

Past, Present, and Future of Multidimensional Scaling

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The technique of multidimensional scaling (MDS) has established itself as a very useful tool for statisticians and applied researchers. Its success is due to the simplicity of the presentation of the results. These are often represented in two dimensional map with objects (attributes, stimuli, respondents) represented as points such that those are near to each other are similar and those far apart are different. Over the last 50 years, multidimensional scaling has become one of a standard technique in multivariate analysis.

In this paper, we pay tribute to several important developers of MDS and give a subjective overview of milestones in MDS developments. We also discuss the present situation of MDS and a brief outlook on its future.