CL**2+F)
CU=(CU**2)/(CU**2+F)
CU=CU**.5
CL=CL**.5
502 FORMAT(1G)
131 IF(METH.EQ.1)GO TO 132
CONTINUE
SNU1=N-1
SNU2=N
X=1-CL
CALL MDFI(X,SNU1,SNU2,CL,IER)
CL=(CL-1.)/(CL+1)
X=1-CU
CALL MDFI(X,SNU1,SNU2,CU,IER)
CU=(CU-1.)/(CU+1.)
132 CONTINUE
DO 11 I=1,NR
DO 11 J=1,NC
11 IF(R(I,J).NE.0.0)R(J,I)=R(I,J)
D303 WRITE(9,303)((R(I,J),I=1,NC),J=1,NR)
5 FORMAT(22F6.2)
CONTINUE
CALL BUILD(STPE)
IF(STPE.EQ.1.0)GO TO 100
K=K+1
NCLUS=K
DO 10 I=1,NPROF
10 ICLUS(PROF(I))=K
C MARK COORELATION MATRIX FOR PROFILES USED
DO 20 I=1,NDEL
DO 20 J=1,NR
IF(IDEL(I).EQ.0)GO TO 20
R(IDEL(I),J)=-1.0E+30
R(J,IDEL(I))=-1.0E+30
20 CONTINUE
DO 30 I=1,NPROF
DO 30 J=1,NR
CWRITE(6,77)NPROF,PROF(I)
77 FORMAT(' NPROF ',I10,2X,' PROF ',I10)
R(PROF(I),J)=-1.0E+30
R(J,PROF(I))=-1.0E+30
30 WRITE(6,99)ICLUS
D99 FORMAT(' SOLUTION ',I115)
IF(STPE.EQ.1.0)GO TO 100
IF(NPROF.GE.4)GO TO 5
100 CONTINUE
NTOT=0
IS=0
DO 500 I=1,NCUT
NTOT=NTOT+NCS(I)
NCS(I)=NCS(I)+IS
500 IS=NCS(I)

```

```

K=1
DO 510 I=1,NTOT
M=ICLUS(I)
IF(I.GT.NCS(K))K=K+1
510 ICROS(K,M)=ICROS(K,M)+1
WRITE(6,610)TITLE
IF(METH.EQ.1)WRITE(6,613)
613 FORMAT('/' PEARSON CORRELATION'/)
IF(METH.EQ.2)WRITE(6,614)
614 FORMAT('/' INTRACLASS CORRELATION'/)
610 FORMAT(5X,20A5/)
WRITE(6,620)(NCS(I),I=1,NCUT)
620 FORMAT(4X,' CUTPOINTS ',5I6)
WRITE(6,621)
621 FORMAT('/)
WRITE(6,630)
630 FORMAT(4X,' CROSS CLASSIFICATION MATRIX',
1 /6X,' -----')
WRITE(6,640)
640 FORMAT(24X,' CLUSTERS')
WRITE(6,650)
650 FORMAT(15X,' U',4X,' 1',4X,' 2',4X,' 3',4X,' 4',4X,' 5',
1 ,4X,' 6',4X,' 7',4X,' 8',4X,' 9')
WRITE(6,660)
660 FORMAT(15X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',
1 ,4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-',4X,'-')
DO 515 I=1,NCUT
515 WRITE(6,520)I,(ICROS(I,J),J=0,NCLUS)
520 FORMAT(3X,I3,' ',4X,20I5)
DO 528 I=1,NCUT
528 IRMAX(I)=-1000
DO 529 I=1,NCLUS
529 ICMAX(I)=-1000
DO 530 I=1,NCUT
DO 530 J=1,NCLUS
ICTOT(I)=ICTOT(I)+ICROS(I,J)
IRTOT(J)=IRTOT(J)+ICROS(I,J)
IF(ICROS(I,J).LT.ICMAX(J))GO TO 531
ICMAX(J)=ICROS(I,J)
IWMAX(J)=I
531 IF(ICROS(I,J).LT.IRMAX(I))GO TO 530
IRMAX(I)=ICROS(I,J)
IWMAX(I)=J
530 CONTINUE
N=0
MAXRJ=-1000
DO 541 I=1,NCLUS
541 IF(MAXRJ.LT. IRTOT(I))MAXRJ=IRTOT(I)
MAXCJ=-1000
DO 540 I=1,NCUT
N=N+ICTOT(I)
540 IF(MAXCJ.LT. ICTOT(I))MAXCJ=ICTOT(I)
S1=0.0
DO 550 J=1,NCLUS
I=IWMAX(J)
550 S1=S1+ICROS(I,J)
S2=0.0
DO 551 I=1,NCUT
J=IWMAX(I)
551 S2=S2+ICROS(I,J)

```


CONTINUED

1 OF 2

```

D WRITE(6,79)(PROF(I),I=1,NPROF)
D79 FORMAT(' FIRST LIST ',11I5)
C FIND SECOND MEMBER OF NUCLEUS
DO 35 I=1,NR
SUM(I)=0.0
N(I)=0.0
35 DO 40 I=1,NR
DO 40 J=1,NPROF
IF(R(I,PROF(J)).LT.-2.0)GO TO 40
N(I)=N(I)+1
SUM(I)=SUM(I)+R(I,PROF(J))
40 CONTINUE
SUM(MAX)=-1.0E+30
C FIND MAX
SMA1=-1.0E+30
DO 50 J=1,NR
IF(N(J).EQ.0)GO TO 50
SUM(J)=SUM(J)/N(J)
IF(SUM(J).GE.SMA1)MAX1=J
IF(SUM(J).GE.SMA1)SMA1=SUM(J)
50 CONTINUE
FIRST TWO PROFILES IN PIVOT LIST ARE MAX AND MAX1
C FIND THIRD MEMBER
D WRITE(6,93)(SUM(J),J=1,NR)
D 93 FORMAT(' AVE CORR ',11F7.2)
J=0
DO 60 I=1,NC
IF(R(I,MAX1).LT.CL)GO TO 60
J=J+1
NPROF1=J
PROF1(J)=I
60 CONTINUE
C CHECK OUT PROFILES IN PROF1 ALREADY IN PROF
DO 70 I=1,NPROF
IF(N(I).EQ.0)GO TO 70
DO 70 J=1,NPROF1
IF(R(I,PROF1(J)).EQ.PROF1(J))PROF1(J)=0
70 CONTINUE
CONSOLIDATE PROFILES
J=0
DO 80 I=1,NPROF1
IF(PROF1(I).EQ.0)GO TO 80
J=J+1
PROF(NPROF+J)=PROF1(I)
80 CONTINUE
NPROF=NPROF+J
D WRITE(6,91)(PROF(I),I=1,NPROF)
D91 FORMAT(' NEXT LIST ',11I5)
DO 85 I=1,NR
N(I)=0
SUM(I)=0.0
85 C FIND THIRD MEMBER OF NUCLEUS
DO 90 I=1,NR
DO 90 J=1,NPROF
IF(R(I,PROF(J)).LT.-2.0)GO TO 90
N(I)=N(I)+1
SUM(I)=SUM(I)+R(I,PROF(J))
90 CONTINUE
C FIND MAX VALUE OF SUM(I)
SUM(MAX)=-1.0E+30
SUM(MAX1)=-1.0E+30
SMA2=-1.0+E30

```

```

DO 100 J=1,NR
IF(N(J).EQ.0)GO TO 100
SUM(J)=SUM(J)/N(J)
IF(SUM(J).GE.SMA2)MAX2=J
IF(SUM(J).GE.SMA2)SMA2=SUM(J)
100 CONTINUE
D WRITE(6,93)(SUM(J),J=1,NR)
C FIRST CLUSTER CONSISTS OF PROFLES MAX,MAX1,MAX2
PROF(1)=MAX
PROF(2)=MAX1
PROF(3)=MAX2
D WRITE(6,92)PROF(1),PROF(2),PROF(3)
D92 FORMAT(' NUCLEUS ',3I5)
NPROF=3
DO 105 I=1,NR
N(I)=0
SUM(I)=0.0
105 DO 110 I=1,NR
108 DO 110 J=1,NPROF
IF(R(I,PROF(J)).LT.-2.0)GO TO 110
IF(I.EQ.PROF(J))GO TO 110
SUM(I)=SUM(I)+R(I,PROF(J))
N(I)=N(I)+1
110 CONTINUE
DO 115 I=1,NPROF
SUM(PROF(I))=-1.0E+30
115 C FIND AVE AND MAX
DO 120 I=1,NR
IF(N(I).EQ.0)GO TO 120
SUM(I)=SUM(I)/N(I)
120 CONTINUE
D WRITE(6,94)(SUM(I),I=1,NR)
D94 FORMAT(' AVERAGE CORR ',11F7.2)
C FIND MAX AVERAGE CORRELATION
SMA=-1.0E+30
DO 130 I=1,NR
IF(SUM(I).GE.SMA)MAX=I
IF(SUM(I).GE.SMA)SMA=SUM(I)
130 IF(SUM(MAX).LT.CL)GO TO 200
NPROF=NPROF+1
PROF(NPROF)=MAX
D WRITE(6,*) (PROF(INN),INN=1,NPROF)
D WRITE(6,*) SUM(MAX),MAX
DO 140 I=1,NR
SUM(I)=0.0
N(I)=0
140 GO TO 108
200 CONTINUE
NDEL=0
DO 205 I=1,NR
N(I)=0
SUM(I)=0.0
IDEL(I)=0
205 D WRITE(6,96)
D96 FORMAT(' DELETE CASES BELOW CU ')
DO 210 I=1,NR
DO 210 J=1,NPROF
IF(R(I,PROF(J)).LT.-2.0)GO TO 210
IF(I.EQ.PROF(J))GO TO 210
SUM(I)=SUM(I)+R(I,PROF(J))

```


200 CONTINUE
END

```
*****  
*                                     *  
*                               INTRA.FOR                               *  
* SUBROUTINE FOR LORR.FOR. COMPUTES INTRACLASS                       *  
* CORRELATION MATRIX FOR USE IN LORR'S NON-                          *  
* HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING TECHNIQUE.                                *  
*                                     *  
*****
```

```
DIMENSION X(23,149),R(11250)  
DIMENSION Y(60),NTR(30),TM(30),WTV(30),S(3),NDF(3)  
DIMENSION NC(5),FORM(20)  
DIMENSION TITLE(20)  
DOUBLE PRECISION DATAS  
999 READ(5,999)DATAS  
FORMAT(A10)  
OPEN(UNIT=11,FILE=DATAS)  
READ(11,*)N,M  
IX=23  
READ(11,457)NCUT  
457 READ(11,460)(NC(I),I=1,NCUT)  
460 FORMAT(1G)  
FORMAT(5G)  
READ(11,463)FORM  
READ(11,463)TITLE  
DO 111 J=1,M  
111 READ(11,FORM)IDNUM,(X(I,J),I=1,N)  
DO 5 I=1,NCUT  
5 ITOT=ITOT+NC(I)  
DO 6 I=1,60  
6 NTR(I)=2  
DO 10 I=1,ITOT  
DO 10 J=1,I  
I111=0  
DO 15 K=1,N  
I111=I111+1  
Y(I111)=X(K,J)  
I111=I111+1  
Y(I111)=X(K,I)  
15 CONTINUE  
CALL ACRDAN(Y,N,NTR,TM,WTV,S,GM,NDF,IER)  
ICNT=ICNT+1  
C TREAT SSQ  
S(1)=S(1)/NDF(1)  
C BETWEEN SSQ  
S(2)=S(2)/NDF(2)  
10 R(ICNT)=(S(1)-S(2))/(S(1)+S(2))  
D WRITE(6,78)IER  
78 FORMAT(' IERR ',I10)  
ITOT=M*(M+1)/2  
K1=1  
IT=0  
M1=1
```

```
D      WRITE(6,*)N,M,NCUT,NC
D      WRITE(6,463)TITLE
D      WRITE(6,463)FORM
463    FORMAT(20A5)
      WRITE(12)TITLE
      METH=2
      WRITE(12)METH
      WRITE(12)N,M,IDNUM
      WRITE(12)NCUT
      WRITE(12)(NC(IO),IO=1,NCUT)
      FORMAT(20A5)
      DO 200 J=1,M
      WRITE(12)(R(I),I=M1,K1)
      WRITE(15,1111)(R(I),I=M1,K1)
      FORMAT(F5.2)
      WRITE(6,467)(R(I),I=M1,K1)
      FORMAT(16F5.2)
      IT=IT+1
      M1=M1+IT
      K1=M1+IT
      CONTINUE
      200  END
```

Supplement I Manuscript "Inverted factor analysis: An evaluation using benchmark data sets"

Craig Edelbrock and Michael L. Reed

Inverted Factor Analysis: An Evaluation Using Benchmark Data Sets

Craig Edelbrock

Michael Reed

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

This research was supported by Grant #1-0260-8-PA-IJ from the Methodology Development Program, National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, to the first author. Correspondence may be addressed to Craig Edelbrock, Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic, 3811 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Abstract

Inverted factor analysis was evaluated on 20 previously studied multi-variate mixtures. Two methods of determining number of factors and two rotational methods--orthogonal varimax and oblique direct quartimin--were compared. Objects were assigned to groups on the basis of highest absolute factor loadings, with the minimum loading required for assignment systematically varied. Rotational methods did not differ significantly in either accuracy or coverage of the resulting classifications. Paradoxically, setting the number of factors equal to the number of underlying populations resulted in less accurate solutions than determining the number of factors empirically by Cattell's scree test. More importantly, the inverted factoring technique was found to be as accurate as the best hierarchical clustering algorithms previously tested on these mixtures. Thus, despite the implausibility of the factor analytic model for generating typologies--and numerous other problems and criticisms--inverted factor analysis appears to be a useful taxonomic tool.

Inverted Factor Analysis: An Evaluation using Benchmark Data Sets

Inverted factor analysis, also known as Q -factor analysis, inverse factor analysis, and profile factor analysis, is one of the oldest and most widely used procedures for constructing typologies in the behavioral sciences. The basic rationale of this procedure has not changed since Stephenson introduced the "inverted factor technique" in 1936. In fact, Stephenson's original articles (1936a,b) still provide a lucid introduction to the method. In the past 30 years, inverted factor analysis has been used in numerous studies to identify subtypes of individuals, particularly in the areas of psychiatry and deviant behavior (Butler & Adams, 1966; Collins, Burger & Taylor, 1976; Fleiss, Lawlor, Platman & Fieve, 1971; Guertin, 1952, Katz & Cole, 1963; Monro, 1955; Overall, Hollister, Johnson & Pennington, 1966; Raskin & Crook, 1963). The inverted factor technique has also been discussed in several methodological treatises (Baggaley, 1964; Broverman, 1961; Cattell, 1952; Morf, Miller and Syrotuik, 1976; Overall and Klett, 1972; Ross, 1963; Ryder, 1966; Stephenson, 1953).

Despite its historical precedence and diverse applications, inverted factor analysis has been strongly criticized as a method of generating typologies (Baggaley, 1964; Fleiss et al, 1971; Fleiss, 1972; Fleiss & Zubin, 1969; Jones, 1968; Lorr, 1966). A standard criticism has involved the use of the product-moment correlation index similarity between individuals. The correlation coefficient indexes similarity only in profile shape, not elevation or scatter. Moreover, a correlation of 1.00 does not necessarily indicate that two profiles have identical shape, but only that they are linear functions of one another (see Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980; and Fleiss & Zubin, 1969 for more detailed discussions). This criticism is not unique to inverted factor analysis, however, in that a variety of clustering methods can employ the

correlation coefficient as the measure of profile similarity (e.g., Carlson, 1972; Edelbrock, 1979; Lorr, Bishop & McNair, 1965; Lorr & Radhakrishnan, 1967).

Several other criticisms have been raised that are more pertinent to the inverted factoring technique. Fleiss and Zubin (1969), for example, have questioned the appropriateness of the linear model underlying factor analysis to the task of generating typologies of individuals. In particular, they have asked whether it makes any sense to say that an individual represents "X" amount of one type plus "Y" amount of another type, and so on. Lorr (1966) has further questioned the rationale of rotating Q -factors. Even if unrotated factor loadings represent similarity to underlying "types", what is the meaning of transforming such loadings so as to better approximate simple structure?

Fleiss and Zubin have also objected that the number of types one may identify is limited by the number of variables in the analysis. The maximum number of factors that can be extracted from a correlation matrix is equal to the rank of the matrix. For a matrix of Q -correlations, rank is at most $p - 1$, where p equals the number of variables. Fleiss and Zubin therefore reasoned that the maximum number of types one can identify is equal to the number of variables minus 1. This is obviously a problem when one has few variables with which to work, but seeks to identify several types of individuals.

Achenbach and Edelbrock (1981) have noted an additional problem involving procedures of factor extraction. Since the first factor typically extracts the most variance from the correlation matrix, it will encompass more individuals having high loadings than subsequent factors. This bias towards constructing one large group followed by successively smaller and smaller groups is rarely justified in taxonomic research. Clearly, the relative size of the

groups should be determined by the data, not the taxometric procedure. Other methodological problems and issues include: (a) translating factor scores into discrete groups of individuals, (b) determining the appropriate number of factors, and (c) selecting a rotational procedure. The latter two problems also arise in regular R -factor analysis and have been discussed in detail elsewhere (cf. Mulaik, 1972; Harman, 1976).

Given these problems and criticisms, one would expect inverted factor analysis to have been laid to rest long ago--but this is not the case. More than 40 years after its inception, the technique is still in use. Furthermore, it has generated heuristically valuable and predictive typologies. A particularly good example is the nosology of depression constructed by Overall et al (1966). Using an inverted factoring procedure (Overall & Porterfield, 1963), three subtypes of depressed patients were identified, based on scores on the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale. In a subsequent double-blind comparison, the three subtypes (labelled Anxious, Hostile, and Retarded) were found to differ markedly in terms of response to anti-depressant drugs. The value of inverted factor analysis in taxonomic research has been corroborated by several other recent studies (Collins et al, 1976; Evenson, Altman, Sletten & Knowles, 1973; Kuncze, Ryan & Eckelman, 1976; Meyer & Kline, 1977; Raskin & Crook, 1976).

A Reconsideration

There are several compelling reasons for reconsidering inverted factor analysis as a taxonomic tool. For one, fruitful applications of the technique would appear to mitigate any methodological criticisms. Second, some points of criticism are patently wrong. For example, although the number of factors may be limited to $p - 1$, the number of types is not limited to the number of factors. In practice, inverted factor analysis may yield bipolar factors

comprised of both positive and negative loadings. Such bipolar factors have been taken to represent two underlying types manifesting opposite patterns of scores. Carlson et al (1976), for instance, obtained only four factors, but because each was bipolar, eight subtypes were identified. Third, some criticisms are based on dogma, not empirical facts. Some recent studies suggest that long-established psychometric dogma is in desperate need of revision. For example, despite the so-called "superiority" of distance measures for indexing profile similarity (e.g., Eades, 1965; Fleiss & Zubin, 1969: p. 239), recent Monte Carlo studies of hierarchical clustering methods have shown that correlation yields substantially better recovery of underlying mixture populations than Euclidean distance (Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980). Finally, there have been very few attempts to test the inverted factoring technique empirically against other methods. One exception is the recent study by Blashfield and Morey (1980). Using Monte Carlo procedures, data sets designed to mimic MMPI psychotic, neurotic, and personality disorder patterns were generated then analyzed by inverted factor analysis, Lorr's non-hierarchical clumping procedure (Lorr et al, 1965), a hierarchical clustering algorithm called average linkage, and Ward's (1963) minimum variance technique. Blashfield and Morey concluded that the average linkage method yielded the best clustering solutions. For some data sets, however, the inverted factoring technique resulted in substantially fewer misclassifications than the other three methods.

Purpose of this Study

The purpose of this study was to evaluate inverted factor analysis on a standard set of multivariate mixtures. This research builds on Blashfield and Morey's recent study in the following ways: (a) a broad range of multivariate mixtures differing in number of variables, number of underlying populations,

difficulty of solution, etc., were analyzed, (b) two methods of determining number of factors were tested, (c) two rotational procedures--one orthogonal the other oblique--were compared, and (d) the effects of varying the minimum loading required for classification were systematically evaluated. In addition, comparisons between the inverted factoring technique and several hierarchical clustering algorithms were made.

Methods

Data Sets

It has been argued previously (Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980) that evaluations of taxometric methods should include test on "benchmark" data sets--that is, data sets have been well-characterized, are available to other investigators, and have been used in previous mixture model studies. Such benchmark data sets provide a common standard against which to compare clustering and classification methods and thus increase the generalizability of mixture model tests. With this in mind, 20 multivariate normal mixtures generated by Blashfield (1976) were selected for this study. These mixtures mimic real data in many ways, including (a) representative range of number of variables and populations, (b) quasi-normal distribution parameters, (c) addition of "measurement" error to scores, and (d) varying strength and complexity of the covariance structure of the underlying populations. These data sets have also been used in previous tests of hierarchical clustering algorithms (Blashfield, 1976; Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980), so direct comparisons across studies are possible.

Procedures

Data were double-centered according to the rationale and procedure given by Overall and Klett (1972; pp. 203-204). Variables were standardized (mean = 0, sd = 1) and scores were then standardized equivalently across objects.

Each of the 20 (object X variable) data sets was then inverted (i.e., to represent a variable X object matrix) and subjected to principal-components factor analysis using the BMDP4M - program. It is important to note that double-centering the data results in bipolarity of the unrotated factors. However, it does not necessarily result in bipolarity in the rotated factors, which were used here.

Two procedures were used to determine the number of factors. First, for each mixture, the number of factors was set to equal the number of underlying populations. Since the rotated factors were not bipolar, each factor comprised only one group of objects having high loadings in the same direction. Thus, determining the number of factors in this way is tantamount to setting the number of groups (j) equal to the number of underlying populations (k). These 20 analyses are subsequently designated by the notation $j = k$.

Second, the number of factors was determined by examining eigen values. For these data sets, the commonly used "eigen value greater than 1" rule resulted in considerable over-factoring. A few factors having large eigen values were obtained followed by several having eigen values slightly greater than 1.00. This problem was also encountered by Blashfield and Morey (1980). Following their procedure, Cattell's (1966) scree test was used to determine number of factors. In this study, both investigators examined the eigen value plot for each mixture and independently selected the number of factors. Although we agreed for all 20 mixtures, the number of factors indicated by the scree test did not always equal the number of underlying populations. For eight mixtures, the number of factors equalled one more than the number of underlying populations (i.e., $k + 1$). These 20 analyses are subsequently designated by the notation $j \neq k$ (i.e., the number of groups did not necessarily equal the number of populations).

One issue in factor analysis is whether to construct orthogonal (uncorrelated) or oblique (correlated) factors. This is an important consideration when deriving typologies because rotational procedures substantially affect final factor loadings, which are the basis for constructing groups. Most previous applications of inverted factor analysis (e.g., Blashfield & Morey, 1980; Collins et al, 1976; Fleiss et al, 1971; Katz & Cole, 1965) involved the varimax rotation--an orthogonal procedure. In this study, both varimax (orthogonal) and direct quartimin (oblique) rotations were compared. This yields four analyses of 20 mixtures each: $j = k$ and $j \neq k$ with either varimax or direct quartimin rotation.

A crucial issue that arises in inverted factor analysis involves translating factor loadings into discrete groups of objects or individuals. A common procedure has been to assign individuals to groups on the basis of highest factor loadings (in terms of absolute value). Some investigators have specified a minimum loading required for classification. Fleiss et al (1971), for example, selected a minimum loading of .40. Individuals whose highest loadings were less than .40 were left unclassified. In their Monte Carlo study, Blashfield and Morey (1980) selected a minimum loading of .60, with the additional criterion that an object could not have a loading of .60 or higher on any other factor. These rather stringent criteria reduce coverage substantially, but result in more distinct and homogeneous groups.

In this study, objects were assigned to groups on the basis of their highest loadings. This is a simple procedure for constructing groups, but the coverage of the resulting classification can be manipulated by simply changing the minimum loading required for assignment. A low cutoff point results in the classification of a high proportion of objects into relatively heterogeneous groups, whereas a high cutoff point results in the classification of a low proportion of objects into more distinct, non-overlapping groups. This

assignment procedure therefore makes it possible to evaluate classifications at several levels of coverage.

Calculating Accuracy

The accuracy of the inverted factor solutions was defined as the agreement between the obtained groups and the underlying populations in the mixtures. A wide variety of statistics have been used to measure accuracy in mixture model studies; and there is little consensus regarding the "best" accuracy measure. Kappa (Cohen, 1960) and Rand's statistic (Rand, 1971) have been used in many studies (e.g., Blashfield, 1976; Edelbrock, 1979; Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980; Kuiper & Fisher, 1975; Milligan & Isaac, 1980; Mojena, 1977; Rand, 1971). Both of these measures have drawbacks. Kappa has the advantage of correcting for chance level of agreement in a cross-classification, but it is appropriate only for square matrices (i.e., $j = k$). Rand's statistic does not require that $j = k$, but the scale is not uniform from matrix to matrix. That is, the lower bound of Rand's statistic is not zero but is determined by the marginal distributions of the cross-classification.

One way to overcome the idiosyncracies inherent in individual measures is to use multiple criteria for evaluating accuracy. Six measures, including kappa, Rand's statistic, asymmetric lambda, tau, Kramer's v, and the contingency coefficient were used in this study. We chose to report our main findings in terms of asymmetric lambda for several reasons. This statistic is appropriate for nominal level cross-classifications, has a range of zero to 1.00, and can be used with either square ($j = k$) or rectangular ($j \neq k$) matrices. The "asymmetrical" aspect of this statistic also seems well suited to the task of measuring accuracy. The term "asymmetrical" refers to the fact that lambda indexes the degree to which one classification predicts another, and not vice versa. In mixture model studies, the underlying populations comprise a fixed

or dependent classification, predicted by empirically derived groups that are free to vary.

Although we report our main findings in terms of asymmetric lambda, we also report summary statistics in terms of kappa and Rand's statistic. This permits direct comparisons with previous studies. Finally, it is worth noting that our conclusions regarding the relative accuracy of various methods were identical for all six measures we explored. This is not surprising, since such measures are all founded on the same information extracted from the cross-classification matrix (cf. Hubert & Levin, 1976). Furthermore, in these analysis, the six measures of accuracy correlated $>.95$ with one another.

Statistical Analyses

For each of the 80 inverted factor solutions, objects were classified according to their highest loadings. Accuracy was then calculated at seven levels of coverage dictated by the following minimum loadings: .0, .4, .5, .6, .7, .8, and .9. These minimum loadings between were selected because: (a) all objects had highest loadings greater than .0, thus a cutoff point of .0 yields 100% coverage, (b) very few objects had highest loadings between .0, and .4 so accuracy and coverage varied little in this interval, and (c) there were too few loadings above .9 to calculate accuracy.

Accuracy and coverage values were analyzed in separate $2 \times 2 \times 7$ analyses of variance representing: number of factors ($j = k$ vs. $j \neq k$) rotational methods (varimax vs. direct quartimin), and minimum loading (.0 to .9), respectively.

Results

Main results are portrayed graphically in Figures 1 and 2. These figures

Insert Figures 1 and 2 here

show the relations between the minimum loading required for classification and both accuracy (left axis) and coverage (right axis). Figure 1 depicts accuracy and coverage functions for the $j = k$ solutions, whereas Figure 2 depicts results for the $j \neq k$ solutions. Overall, accuracy and coverage were significantly related to the minimum loading ($p < .001$), but in opposite ways. Raising the minimum loading uniformly increased accuracy, but decreased coverage to a greater and greater extent. No significant differences ($F < 1.00$) were detected between varimax and direct quartimin rotations for either $j = k$ or $j \neq k$ solutions. Varimax solutions resulted in consistently higher accuracy and coverage, however.

Paradoxically, $j \neq k$ solutions resulted in significantly higher accuracy and coverage than $j = k$ solutions ($p < .01$). This was the case for both rotational methods. Figure 3 portrays accuracy differences between $j = k$ and $j \neq k$ solutions in a manner that equates them for coverage. Accuracy is shown as a function of coverage, rather than as a function of the minimum loadings as in Figures 1 and 2. At all levels of coverage, $j \neq k$ solutions resulted in significantly higher accuracy and $j = k$ solutions. Examination

Insert Figure 3 here

of the eight mixtures where $j \neq k$ confirmed that constraining the number of factors to equal the number of underlying groups substantially reduced accuracy. For these mixtures, higher accuracy was achieved when the number of groups was determined empirically by Cattell's scree test.

Comparisons with Other Methods

In a previous study (Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980), 18 hierarchical clustering algorithms were tested on the 20 benchmark mixtures. The algorithms

included single, complete, average, and centroid linkage using either Euclidean distance, correlation, or the one-way or two-way intraclass correlation as the similarity measure; Ward's minimum variance technique; and a random algorithm used to establish a baseline control for evaluating methods. Two problems arise when making comparisons between inverted factor analysis and these hierarchical methods. First, the accuracy of each hierarchical method was calculated for $j = k$. That is, the number of clusters always equaled the number of underlying populations. To make direct comparisons, it is necessary to select inverse factor solutions where $j = k$. This is unfortunate because $j = k$ solutions were significantly less accurate than $j \neq k$ solutions. Comparisons are therefore based on a conservative estimate of the accuracy of the inverted factoring technique.

The second problem involves selecting the level of coverage at which to make comparisons. Whereas both inverted factor analysis and the hierarchical methods can yield classifications varying in coverage, this occurs in quite different ways. For inverted factor analysis, coverage depends upon the minimum loading required for assignment. For the hierarchical methods, coverage depends on the selection of the best j clusters at various levels in the hierarchical tree. This difference appears to represent a bias in favor of the hierarchical methods. For each mixture, the accuracy of the inverted factor solution is based on the same set of factors--only the minimum loading is varied. The accuracy of each hierarchical solution, on the other hand, is based on different sets of clusters, selected so as to maximize accuracy at each level in the hierarchical tree. This bias is evidenced by the fact that the accuracy of even the random hierarchical algorithm increases as coverage declines (see Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980: p. 310).

To make comparisons between methods, accuracies of the $j = k$ varimax solutions were calculated at 100% coverage. Focusing on 100% coverage eliminates the biases that can arise at lower levels of coverage. Furthermore, inverted factor analysis and the best hierarchical methods show uniform increases in accuracy as coverage declines. Thus, differences at 100% coverage are likely to be representative of differences at lower levels of coverage.

The mean kappa value for the varimax solutions equaled .65, which compares quite favorably with accuracies previously reported by Edelbrock & McLaughlin (1980: p. 310). Specifically, the inverted factoring technique was substantially more accurate than 10 of the 18 hierarchical algorithms: single and complete linkage using any of the four similarity measures, average and centroid linkage using Euclidean distance, and the random algorithm.

The $j = k$ varimax solutions were also compared with the most accurate hierarchical algorithm--average linkage using the one-way intraclass correlation. Mean values for kappa, Rand's statistic, and asymmetric lambda, as well as paired t-test results, are shown in Table 1. According to all three measures, the average linkage algorithm was slightly more accurate than inverted factor analysis, but not significantly so.

Insert Table 1 here

As a final test, Rand's statistic was calculated for varimax $j \neq k$ solutions: which represent the highest accuracy attained by inverted factor analysis. Edelbrock and McLaughlin previously used Rand's statistic to evaluate the "best possible" clustering solutions attained by the 18 hierarchical methods they examined. Direct comparisons between methods are

therefore possible. The average Rand value for the inverted factoring technique was .862. This is higher than 11 of the 18 hierarchical methods, and not significantly different than the most accurate hierarchical algorithm (see Edelbrock & McLaughlin, 1980: p. 311).

Discussion

Inverted factor analysis is one of the most widely used and widely criticized procedures for constructing typologies in the behavioral sciences. Unfortunately, some critics of the method have simply argued: "It shouldn't work, therefore it doesn't." Few commentators have backed up their criticisms with empirical evidence. In this evaluation, the inverted factoring technique yielded more accurate recovery of underlying populations than many previously studied hierarchical algorithms. Moreover, the inverted factor technique was found to be among the most accurate methods yet tested on these benchmark mixtures. These results agree with the previous study by Morf, Miller and Syrotuik (1976) who, on the basis of an objective comparison, concluded that inverted factor analysis was superior to the complete linkage algorithm in identifying subtypes of individuals. Thus, inverted factor analysis appears to be a useful taxonomic tool--despite the implausibility of the factor analytic model for generating typologies, the "inferiority" of the correlation coefficient as a measure of profile similarity, and numerous other problems (e.g., determining number of factors, assigning objects to groups, etc.).

In terms of recovering underlying mixture populations, differences between rotational methods were minimal. The more crucial methodological problem involved selecting the appropriate number of factors. Determining the number of factors empirically via Cattell's scree test resulted in more accurate solutions than the alternative procedure of setting the

number of factors equal to the number of populations. Blashfield and Morey (1980) also reported that the scree test was quite accurate in determining the correct number of populations in their MMPI Monte Carlo data. This is a potentially important finding because the scree test does not depend upon a priori knowledge regarding "true" underlying populations. Thus, this procedure may be useful in determining number of underlying groups in applications to real data. This is a major asset of the inverted factor technique. Hierarchical clustering algorithms, by contrast, do not produce a discrete number of clusters, but rather a hierarchical arrangement of objects and groups. Determining the appropriate number of clusters is an unsolved problem, although some work has been done on developing objective criteria for making this decision (e.g., Mojena, 1977).

The inverted factor technique also embodies a simple mechanism for manipulating the coverage of the resulting classifications. In this study, for example, objects were assigned to groups on the basis of their highest factor loadings. Raising the minimum loading required for assignment decreased coverage, but increased accuracy. The ability to vary coverage may be valuable in research applications. In an epidemiological study, for instance, high coverage may be desirable in order to account for the generality and distribution of phenomena in a population. In other situations, it may be advantageous to construct extremely homogeneous groups. This would dictate low coverage, but the resulting groups would encompass individuals representing relatively "pure types". Future research should explore different methods of translating factor loadings into groups. The dual cutoff criteria used by Blashfield and Morey (1980), for example, appear promising. Such stringent assignment rules result in reduced coverage, but yield more homogeneous and distinct

groups. Moreover, such assignment rules may yield typologies that are more predictive of external criteria.

Finally, additional comparisons among clustering and classification methods are needed. There are few standard procedures for constructing empirically based taxonomies and little is known about the relative merits of different methods. Objective comparisons are necessary, not only to combat dogmatic arguments for or against specific approaches, but also to identify those procedures best suited to behavioral research. The results obtained here indicate that inverted factor analysis yields accurate recovery of underlying populations from multivariate normal mixtures. Evaluations on other types of mixtures and evaluations involving other criteria (e.g. replicability, sensitivity to data perturbation, etc.) would be valuable.

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TABLE 1
Comparison between inverted factor analysis (varimax rotation)
and the average linkage algorithm

Accuracy Measure	Method		
	Inverted Factor Analysis	Average Linkage	Paired t-value ^a
Kappa	.655	.793	1.49
Rand	.789	.864	1.44
Lambda	.656	.801	1.20

Note: Table entries are mean values for 20 mixtures. ^adf=19. None of the paired t-tests were significant (p >.10).

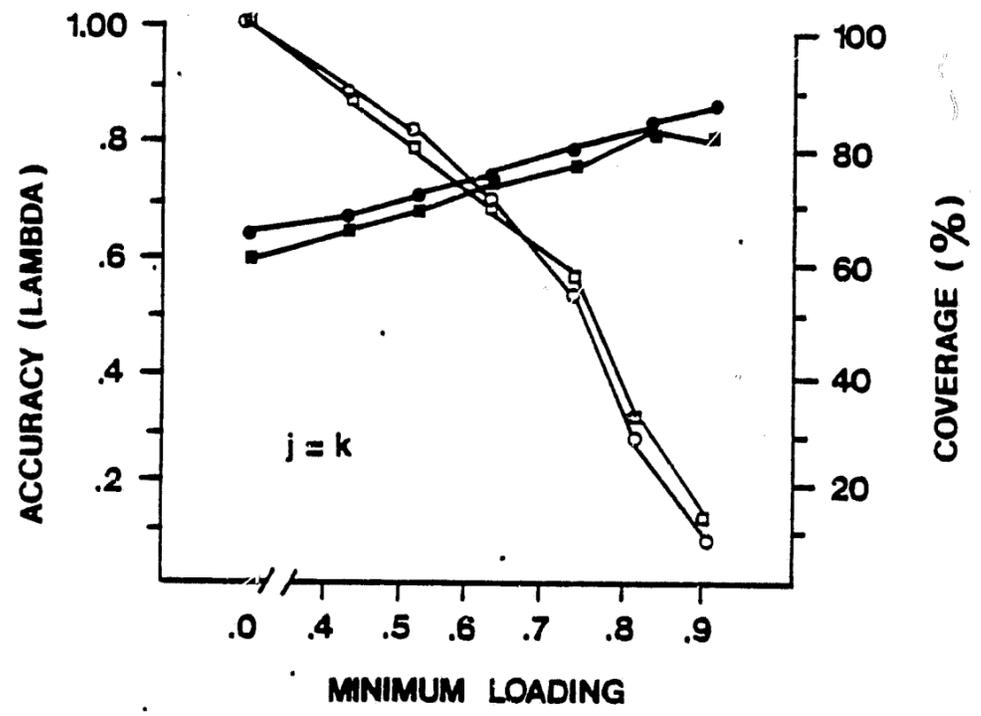


Fig 1. Accuracy and coverage functions for $j = k$ factoring solutions (● varimax accuracy ○ varimax coverage ■ direct quartimin accuracy □ direct quartimin coverage).

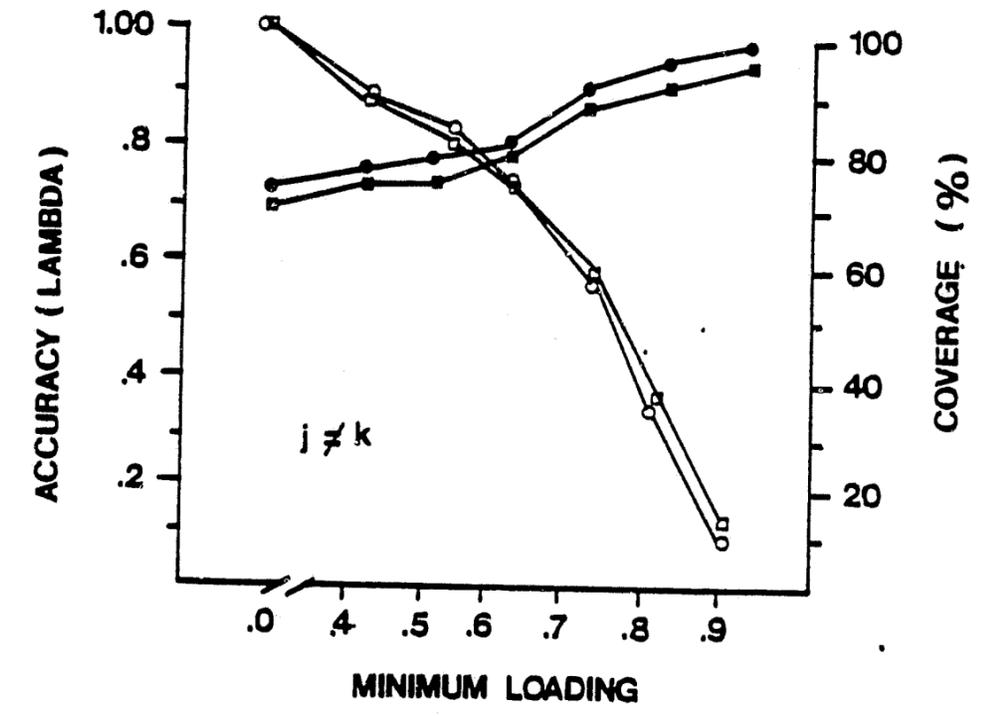


Fig 2. Accuracy and coverage functions for $j \neq k$ factoring solutions (● varimax accuracy ○ varimax coverage ■ direct quartimin accuracy □ direct quartimin coverage).

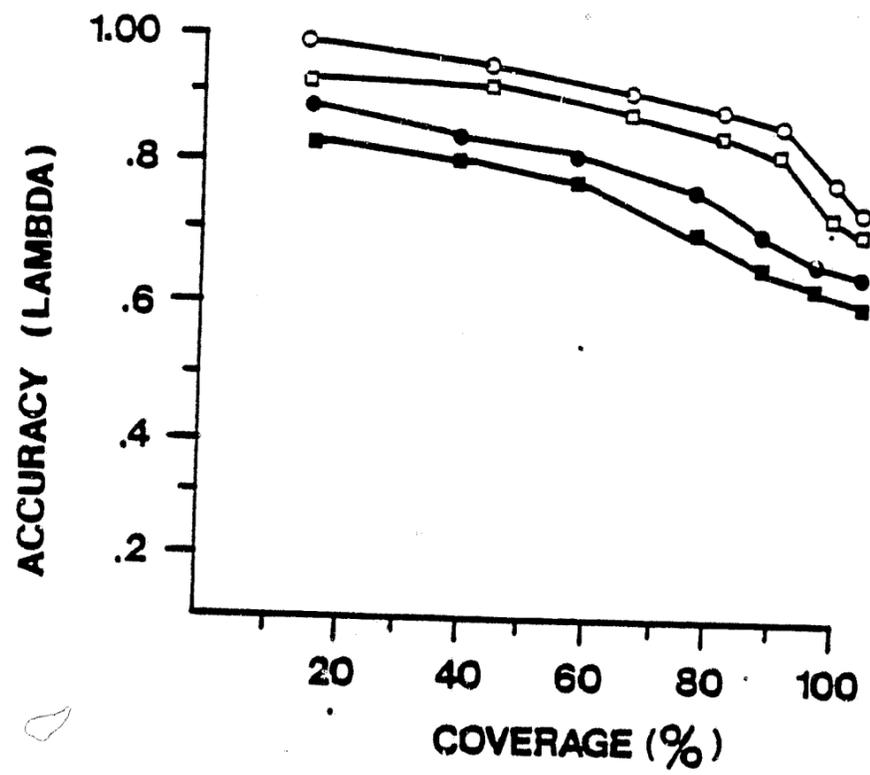


Fig 3. Comparison between $j = k$ and $j \neq k$ factoring solutions (● $j = k$ varimax ■ $j = k$ direct quartimin ○ $j \neq k$ varimax □ $j \neq k$ direct quartimin).

END