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A TRANSFORMATION YIELDING AN ADDITIVE REPRESENTATION OF DATA IN--ETC(U)

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A TRANSFORMATION YIELDING AN ADDITIVE REPRESENTATION
OF DATA IN A TWO-WAY ARRAY

James A. Paulson
Psychology Department
Portland State University

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A TRANSFORMATION YIELDING AN ADDITIVE REPRESENTATION OF DATA IN A TWO-WAY ARRAY

James A. Paulson
Psychology Department
Portland State University

It is common practice when seeking an additive representation of data in a two-way array to try out various transformations using Tukey's single degree of freedom for nonadditivity as an index of the extent of the deviation of the reexpressed data from additivity. It is shown that when data fit Tukey's model and an additive representation exists in the sense defined by Luce and Tukey (1964), the transformation required to obtain the additive representation is

$$f(y) = \log (\lambda y + 1 - \lambda \mu) ,$$

where λ is the weight for the degree of freedom for nonadditivity. The transformation is unique up to a linear transformation. This result is in apparent conflict with power transformations suggested by Anscombe and Tukey (1963).



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Introduction

Suppose the structure of expected values, (μ_{ij}) , of a two-way array of random variables, (y_{ij}) , is given by Tukey's (1949) model with a single degree of freedom for nonadditivity,

$$\mu_{ij} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \lambda\alpha_i\beta_j. \quad (1)$$

The following linear transformation yields a multiplicative representation of the array.

$$\lambda\mu_{ij} - \lambda\mu + 1 = (1 + \lambda\alpha_i)(1 + \lambda\beta_j). \quad (2)$$

If $1 + \lambda\alpha_i$ and $1 + \lambda\beta_j$ are positive for all i, j , then we may take logarithms on both sides to obtain the additive representation

$$\log(\lambda\mu_{ij} - \lambda\mu + 1) = \log(1 + \lambda\alpha_i) + \log(1 + \lambda\beta_j). \quad (3)$$

An additive representation of an array (μ_{ij}) exists in the sense defined by Luce and Tukey (1964) if there is a transformation of the μ_{ij} 's, $f(\mu_{ij})$, and functions of the row and column indices, $r(i)$ and $c(j)$, such that

$$f(\mu_{ij}) = r(i) + c(j) \quad (4)$$

for all i, j and

$$f(\mu_{ij}) \geq f(\mu_{kl})$$

if and only if

$$\mu_{ij} \geq \mu_{kl}$$

for all i, j, k, l .

Luce and Tukey show that if such a transformation exists, then it is unique up to a linear transformation, as are the functions $r(i)$ and $c(j)$. Equation 3 shows that such a transformation exists for data described by Tukey's model, provided $1 + \lambda\alpha_i$ and $1 + \lambda\beta_j$ are positive for all i, j . If either $1 + \lambda\alpha_i$ or $1 + \lambda\beta_j$ are nonpositive for any i or j , then no additive representation exists. To see this, note that it follows immediately from Luce and Tukey's definition of an additive representation that the array (μ_{ij}) has such a representation only if the order of elements in any row is determined by the column function, $c(j)$, and the order of elements in any column is determined by the row function, $r(i)$. For example, for elements in row i it follows from Equation 4 that

$$\mu_{ij} - \mu_{ik} \geq 0$$

if and only if

$$f(\mu_{ij}) - f(\mu_{ik}) = c(j) - c(k) \geq 0.$$

Equation 1 can be rewritten to show that the elements in row i are a linear function of β_j , with slope $1 + \lambda\alpha_i$:

$$\mu_{ij} = \mu + \alpha_i + (1 + \lambda\alpha_i)\beta_j. \quad (5)$$

If $1 + \lambda\alpha_i$ is negative, the order of the μ_{ij} 's in row i is the reverse of the order of the β_j 's. But in the additive representation given in Equation 3, $c(j) = \log(1 + \lambda\beta_j)$, so the order of the $c(j)$'s is the same as the order of the β_j 's. Thus, the order of the μ_{ij} 's must differ from the order of $c(j)$'s, contradicting the possibility of an additive representation.

The transformation $\log(\lambda y - \lambda\mu + 1)$, just shown to be required to

obtain an additive representation if Tukey's model holds, has not been suggested before in the statistical literature, to the author's knowledge. Transformations of the form $\log(y + c)$ are mentioned in passing by Tukey (1949), Anscombe and Tukey (1963), and Box and Cox (1964), but the necessary connection between the parameters of Tukey's model and the value of c is not discussed. In fact, Anscombe and Tukey (1963) propose a different transformation based on the parameters of Tukey's model—the power transformation $y^{1-\lambda}$. In the case $1-\lambda = 0$, they suggest the transformation $\log y$, which is the only case where their recommendation coincides with the transformation implied by the model. Kruskal (1965) and de Leeuw et al. (1976) have developed general numerical algorithms to find the monotone transformation that will render a given two-way array most additive, assuming only that such a transformation exists. It is beyond the scope of this paper to discuss the comparative virtues of the different approaches in detail, but there are a few points that should be mentioned. This might best be done in the context of an example.

Example

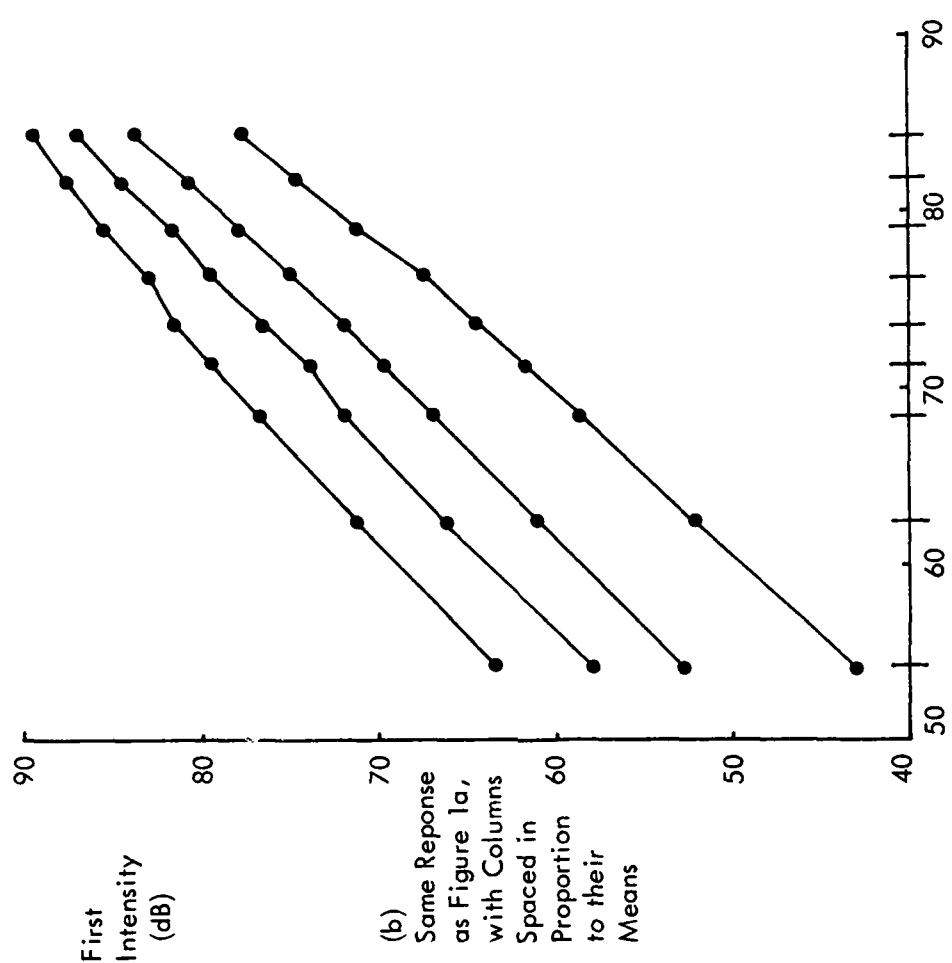
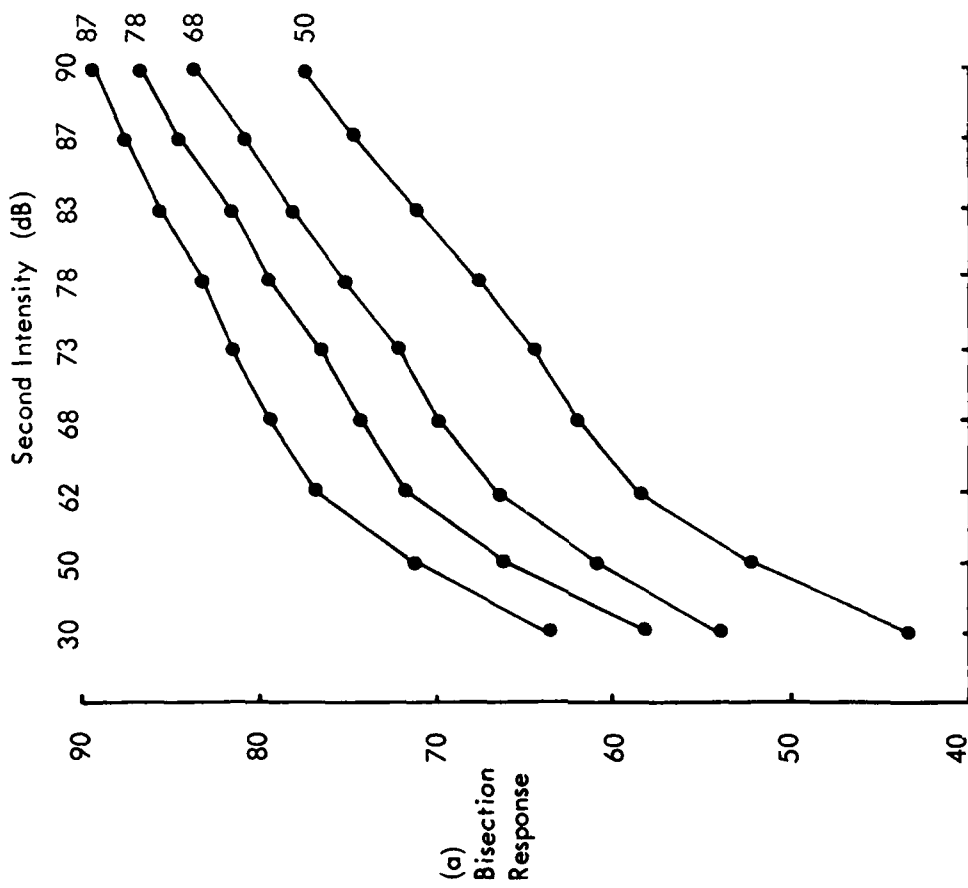
Figures 1a and 1b are two slightly different ways of plotting data from an experiment of Carterette and Anderson (1979) on the scaling of loudness, using the bisection method. This method has the subject adjust a sound to the point where its loudness is halfway between the loudnesses of two given sounds. Carterette and Anderson propose a simple algebraic theory which implies that the subjective loudness of the sounds which the subjects give as their bisection responses should be an additive function of the loudnesses of the sounds being bisected. A problem that arises in evaluating this theory empirically is that the subject's subjective sensation is an unknown function of the physical sound intensity expressed in decibels.

Carterette and Anderson circumvent this problem by applying the numerical algorithm of de Leeuw, et al. (1976) mentioned above to obtain a monotone transformation which renders their data as additive as possible. They then evaluate how well the transformed bisection response data fit the predictions of their theory. We shall use the data of the Carterette and Anderson to study the transformation produced by the de Leeuw et al. algorithm, the transformation implicit in Tukey's model, and the power transformation suggested by Anscombe and Tukey.

Figure 1a is a standard plot relating the raw bisection responses to the intensities of the first and second sounds in a pair to be bisected. Each point represents the mean of seventy observations made up of ten replications for each of seven subjects. The columns are equally spaced. Figure 1b presents the same data, except the columns are spaced according to their means. Spacing the columns according to their means provides a graphical method for determining whether or not Tukey's model fits the data. Equation 5 implies that the rows should plot as straight lines if Tukey's model fits. If the data are additive, the straight lines should be parallel. If not, they should meet at a common focal point. The intersection of the lines obtained from Equation 5 for any two rows is at $\beta_j = -1/\lambda$. The focal point of the lines representing the rows is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \mu + \alpha_i + (1 + \lambda\alpha_i)(-1/\lambda) \\ &= \mu - 1/\lambda. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Note that the terms in the multiplicative representation given in Equation 2 can be interpreted as deviations from this focal value, as follows:



Figures 1a, b. Raw loudness bisection responses, adapted from data of Carterette and Anderson (1979), plotted two different ways.

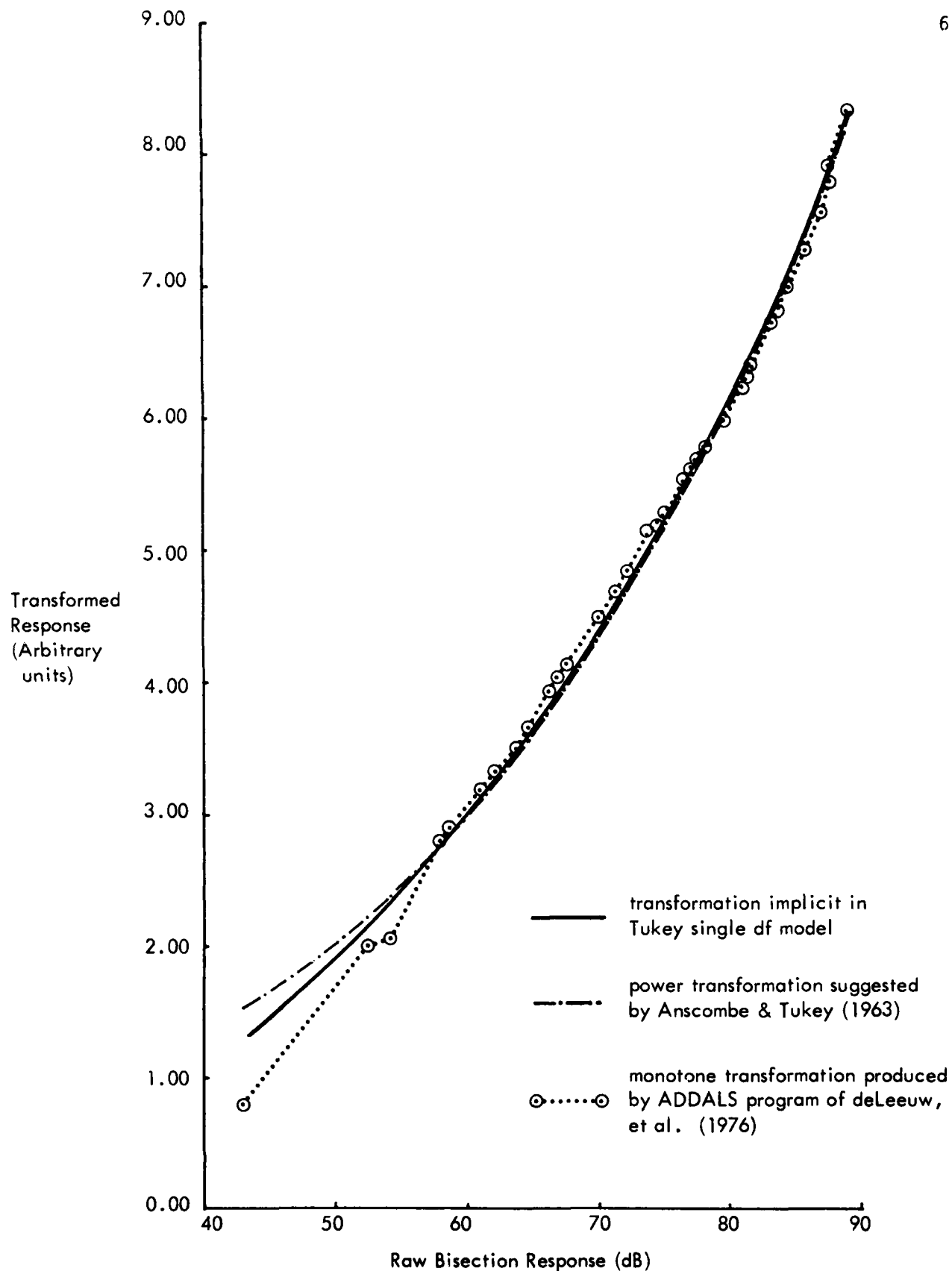


Figure 2. Transformations of raw bisection responses to attain additivity.

$$\lambda \mu_{ij} - \lambda \mu + 1 = \lambda(\mu_{ij} - \mu + 1/\lambda) , \quad (6)$$

$$1 + \lambda \alpha_i = \lambda(\mu_{i.} - \mu + 1/\lambda) ,$$

$$1 + \lambda \beta_j = \lambda(\mu_{.j} - \mu + 1/\lambda) .$$

Furthermore, the reciprocal of λ is the overall mean of the deviations from the focal value. That is, Tukey's model essentially says that the expected deviation of an observation from the focal value is equal to the product of the mean deviation in that row, times the ratio of the mean column deviation to the overall mean deviation. (The role of rows and columns can obviously be switched.)

The data in Figure 1b fit Tukey's model fairly well. The lines are reasonably straight and seem like they might be converging to a focal point. For this data $\hat{\mu} = 72.3$, $\hat{\lambda} = -.027$, and $\hat{\mu} - 1/\hat{\lambda} = 109.3$. The estimated focal value has a substantive interpretation. According to Licklider (1951), 110-115 dB is about the point where sound begins to be too intense for comfort, for a person who has not adapted to listening to loud sounds. Sounds this loud give rise to nonauditory sensations such as tickle and pain.

Figure 2 shows the effect of three transformations on the raw bisection response data: the ADDALS transformation of de Leeuw, et al. (1976) employed by Carterette and Anderson, the power transformation suggested by Anscombe and Tukey (1963), and the transformation proposed in this paper. The latter two transformations were further transformed by linear regression to obtain comparability with the ADDALS transformation values. This is legitimate because linear transformation has no effect on additivity. The zero and unit of the ADDALS transformation, being arbitrary, were selected by Carterette and Anderson for convenience.

Carterette and Anderson conclude that, on the whole, the ADDALS transformation succeeds in rendering the data additive, though they note some slight but statistically significant nonadditivity remaining in individual analyses of some subjects. Figure 2 suggests that they would have obtained similar results with the other two transformations, which are very close to the ADDALS values except for the lowest three points. The correlations between ADDALS values and the other two transformations are .997 for the transformation implied by Tukey's model and .995 for the power transformation suggested by Anscombe and Tukey (1963). While these high correlations suggest that the results would come out the same, no matter which of the three transformations was employed, it would be wrong to conclude that there are no meaningful differences between the transformations. For reasons to be described presently, the modified log transformation and the power transformation do yield almost literally identical results with data falling in the relatively restricted range of the present data. However, even though these two transformations correlate very highly with the ADDALS transformation, they differ from it systematically, tending to exceed the ADDALS values at the extremes while undershooting them in the middle range. Anderson and Shanteau (1977) emphasize the inadequacy of correlation as a test of agreement between theory and prediction. These data illustrate their point again.

The general monotone transformation differs most markedly from the other two with respect to smoothness. While the overall increasing trend is steady, it is interspersed with minor fits and starts. For example, note the little steps in the curve for values of the transformed response just above 2.00, 4.00, and 5.10, and the little jump that occurs at about 4.80.

As noted above, when the ratio of the largest data point to the smallest is not too big, the transformations $y^{1-\lambda\mu}$ and $\log(\lambda y - \lambda\mu + 1)$ produce very

similar results with regard to additivity. Tukey (1957) defines a measure of the strength of a transformation which helps to explain why this is so. If z is the transformation, Tukey's measure of strength, as one goes from y_1 to y_2 in the original metric, is

$$S(y_1, y_2) = \frac{\left(\log \frac{dz}{dy}\right)_{y=y_1} - \left(\log \frac{dz}{dy}\right)_{y=y_2}}{\log y_2 - \log y_1} . \quad (7)$$

The rationale for this measure is a bit subtle; see Tukey (1957) for details. For power transformations y^p the strength is $1-p$, independent of the choice of y_1 and y_2 . Also, the strength of the transformation $\log y$ is 1, independent of y_1 and y_2 . Hence, the sequence of transformations

$$\dots, y, y^{\frac{1}{2}}, \log y, y^{-\frac{1}{2}}, y^{-1}, \dots$$

is equally spaced in terms of this measure. The strength of the more general transformation

$$z = \begin{aligned} &(y + c)^p, \quad p \neq 0, \\ &\log(y + c), \quad p = 0, \end{aligned}$$

depends on y_1 and y_2 . However, power series expansions of $\log \frac{1+x}{1-x}$ applied to Equation 7 show that a good first approximation to the strength is given by

$$S = (1 - p) \frac{y}{y + c}, \quad (8)$$

where y is the midpoint of y_1 and y_2 . Applying this approximation to $\log(y - \mu + 1/\lambda)$ at $y = \mu$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} S &= (1 - 0) \frac{\mu}{\mu + (1/\lambda - \mu)} \\ &= \lambda\mu, \end{aligned}$$

which is the same as the strength of the transformation $y^{1-\lambda\mu}$. Thus, it is not surprising that $\log(y - \mu + 1/\lambda)$ and $y^{1-\lambda\mu}$ yield similar results close to the mean of the original data. If the range of the data is not great, one never gets far enough from the mean for the difference in strength to become noteworthy.

Discussion

Researchers sometimes object to the use of transformations because they distort comparative differences between rows as one goes from one column to another. There are two ways one might respond to this objection. One is to note that the original metric chosen to represent the data may be inappropriate, and to insist on its use may cause the investigator to miss significant regularities in his or her data. In such situations, a simple power transformation of the original data, such as the reciprocal or square root, may be as meaningful as the original metric, while leading to more interpretable patterns of results.

A second reply might be that even if the original metric is quite appropriate, the usual statistical analyses applied to the data expressed in this metric might lead to erroneous conclusions. This is particularly so if one detects significant nonadditivity in the original data array, concludes that the differences produced by one factor are inconsistent over levels of the other factor, and leaves it at that. Additivity refers to the invariance of differences between row elements as one goes from column to column in the array. Other invariant relationships might hold, though additivity does not, and seeking a transformation to attain additivity might lead one to notice them. For example, when Tukey's model holds, ratios of intervals between rows are invariant from column to column. Consider any

four rows, and let their row indices be $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. Then it follows from Equation 1 that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mu_{1j} - \mu_{2j}}{\mu_{3j} - \mu_{4j}} &= \frac{(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)\lambda_{2j}}{(\alpha_3 - \alpha_4)\lambda_{3j}} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_1 - \alpha_2}{\alpha_3 - \alpha_4}, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

independent of j . It was noted earlier that appropriate graphical representation of the original data can be useful in determining if Tukey's model holds. If it appears that it holds for a given set of data, it makes sense to apply the transformation implied by the model. Then a more rigorous test of the fit of the model can be carried out by testing the transformed data for additivity.

The force of these replies depends on the simplicity, or nonarbitrariness, of the transformation used, which in turn depends on the details of the situation. Thus, when the transformation proposed in this paper or a simple power transformation will work, they would seem to be preferable to the general monotone transformations. It was noted above that the latter will usually have a lack of smoothness which makes them appear somewhat arbitrary. However, one should not hesitate to employ the more complicated algorithms in situations where the simple approaches fail.

In choosing between the power transformation and the modified logarithmic transformation proposed in this paper one might be guided by substantive considerations. The exponent of the implied power transformation, or the focal point of the modified logarithmic transformation may make theoretical sense. If not, the choice would seem to be a matter of taste. In that case, the author prefers the transformation implicit in the model used to assess the nonadditivity.

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Navy

- 1 Dr. Jack R. Borsting
Provost & Academic Dean
U.S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93940
- 1 COMNAVMILPERSCOM (N-6C)
Dept. of Navy
Washington, DC 20370
- 1 Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Manpower)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of
the Navy (Manpower, Reserve Affairs,
and Logistics)
Washington, DC 20350
- 1 Dr. Larry Dean, LT, MSC, USN
Psychology Department
Naval Submarine Medical Research Lab
Naval Submarine Base
Groton, CT 06340
- 1 Dr. Richard Elster
Department of Administrative Sciences
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93940
- 1 DR. PAT FEDERICO
NAVY PERSONNEL R&D CENTER
SAN DIEGO, CA 92152
- 1 Mr. Paul Foley
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 Dr. John Ford
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 MR. GEORGE N. GRAINE
Personnel and Training Analysis Office
Building 200 (200-3)
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, DC 20374

Navy

- 1 Dr. Patrick R. Harrison
Psychology Course Director
LEADERSHIP & LAW DEPT. (7b)
DIV. OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21402
- 1 CDR Robert S. Kennedy
Head, Human Performance Sciences
Naval Aerospace Medical Research Lab
Box 29407
New Orleans, LA 70189
- 1 Dr. Norman J. Kerr
Chief of Naval Technical Training
Naval Air Station Memphis (75)
Millington, TN 38054
- 1 Dr. Leonard Kroeker
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 Dr. Kneale Marshall
Scientific Advisor to DCNO(MPT)
OP01T
Washington DC 20370
- 1 CAPT Richard L. Martin, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70)
Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co
Newport News, VA 23607
- 1 Dr. James McBride
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 Dr. George Moeller
Head, Human Factors Dept.
Naval Submarine Medical Research Lab
Groton, CN 06340
- 1 Dr William Montague
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152

Navy

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Code 303
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- 1 Director, Navy Personnel R&D Center
Washington Liason Office
Building 200, 2N
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374
- 6 Commanding Officer
Naval Research Laboratory
Code 2627
Washington, DC 20390

Navy

- 1 Psychologist
ONR Branch Office
Bldg 114, Section D
666 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210
- 1 Psychologist
ONR Branch Office
536 S. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60605
- 1 Office of Naval Research
Code 200
Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Office of Naval Research
Code 437
800 N. Quincy SStreet
Arlington, VA 22217
- 5 Personnel & Training Research Programs
(Code 458)
Office of Naval Research
Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Psychologist
ONR Branch Office
1030 East Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91101
- 1 Special Asst. for Education and
Training (OP-01E)
Rm. 2705 Arlington Annex
Washington, DC 20370
- 1 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Research, Development, and Studies Branc
(OP-102)
Washington, DC 20350
- 1 Long-Range Manpower, Personnel, and
Training Planning Branch (OP-110)
Room G826
Arlington Annex
Washington, DC 20350

Navy

- 1 Head, Manpower Training and Reserves
Section (Op-964D)
Room 4A478, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350
- 1 Captain Donald F. Parker, USN
Commanding Officer
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 LT Frank C. Petho, MSC, USN (Ph.D)
Code L51
Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laborat
Pensacola, FL 32508
- 1 The Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of the Navy (MRA&L)
4E780, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350
- 1 Director, Research & Analysis Division
Plans and Policy Department
Navy Recruiting Command
4015 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203
- 1 Dr. Bernard Rimland (03B)
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 Mr. Arnold Rubenstein
Naval Personnel Support Technology
Naval Material Command (08T244)
Room 1044, Crystal Plaza #5
2221 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 20360
- 1 Dr. Worth Scanland
Chief of Naval Education and Training
Code N-5
NAS, Pensacola, FL 32508
- 1 Dr. Robert G. Smith
Office of Chief of Naval Operations
OP-987H
Washington, DC 20350

Navy

- 1 Dr. Alfred F. Smode
Training Analysis & Evaluation Group
(TAEG)
Dept. of the Navy
Orlando, FL 32813
- 1 Dr. Richard Sorensen
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 Dr. Ronald Weitzman
Code 54 WZ
Department of Administrative Sciences
U. S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, CA 93940
- 1 DR. H.M. WEST III (OP-01)
Head, Program Development Branch(OP-120)
ARLINGTON ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20350
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Code 309
Navy Personnel R&D Center
San Diego, CA 92152
- 1 DR. MARTIN F. WISKOFF
NAVY PERSONNEL R & D CENTER
SAN DIEGO, CA 92152

Army

- 1 Technical Director
U. S. Army Research Institute for the
Behavioral and Social Sciences
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22333
- 1 DR. RALPH DUSEK
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22333
- 1 Dr. Myron Fischl
U.S. Army Research Institute for the
Social and Behavioral Sciences
5001 Eisenhower Avenue
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Air Force

- 1 Brian K. Waters, Lt Col, USAF
Air War College (EDV)
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

Marines

- 1 H. William Greenup
Education Advisor (E031)
Education Center, MCDEC
Quantico, VA 22134
- 1 Director, Office of Manpower Utilization
HQ, Marine Corps (MPU)
BCB, Bldg. 2009
Quantico, VA 22134
- 1 Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps
Code MPI-20
Washington, DC 20380
- 1 Special Assistant for Marine
Corps Matters
Code 100M
Office of Naval Research
800 N. Quincy St.
Arlington, VA 22217
- 1 Major Michael L. Patrow, USMC
Headquarters, Marine Corps
(Code MPI-20)
Washington, DC 20380
- 1 DR. A.L. SLAFKOSKY
SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR (CODE RD-1)
HQ, U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC 20380

CoastGuard

- 1 Mr. Thomas A. Warm
U. S. Coast Guard Institute
P. O. Substation 18
Oklahoma City, OK 73169

Other DoD

- 12 Defense Documentation Center
Cameron Station, Bldg. 5
Alexandria, VA 22314
Attn: TC
- 1 Dr. Craig I. Fields
Advanced Research Projects Agency
1400 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209
- 1 Dr. Dexter Fletcher
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
1400 WILSON BLVD.
ARLINGTON, VA 22209
- 1 Dr. William Graham
Testing Directorate
MEPCOM/MEPCT-P
Ft. Sheridan, IL 60037
- 1 Director, Research and Data
OASD(MRA&L)
3B919, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301
- 1 Military Assistant for Training and
Personnel Technology
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
for Research & Engineering
Room 3D129, The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301
- 1 MAJOR Wayne Sellman, USAF
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense (MRA&L)
3B930 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Civil Govt

- 1 Dr. Lorraine D. Eyde
Personnel R&D Center
Office of Personnel Management of USA
1900 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20415
- 1 Mr. James M. Ferstl
Bureau of Training
U.S. Civil Service Commission
Washington, D.C. 20415
- 1 Jerry Lehnus
REGIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
230 S. DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604
- 1 Dr. Joseph I. Lipson
SEDR W-638
National Science Foundation
Washington, DC 20550
- 1 Dr. John Mays
National Institute of Education
1200 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20208
- 1 William J. McLaurin
Rm. 301, Internal Revenue Service
2221 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
- 1 Dr. Arthur Melmed
National Institute of Education
1200 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20208
- 1 Dr. Andrew R. Molnar
Science Education Dev.
and Research
National Science Foundation
Washington, DC 20550
- 1 Personnel R&D Center
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415

Civil Govt

- 1 Dr. H. Wallace Sinaiko
Program Director
Manpower Research and Advisory Services
Smithsonian Institution
801 North Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
- 1 Dr. Vern W. Urry
Personnel R&D Center
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415
- 1 Dr. Frank Withrow
U. S. Office of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20202
- 1 Dr. Joseph L. Young, Director
Memory & Cognitive Processes
National Science Foundation
Washington, DC 20550

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Erling B. Andersen
Department of Statistics
Stuðiestraede 6
1455 Copenhagen
DENMARK
- 1 1 psychological research unit
Dept. of Defense (Army Office)
Campbell Park Offices
Canberra ACT 2600, Australia
- 1 Dr. R. A. Avner
University of Illinois
Computer-Based Educational Research Lab
Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Ms. Carole A. Bagley
Minnesota Educational Computing
Consortium
2354 Hidden Valley Lane
Stillwater, MN 55082
- 1 Mr Avron Barr
Department of Computer Science
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
- 1 Dr. Isaac Bejar
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08450
- 1 Dr. John Bergan
School of Education
University of Arizona
Tuscon AZ 85721
- 1 DezWPs im Streitkrafteamt
Postfach 20 50 03
D-5300 Bonn 2
WEST GERMANY
- 1 Dr. Kenneth Bowles
Institute for Information Sciences
University of California at San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92037

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Robert Brennan
American College Testing Programs
P. O. Box 168
Iowa City, IA 52240
- 1 Dr. Bruce Buchanan
Department of Computer Science
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
- 1 DR. C. VICTOR BUNDERSON
WICAT INC.
UNIVERSITY PLAZA, SUITE 10
1160 SO. STATE ST.
OREM, UT 84057
- 1 Dr. Anthony Cancelli
School of Education
University of Arizona
Tuscon, AZ 85721
- 1 Dr. John B. Carroll
Psychometric Lab
Univ. of No. Carolina
Davie Hall 013A
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
- 1 Charles Myers Library
Livingstone House
Livingstone Road
Stratford
London E15 2LJ
ENGLAND
- 1 Dr. William Clancey
Department of Computer Science
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
- 1 Dr. Norman Cliff
Dept. of Psychology
Univ. of So. California
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. William E. Coffman
Director, Iowa Testing Programs
234 Lindquist Center
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
- 1 Dr. Allan M. Collins
Bolt Beranek & Newman, Inc.
50 Moulton Street
Cambridge, Ma 02138
- 1 Dr. Meredith P. Crawford
American Psychological Association
1200 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
- 1 ERIC Facility-Acquisitions
4833 Rugby Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20014
- 1 Dr. Leonard Feldt
Lindquist Center for Measurement
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
- 1 Dr. Richard L. Ferguson
The American College Testing Program
P.O. Box 168
Iowa City, IA 52240
- 1 Dr. Victor Fields
Dept. of Psychology
Montgomery College
Rockville, MD 20850
- 1 Univ. Prof. Dr. Gerhard Fischer
Liebiggasse 5/3
A 1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA
- 1 Professor Donald Fitzgerald
University of New England
Armidale, New South Wales 2351
AUSTRALIA
- 1 DR. JOHN D. FOLLEY JR.
APPLIED SCIENCES ASSOCIATES INC
VALENCIA, PA 16059

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. John R. Frederiksen
Bolt Beranek & Newman
50 Moulton Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
- 1 DR. ROBERT GLASER
LRDC
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
3939 O'HARA STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
- 1 Dr. Daniel Gopher
Industrial & Management Engineering
Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
Haifa
ISRAEL
- 1 Dr. Ross Green
CTB/McGraw Hill
Del Monte Research Park
Monterey, CA 93940
- 1 DR. JAMES G. GREENO
LRDC
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
3939 O'HARA STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213
- 1 Dr. Ron Hambleton
School of Education
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01002
- 1 Dr. Chester Harris
School of Education
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
- 1 Dr. Dustin H. Heuston
Wicat, Inc.
Box 986
Orem, UT 84057
- 1 Dr. Lloyd Humphreys
Department of Psychology
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Steven Hunka
Department of Education
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA
- 1 Dr. Earl Hunt
Dept. of Psychology
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98105
- 1 Dr. Huynh Huynh
College of Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
- 1 DR. KAY INABA
21116 VANOWEN ST
CANOGA PARK, CA 91303
- 1 Dr. Douglas H. Jones
Rm T-255
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08450
- 3 Journal Supplement Abstract Service
American Psychological Association
1200 17th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
- 1 Dr. Wilson A. Judd
McDonnell-Douglas
Astronautics Co.-St. Louis
P.O. Box 30204
Lowry AFB, CO 80230
- 1 Professor John A. Keats
University of Newcastle
AUSTRALIA 2308
- 1 Dr. Mazie Knerr
Litton-Mellonics
Box 1286
Springfield, VA 22151
- 1 Dr. Alan Lesgold
Learning R&D Center
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Michael Levine
210 Education Building
University of Illinois
Champaign, IL 61820
- 1 Dr. Charles Lewis
Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Oude Poteringestraat
Groningen
NETHERLANDS
- 1 Dr. Robert Linn
College of Education
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. Frederick M. Lord
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08540
- 1 Dr. James Lumsden
Department of Psychology
University of Western Australia
Nedlands W.A. 6009
AUSTRALIA
- 1 Dr. Gary Marco
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08450
- 1 Dr. Scott Maxwell
Department of Psychology
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77004
- 1 Dr. Samuel T. Mayo
Loyola University of Chicago
820 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
- 1 Professor Jason Millman
Department of Education
Stone Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Melvin R. Novick
356 Lindquist Center for Measurment
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
- 1 MR. LUIGI PETRULLO
2431 N. EDGEWOOD STREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22207
- 1 DR. DIANE M. RAMSEY-KLEE
R-K RESEARCH & SYSTEM DESIGN
3947 RIDGEMONT DRIVE
MALIBU, CA 90265
- 1 MINRAT M. L. RAUCH
P II 4
BUNDESMINISTERIUM DER VERTEIDIGUNG
POSTFACH 1328
D-53 BONN 1, GERMANY
- 1 Dr. Mark D. Reckase
Educational Psychology Dept.
University of Missouri-Columbia
4 Hill Hall
Columbia, MO 65211
- 1 Dr. Andrew M. Rose
American Institutes for Research
1055 Thomas Jefferson St. NW
Washington, DC 20007
- 1 Dr. Leonard L. Rosenbaum, Chairman
Department of Psychology
Montgomery College
Rockville, MD 20850
- 1 Dr. Ernst Z. Rothkopf
Bell Laboratories
600 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
- 1 Dr. Lawrence Rudner
403 Elm Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20012
- 1 Dr. David Rumelhart
Center for Human Information Processing
Univ. of California, San Diego
La Jolla, CA 92093

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. J. Ryan
Department of Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
- 1 PROF. FUMIKO SAMEJIMA
DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37916
- 1 DR. WALTER SCHNEIDER
DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820
- 1 Dr. Kazuo Shigemasu
University of Tohoku
Department of Educational Psychology
Kawauchi, Sendai 980
JAPAN
- 1 Dr. Edwin Shirkey
Department of Psychology
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL 32816
- 1 Dr. Robert Smith
Department of Computer Science
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
- 1 Dr. Richard Snow
School of Education
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305
- 1 Dr. Kathryn T. Spoehr
Department of Psychology
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
- 1 Dr. Robert Sternberg
Dept. of Psychology
Yale University
Box 11A, Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520

Non Govt

- 1 DR. ALBERT STEVENS
BOLT BERANEK & NEWMAN, INC.
50 MOULTON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
- 1 Mr. William Stobie
McDonnell-Douglas
Astronautics Co.
P. O. Box 30204
Chico, CA 95925
- 1 DR. PATRICK SUPPES
INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL STUDIES IN
THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CA 94305
- 1 Dr. Hariharan Swaminathan
Laboratory of Psychometric and
Evaluation Research
School of Education
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
- 1 Dr. Brad Sympson
Psychometric Research Group
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, NJ 08541
- 1 Dr. Kikumi Tatsuoka
Computer Based Education Research
Laboratory
252 Engineering Research Laboratory
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801
- 1 Dr. David Thissen
Department of Psychology
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66044
- 1 Graduate School of Industrial
Administration
Carnegie-Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Attn: Dr. G. Thompson

Non Govt

- 1 Dr. Walt W. Tornow
Control Data Corporation
Corporate Personnel Research
P.O. Box 0 - HQN060
Minneapolis, MN 55440
- 1 Dr. Robert Tsutakawa
Department of Statistics
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65201
- 1 Dr. Howard Wainer
Bureau of Social Science Research
1990 M Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20036
- 1 DR. THOMAS WALLSTEN
PSYCHOMETRIC LABORATORY
DAVIE HALL 013A
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROL
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514
- 1 Dr. David J. Weiss
N660 Elliott Hall
University of Minnesota
75 E. River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55455
- 1 DR. GERSHON WELTMAN
PERCEPTRONICS INC.
6271 VARIEL AVE.
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367
- 1 DR. SUSAN E. WHITELY
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
- 1 Wolfgang Wildgrube
Streitkraefteamt
Box 20 50 03
D-5300 Bonn 2
WEST GERMANY
- 1 Dr. Karl Zinn
Center for research on Learning
and Teaching
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**DATE
FILMED**

9-8