

Classification and Dissimilarity Analysis

Classifying objects according to their likeness seems to have been a step in the human process of acquiring knowledge, and it is certainly a basic part of many of the sciences. Historically, the scientific process has involved classification and organization particularly in sciences such as botany, geology, astronomy, and linguistics. In a modern context, we may view classification as deriving a hierarchical clustering of objects. Thus, classification is close to factorial analysis methods and to multi-dimensional scaling methods. It provides a mathematical underpinning to the analysis of dissimilarities between objects.

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