Significance testing the validity of idiographic methods: a little derangement goes a long way

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The issue

- How to validate idiographic data when you can't use mismatched cases
- Some situations in which mismatched cases aren't available or where they would generalise from reference data to the test data. (Fine if you have an underlying model, e.g. CCRT but not O.K. if you're radically idiographic)

The answer

- Take the data you have ($n \geq 4$)
- Shuffle the data
- Present them to judge
- Ask judge to match data to people
- Score is correct matches
- Score ≥ 4, regardless of n, gives p<.05 against null model

Advantages

- No generalisation involved
- Entirely logically coherent method
- Entirely idiographic, *no* assumptions of any common dimensions of variation
- Manipulation of information available to the judge could explore sources of judgement
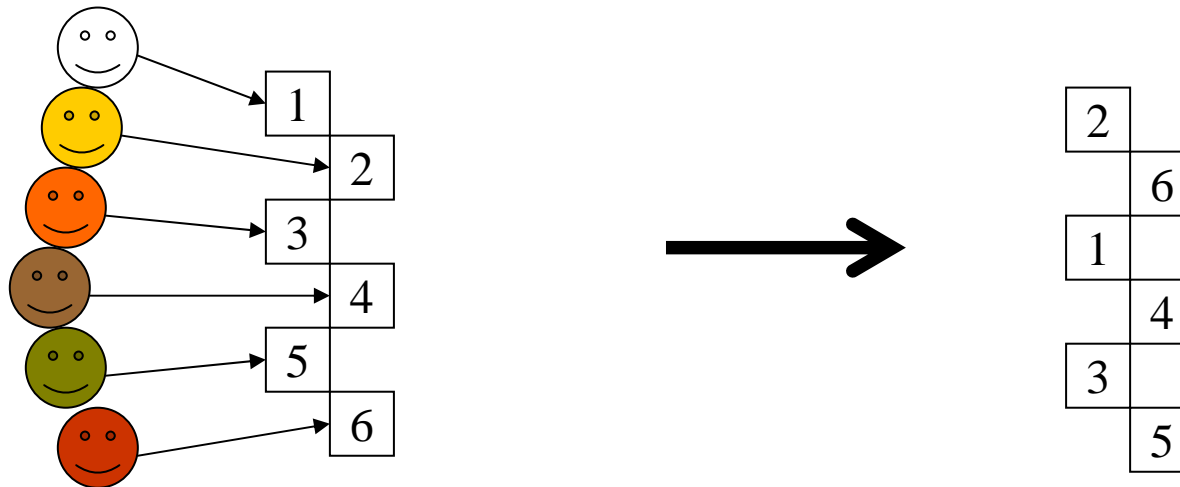
Disadvantages

- $n \geq 4$

- Need some judge with some information about respondents other than the idiographic data

- Binary answer (strictly a p value with a limited number of possible values conditional on n)
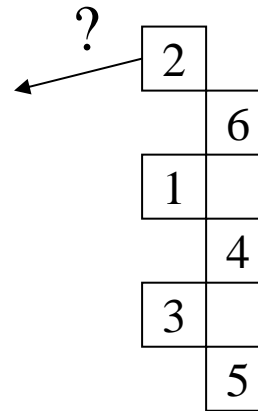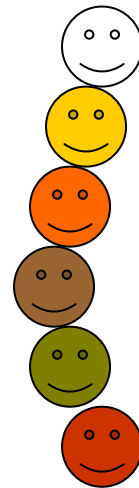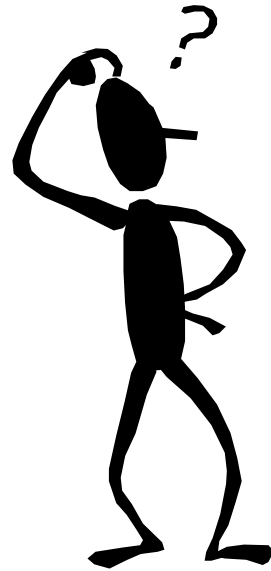
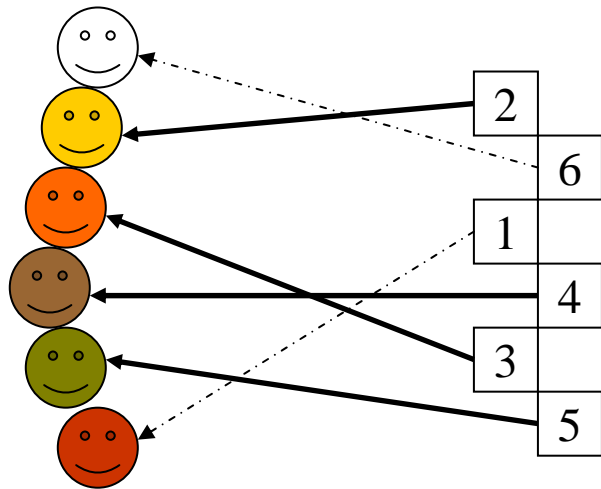# Method: stages 1 and 2

1: Get the data (n≥4)

2: Randomly rearrange the data

Method: stage 3

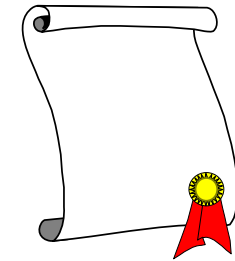3: See if judge can map data back to people
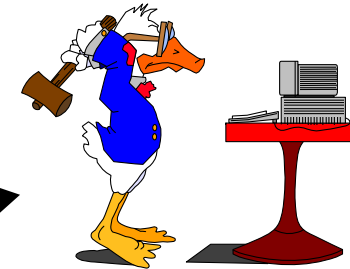
Method: stages 4, (5) & 6

(5: Lookup p value if you want it)

4 or more

3 or fewer

4: Score correct mappings

6: respond accordingly