Instructions for running the JAVA version of the Spatial Arrangement Method of Multidimensional Scaling:

This file is designed to emulate the E-Prime version of the Spatial Arrangement Method (SpAM) of multidimensional scaling. It is intended for those users who do not implement E-Prime software for data collection. Here is what you'll need to do in order to use this program.

1) In order to be able to run the JAR file, you will need to have the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) installed on your computer. Go to the following website:

http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/jre-6u31-download-1501637.html

Download whatever version corresponds to the operating system you are using (for instance, "Windows x64" for 64-bit Windows users). Once you have downloaded the software, install it on your computer.

2) To run the experiment, simply double-click on the Hout_SpAM_Java.JAR file. At the startup screen, you will be asked whether you want to use images or text. Select the appropriate radio button for whatever stimulus type you wish to use.

3) You will also be asked to supply the path to your stimuli; that is, the location in which your images or a list of textual stimuli is provided. If you are using text, you simply need to provide the path to a text file that contains a sequential (i.e., separated by carriage returns) list of words you wish to have participants scale (please see the sample text file included with the JAR file). If you are using images, you will supply the path to a folder that contains all of the to-be-scaled pictures.

For instance, I have a folder of images on the desktop of my computer that I wish to scale. By right-clicking on the folder, and selecting Properties, I can see that the Location property (i.e., the path) is "C:\Users\Mike\Desktop\SpAM_Stimuli". When I run the experiment, I will simply copy that path into the box on the startup screen. If, instead, I was using text, I would have something like "C:\Users\Mike\Desktop\SpAM_WordStimuli.txt".

*** NOTE: Image stimuli can be of any format other than BMPs! ***

4) The screens that follow contain instructions on how to perform the task, and then the task itself. For a detailed explanation, please refer to our JEP:General article (Hout, Goldinger & Ferguson, 2013), or information posted elsewhere on this site.

5) The output is simply an Excel sheet (a tab-delimited text file, to be precise) that contains data for every pairwise comparison. Specifically, the names of the two items that are being compared, and the Euclidean distance between those two items (in pixels). This file will be placed in the parent folder where the text file or images folder is located. It will be called "SpAM_Data.XLS".

Disclaimer

I feel as if I should give a disclaimer here. The software, as it is free, is just my way of giving back to the Psychology community. I cannot assume liability for any problems that a user encounters with the application. I imagine this is assumed from the outset (and I anticipate no problems whatsoever), but of course, I need to cover myself.

Finally, please note that there is always a possibility of bugs, etc. If you have any problems with the software, or if you are having difficulty adjusting it to your future needs, please feel free to contact me. I am quite willing to help anyone get the most out of this software. I hope you find it useful and fun. I also encourage you to visit my website periodically; I will have additional software and macros posted in the future, on the Software page of my site.

Thanks for your interest in this software, and please feel free to let me know how it works for you! I'm very curious to hear how well it works for other researchers, and what kind of purposes it is being used for.

-Mike

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