

Supplementary Material (A) - Testing the Circumplex Structure of the Soundscape Survey

Andrew Mitchell^{a,*}, Francesco Aletta^a

^a*University College London, Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0NN*

Table of contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Testing the Circumplex	2
2	Data Preparation	2
2.1	Ipsatization	2
3	Step Zero: Tracey’s Circular Order Model	2
4	Structural Equation Modelling using Browne’s Stochastic Circumplex Model	3
4.1	Fit Indices	3
4.1.1	Inter-rater Reliability	4
4.2	Run CircE Analysis	4
4.3	SEM Analysis Results	5

1. Introduction

In this analysis, we aim to test the circumplex structure of various soundscape survey translations. The circumplex model is a powerful tool in psychology, often used to visualize and interpret complex multivariate data. In order to enable its use across many contexts, cultures, and languages, its necessary to validate the structure of the circumplex items. The goal of validated translations is to ensure that the circumplex structure is maintained across translations, allowing for cross-cultural comparisons.

Our approach will involve several steps. First, we will load the necessary libraries and our dataset. The dataset comprises responses to the soundscape survey in various languages. Each response includes ratings on a set of scales (the perceptual attributes from ? (PAQs)), which we will use to analyze the circumplex structure.

Next, we will prepare the variables for the circumplex analysis. This includes defining the names of the scales used in the survey and the ideal angles for the circumplex analysis. These angles represent the theoretical ideal locations of each scale on the circumplex.

After loading and preparing the data, we will proceed to the analysis phase. We will use the CircE package, a tool specifically designed for circumplex analysis. This will allow us to test the circumplex structure of the survey translations and visualize the results.

*Corresponding author
Email addresses: `andrew.mitchell.18@ucl.ac.uk` (Andrew Mitchell), `f.aletta@ucl.ac.uk` (Francesco Aletta)

Preprint submitted to *PsyArxiv* November 24, 2023

1.1. Testing the Circumplex

The concept of the psychometric circumplex model, first introduced by Guttman in 1954, revolves around the idea of a circular relationship among variables. This means that the correlations between these variables follow a pattern that increases and decreases in a way that resembles a cosine wave, as explained by Grassi, Luccio, & di Blas in 2010 and Yik & Russell in 2004.

Guttman made a distinction between two types of models: the quasi-circumplex model and the circulant model. The quasi-circumplex model represents a loosely ordered circular arrangement of variables without any specific constraints on the distances between them. On the other hand, the circulant model, as proposed by Guttman, enforces an equal spacing constraint, meaning that the distances between the variables in the circular arrangement are kept equal. *[cite this]*

Note

Rephrase this paragraph to better match Browne.

Browne further expanded on the circumplex model in 1992 and 1995 by differentiating between equal spacing and equal communality (or radii) constraints. Browne described four variations of circumplex models, which include three types of quasi-circumplex models and one circulant model. These variations include the unconstrained or loosely ordered quasi-circumplex, the equal spacing quasi-circumplex, the equal communality quasi-circumplex, and the circulant model that maintains both equal spacing and equal communality.

2. Data Preparation

2.1. Ipsatization

Ipsatization is a process used in psychology to adjust for individual differences in response style when analyzing survey data. It involves transforming each participant's responses by subtracting their mean response across all items from their response to each individual item. This process can help to control for individual differences in the use of response scales, such as some participants being more likely to use extreme responses than others.

In the context of this code, ipsatization is being used to adjust the responses to the soundscape survey. The goal is to ensure that the analysis of the circumplex structure of the survey translations is not unduly influenced by individual differences in response style. By subtracting the mean of each participant's responses across all scales from their response to each scale, the analysis can focus more on the relative differences between the scales for each participant, rather than the absolute values of the responses.

3. Step Zero: Tracey's Circular Order Model

In line with the procedure taken in ?, we begin by confirming the circular ordering of the circumplex scales. This test, developed by Tracey, Rounds, and colleagues (?), the test of the circular order model involves comparing the obtained order relations for a set of scales against their hypothesized order given a certain circular model. The index used for this test is Hubert and Arabie's (?) correspondence index (CI). > (from ?) This provides a descriptive measure of the extent to which the model's order predictions are confirmed in a given sample matrix and is equal to the proportion of predictions met minus the proportion violated. It can thus range from 1.0 (all predictions met) to -1.0 (all predictions violated). Following Tracey et al. (Tracey, 1997; Tracey & Rounds, 1993, 1997; Tracey & Schneider, 1995), we also conducted a randomization test on the hypothesized order relations (Hubert & Arabie, 1987; Rounds et al., 1992). This test provides an exact probability for obtaining the observed model fit in relation to all possible permutations of the matrix.

We performed these tests using ...

	mat	pred	met	tie	CI		p	description
1	1	288	283	0	0.9652778	0.0003968254		SATP
2	2	288	272	0	0.8888889	0.0003968254		arb
3	3	288	262	0	0.8194444	0.0003968254		cmn
4	4	288	284	0	0.9722222	0.0003968254		deu
5	5	288	276	0	0.9166667	0.0003968254		ell
6	6	288	286	0	0.9861111	0.0003968254		eng
7	7	288	278	0	0.9305556	0.0003968254		fra
8	8	288	268	0	0.8611111	0.0003968254		hrv
9	9	288	255	0	0.7708333	0.0003968254		ind
10	10	288	275	0	0.9097222	0.0003968254		ita
11	11	288	264	0	0.8333333	0.0003968254		jpn
12	12	288	262	0	0.8194444	0.0003968254		kor
13	13	288	261	0	0.8125000	0.0003968254		nld
14	14	288	254	0	0.7638889	0.0003968254		por
15	15	288	283	0	0.9652778	0.0003968254		spa
16	16	288	284	0	0.9722222	0.0003968254		swe
17	17	288	261	0	0.8125000	0.0003968254		tur
18	18	288	244	0	0.6944444	0.0019841270		vie
19	19	288	241	0	0.6736111	0.0019841270		zsm

The first strict criteria is that the model must achieve a $p < 0.05$ for the randomization test. This is the case for all languages, so we can proceed to the next step. Here we apply a threshold of 0.7 to the CI values.

```
[1] "Pass: "
```

```
[1] "SATP" "arb" "cmn" "deu" "ell" "eng" "fra" "hrv" "ind" "ita"
```

```
[11] "jpn" "kor" "nld" "por" "spa" "swe" "tur"
```

```
[1] "Fail: "
```

```
[1] "vie" "zsm"
```

4. Structural Equation Modelling using Browne's Stochastic Circumplex Model

In the context of the soundscape survey translations, we use CircE to test the circumplex structure of the survey responses. This involves running four different models for each language and compiling the results into a single table.

The models are assessed against a suite of SEM fit indices, which are statistical measures used to evaluate the goodness of fit of the models. These indices include the Chi-squared test, Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Goodness of Fit Index (GFI), Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR), and Root Mean Squared Error of Approximation (RMSEA).

4.1. Fit Indices

Table 1: Fit indices and thresholds, including the reference from which the threshold is derived.

Fit Index	Threshold
Chi-squared (χ^2)	$p < 0.05$
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)	0.90
Goodness of Fit Index (GFI)	0.90
Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR)	0.08
Root Mean Squared Error of Approximation (RMSEA)	0.13

Fit Index	Threshold
Minimum Common Score Correlations (MCSC)	-0.8
Gap difference test (GDIFF)	20

Each model is assessed against a suite of SEM fit indices, summarised in Table 1. These indices include the χ^2 test, Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Goodness of Fit Index (GFI), Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR), and Root Mean Squared Error of Approximation (RMSEA). Two additional indices are calculated which are not considered ‘typical’ fit indices for SEMs, but which have proved to be crucial for the analysis of the circumplex.

Interpreting the results of the SEM circumplex analysis using CircE involves understanding the various fit indices and their implications.

1. Chi-squared test (χ^2): This is a statistical test to determine if the observed data matches the expected data. A low χ^2 value indicates a good fit.
2. Comparative Fit Index (CFI): This index compares the model of interest to a baseline model. Values close to 1 indicate a good fit.
3. Goodness of Fit Index (GFI): This index measures the proportion of variance that is accounted for by the estimated population covariance. Values close to 1 indicate a good fit.
4. Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR): This is the square root of the discrepancy between the residuals of the sample covariance matrix and the hypothesized covariance model. Values less than 0.08 are generally considered good.
6. Minimum Common Score Correlations (MCSC): This index measures the minimum correlation between any two variables in the model. Higher values indicate a better fit.
7. Procrustes Rotation Congruence (PRC): This index measures the congruence between the ideal and observed angles. Values close to 1 indicate a good fit.

4.1.1. Inter-rater Reliability

Note that we do not report a measure of Inter-rater Reliability (IRR) for the original survey data as a test of the validity of the survey instrument. Although this has been used previously in soundscape research (see ?, and ?), we feel that IRR imposes assumptions which do not necessarily hold in soundscape research. Primarily, IRR tests make the assumption that for a reliable response, raters should have high agreement about the subject. To rely on an IRR for a soundscape survey instrument would impose an external requirement that all listeners agree on the emotional affect evoked by a particular sound. In the context of the SATP dataset, where all participants were exposed to the same recording, an IRR metric such as Kendall’s coefficient of concordance W , could be applied for the ratings given for each recording, with a high W theoretically indicating good instrument reliability. However, what it would actually indicate is a high degree of agreement regarding the emotional affect of that recording. As noted in ?, this assumption should not necessarily be applied to soundscape assessments, given that respondents would be expected to have differing perceptual responses to the same sound and, in fact, this variability in response should be one of the outcomes to be investigated by researchers. A low IRR would therefore not necessarily indicate a poor measurement instrument, but instead could indicate a sound for which there is valid disagreement about the perception. A sound which for some groups is considered pleasant and for others it is annoying would result in a low IRR, completely independent of the validity of the measurement instrument.

Instead, the goal of the validity testing presented here is to confirm whether the soundscape survey instrument

4.2. Run CircE Analysis

The bulk of the code for this process has been pulled out into a separate `sem_funcs.R` file, which is loaded at the beginning of the analysis. This file contains the functions used to run the circumplex analysis and compile the results into a single table.

`step_one_test(data, model_type, scales = c("PAQ1", "PAQ2", "PAQ3", "PAQ4", "PAQ5", "PAQ6", "PAQ7", "PAQ8"), m = 3)` is the function used to run the circumplex analysis for a single model for a single language. It takes the data for that language, the `model_type` (one of `Circumplex`, `Equal comm.`, `Equal ang.`, or `Unconstrained`), the names of the scales, and the number of betas for the fourier series correlation function (we're using `m=3` by default). It then runs the analysis and returns a list of the results, including a list of the desired results (`res_list`) and the model object (`res_model`).

`run_all_models(data, datasource, language, m)` is the function used to run the circumplex analysis for all four models for a single language. It takes the data for that language, the name of the data source (e.g. `SATP`), the language code, and the number of betas for the fourier series correlation function (`m`). It then runs the analysis for each of the four models and returns a list of the results, including a list of the four results and a table combining the results from all four models.

First, we run the circumplex analysis for the English data. This is done separately from the other languages to set up the results data table.

Then, we run the circumplex analysis for each of the other languages. This is done in a loop, with each language being run separately. The results for each language are then added to the results table.

Within each loop, we check for any errors in execution and append these to a list of errors to inspect later.

`zsm` fails to converge, even under different constraints and choice of `m` betas. We will therefore exclude it from the analysis moving forward and label is as 'Model failed to converge'.

4.3. SEM Analysis Results

Below is the table of results for the circumplex analysis of the soundscape survey translations. The table includes the results for each of the four models for each language. The results are presented in the order of the models, with the unconstrained model first, followed by the equal spacing model, the equal communality model, and the circumplex model. The results for each model include the χ^2 test, CFI, GFI, SRMR, RMSEA, MCSC, and GDIFF. These results are saved to a CSV file for later use.

Importantly, this table also reports the derived angles for each scale for the unconstrained and Equal comm. models. These angles will be carried over and used in the next stage of the analysis, where we will validate the survey instrument by correlating the survey responses with the acoustic indices using the Structural Summary Method (SSM).

Language	n	m	ChiSq	df	p	CFI	GFI	AGFI	SRMR	MCSC	RMSEA
eng	864	3	75.86	10	0	0.99	0.98	0.93	0.04	-0.94	0.09
eng	864	3	370.06	17	0	0.93	0.91	0.8	0.05	-0.9	0.16
eng	864	3	534.25	17	0	0.9	0.87	0.72	0.1	-0.92	0.19
eng	864	3	830.65	24	0	0.85	0.81	0.72	0.11	-0.92	0.2
arb	809	3	44.04	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.02	-0.82	0.06
arb	809	3	119.26	17	0	0.97	0.97	0.93	0.04	-0.85	0.09
arb	809	3	527.62	17	0	0.86	0.86	0.71	0.18	-0.85	0.19
arb	809	3	649.44	24	0	0.82	0.84	0.76	0.18	-0.83	0.18
cmn	1832	3	172.22	10	0	0.98	0.98	0.92	0.02	-0.99	0.09
cmn	1832	3	366.93	17	0	0.96	0.95	0.9	0.04	-0.99	0.11
cmn	1832	3	1542.18	17	0	0.83	0.83	0.64	0.29	-0.96	0.22
cmn	1832	3	1716.87	24	0	0.81	0.81	0.72	0.28	-0.96	0.2
deu	810	3	23.37	10	0.0094	1	1	0.99	0.01	-1	0.04
deu	810	3	316.72	17	0	0.94	0.92	0.82	0.06	-1	0.15
deu	810	3	403.26	17	0	0.93	0.89	0.77	0.13	-0.98	0.17

deu	810	3	766.61	24	0	0.86	0.81	0.72	0.14	-0.97	0.2
ell	810	3	71.48	10	0	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.03	-1	0.09
ell	810	3	246.73	17	0	0.93	0.93	0.86	0.08	-1	0.13
ell	810	3	445.38	17	0	0.87	0.88	0.75	0.13	-0.95	0.18
ell	810	3	595.98	24	0	0.82	0.85	0.77	0.14	-0.93	0.17
fra	891	3	41.46	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.02	-0.95	0.06
fra	891	3	357.31	17	0	0.92	0.91	0.82	0.1	-0.96	0.15
fra	891	3	267.55	17	0	0.94	0.93	0.86	0.12	-0.94	0.13
fra	891	3	625.06	24	0	0.86	0.86	0.78	0.14	-0.92	0.17
hrv	864	3	58.92	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.01	-0.91	0.07
hrv	864	3	290.7	17	0	0.95	0.93	0.84	0.06	-0.9	0.14
hrv	864	3	1394.2	17	0	0.74	0.72	0.4	0.2	-0.88	0.31
hrv	864	3	1688.57	24	0	0.69	0.68	0.51	0.21	-0.87	0.28
ind	891	3	39.96	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.02	-0.96	0.06
ind	891	3	315.19	17	0	0.93	0.92	0.84	0.08	-0.9	0.14
ind	891	3	732.27	17	0	0.84	0.83	0.65	0.21	-0.93	0.22
ind	891	3	1177.14	24	0	0.74	0.76	0.63	0.26	-0.92	0.23
ita	810	3	58.38	10	0	0.99	0.98	0.95	0.03	-0.96	0.08
ita	810	3	251.28	17	0	0.94	0.93	0.86	0.07	-0.95	0.13
ita	810	3	660.37	17	0	0.85	0.84	0.65	0.16	-0.9	0.22
ita	810	3	933.15	24	0	0.78	0.78	0.67	0.17	-0.9	0.22
jpn	917	3	26.8	10	0.0028	1	1	0.99	0.01	-0.94	0.04
jpn	917	3	440.26	17	0	0.89	0.9	0.78	0.09	-0.99	0.16
jpn	917	3	760.84	17	0	0.81	0.83	0.64	0.18	-0.9	0.22
jpn	917	3	1200.25	24	0	0.7	0.76	0.64	0.2	-0.91	0.23
kor	810	3	42.95	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.01	-1	0.06
kor	810	3	220.34	17	0	0.95	0.94	0.88	0.08	-0.99	0.12
kor	810	3	605.83	17	0	0.86	0.85	0.67	0.22	-1	0.21
kor	810	3	763.88	24	0	0.82	0.81	0.72	0.23	-1	0.2
nld	864	3	31.44	10	5e-04	1	0.99	0.98	0.01	-0.94	0.05
nld	864	3	225.41	17	0	0.97	0.94	0.88	0.06	-0.92	0.12
nld	864	3	1069.73	17	0	0.83	0.77	0.5	0.25	-0.9	0.27
nld	864	3	1505.27	24	0	0.77	0.7	0.55	0.25	-0.88	0.27
por	1890	3	98.28	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.96	0.02	-0.9	0.07
por	1890	3	703.27	17	0	0.92	0.92	0.82	0.09	-0.87	0.15
por	1890	3	1279.36	17	0	0.86	0.86	0.7	0.22	-0.84	0.2
por	1890	3	2116.47	24	0	0.77	0.78	0.68	0.23	-0.83	0.22
spa	1647	3	117.44	10	0	0.99	0.98	0.94	0.04	-0.98	0.08
spa	1647	3	671.28	17	0	0.92	0.91	0.81	0.06	-0.97	0.15
spa	1647	3	489.92	17	0	0.94	0.93	0.86	0.11	-0.98	0.13
spa	1647	3	1049.99	24	0	0.88	0.86	0.8	0.13	-0.99	0.16
swe	945	3	63.54	10	0	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.02	-0.94	0.07
swe	945	3	326.09	17	0	0.94	0.92	0.84	0.05	-0.95	0.14
swe	945	3	683.64	17	0	0.88	0.85	0.68	0.13	-0.92	0.2
swe	945	3	893	24	0	0.84	0.81	0.72	0.14	-0.93	0.2
tur	918	3	107.19	10	0	0.98	0.97	0.91	0.03	-0.9	0.1
tur	918	3	358.89	17	0	0.93	0.92	0.82	0.08	-0.92	0.15

tur	918	3	744.57	17	0	0.84	0.84	0.65	0.23	-0.87	0.22
tur	918	3	1057.39	24	0	0.78	0.78	0.67	0.23	-0.83	0.22
