

Public Abstract

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In the psychological sciences, mixture modeling (also referred to as latent class or latent profile analysis) is very commonly used to find sub-populations within a sample. However, the process by which researchers select a model (i.e., how many sub-populations and how many covariance parameters) is not standardized. Furthermore, many techniques that researchers use to select a model are ad hoc and have varied statistical theoretical support. This dissertation systematically examines three commonly used but not formally tested model selection heuristics for mixture modeling.