J.P. Benzécri and Collaborators

L'ANALYSE DES DONNÉES
(Data Analysis)
Vol. I — La Taxonomie; Vol. II — L'analyse des correspondences
DUNOD, Paris, Bruxelles, Montreal, 1973

An impressive book, both as volume and included material as well quality, thanks to a large collective University and research staff with the Laboratory of Statistics of Paris University.

The volume is devoted to the theory of clarification, including statistic research and operations at the above laboratory, in this particular field.

The starting idea is that the means of electronic ordination allow the statistician to tackle in a unitary system multitudes of facts in varrieated domains.

Hence the multitude of fields where the methods and patterns of taxonomy are being tried to be applied: Psichosociology, botany, zoology, geology, ecology, linguistics, economy, politics a.s.o.

Their unitary treatment is ensured with the help of a general introduction to the subject, followed by several courses on taxonomy (Problems and Methods of Taxonomy; Classification in Natural Sciences; Digital Description of Classifications; Hyerarchic Ascending Classification, The Theory of Information and Clarification on the Basis of a Contingency List, a.s.o.).

The volume concludes with an adenda containing programs of automatic clarification, written in FORTRAN. Details are also provided on their utilisation in practice.

The second volume is mainly devoted to the analysis of correspondents, a method the authors characterize as the best for the discovery of structure facts, which subsist in any given list of data.

From the very beginning the principles of data-analysis is presented, from among which very important is the second principle: "The pattern must follow the data and not the other way round." Every principle is thorougly examined.

Then follow a formal presentation of the problem of correspondents analysis.

Next — a chapter with courses on factorial analysis, which is the central element in correspondents analysis.

Following comes semples of application of correspondents analysis in sociology, living-standards, economy, hydrology. a.s.o.

Just as volume I, too there is here an adenda with programs for correspondents analysis.

All in all, the book is an excellent practice-aid. It is very useful to statisticians interested both in problems of theory and application in the mentioned fields.

E. Scarlat