Introduction to Statistics for DS
Groupwork-Based Assignment 1

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October 30, 2023

Throughout my 4-week journey in the ISDS module, I have embarked on a compelling exploration of groupwork. This assignment serves as an opportunity to reflect on the profound impact of groupwork, recounting experiences that have not only broadened my understanding but also reshaped my perspective on collaborative endeavors with classmates from different countries.

1 A Contribution That Benefited Our Group

Before the start of the second week, I checked the group assignment results on the Ultra platform and was excited to find out my group members. I was the first to reach out to my group members by sending a self-introduction message in the Messages section. This message included my basic personal information and a link to my personal homepage. I was pleased to take the initiative, and my group members were very welcoming. In the days leading up to the start of the class, everyone introduced themselves in the chat box. One of my group members even praised my well-crafted GitHub page. Subsequently, we established a WhatsApp group, which laid a strong foundation for future communication.

During the second week's ice-breaking activity, our prior interactions proved invaluable. We all participated actively in the activity, and there was no hint of awkwardness, thanks to the positive rapport we had established earlier.

2 My Belbin Role in Group Work

Regarding my role within the team, I believe I embody both the **Completer Finisher** (CF) and **Specialist** (SP) roles.

Firstly, as a Completer Finisher, I consistently deliver high-quality results in any form of assignment. Perhaps owing to my inclination towards perfectionism, I prefer using LaTeX for typesetting (this assignment, for instance, was created using LaTeX), and I utilize specialized software like Tikz and draw.io to produce intricate graphics. As with my first personal assignment, I'm used to using LaTeX to edit formulas instead of taking pictures of my ugly

handwritten formulas. Additionally, I play an effective role in motivating the team. For instance, in the process of completing this group-based individual assignment, I proactively scheduled a Zoom meeting with my team members to facilitate discussion and ensure a better outcome.

Secondly, I also consider myself eligible to be a Specialist. My life's motto is: "If something needs to be calculated more than five times, I will write a program for it rather than performing manual calculations." I intend to uphold the same approach in our group assignments.

3   Another Group Member Act in Belbin's role

It's worth mentioning that there's a notable team member in our group, whom I will refer to as "Z," as it's the initial letter of her name. I believe she embodies the qualities of an excellent Team Worker. In the third week, when a team member from our group decided to switch to another major, she was the first to communicate and confirm this news with the student changing majors. This demonstrated her genuine concern for the well-being of our team members.

Moreover, whenever a message is posted in our WhatsApp group, she consistently responds with enthusiasm, which is a great way to motivate the team. I consider Z to be a reliable teammate, and I am eager to collaborate with her in the future.

4   Lessons from Group Work

As the deadline for assignment submissions approaches, I often find myself experiencing a sense of anxiety. I tend to meticulously refine our content, even our formatting, in a quest for perfection. Consequently, I have been discussing with our group members the possibility of establishing a group deadline in the future. This would allow ample time for optimization and mitigate potential issues stemming from system errors that could lead to assignment submission failures. The goal is to ensure that when it comes time to submit our work, we do so with confidence.

Reflecting on My Group Experience: Insights and Observations

- I consider myself fortunate to have observed that, thus far, our group members have exhibited remarkable enthusiasm and the willingness to voice their opinions in group work. A recent Zoom discussion we had regarding this assignment is a testament to this positivity. Only one member was absent due to health reasons, but they promptly explained their situation in our WhatsApp group and inquired about the discussion content. I believe we have fostered a conducive group atmosphere. If we can sustain this atmosphere, I am confident we will achieve commendable results in our upcoming group tasks.

- As a newcomer to R programming, despite having prior experience with languages like Python and JavaScript, I still grapple with certain programming paradigms. Thankfully, our group member "C" has been exceptionally eager to help me understand and has been quick to address my queries during seminars. I am grateful for their support.

Constructive Criticism for Improvement: Initially, we found it challenging to complete the worksheets during the seminars, especially for individuals like us who are newcomers to R programming. Balancing statistical theory knowledge and R language coding proved to be demanding. However, our team wisely heeded the advice of another high-performing group member, who happened to be my friend. Although we were not in the same group, he generously shared his experiences. His recommendation was to first complete the online course on Ultra and try to address the worksheet questions before the classes. Following this advice, we found ourselves much better prepared and at ease by Week 4.