

# Parameter inestimability in hierarchical loglinear models for sparse contingency tables

Stephen Haslett<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Australian National University, Australia*

## Abstract

Parameter inestimability in hierarchical loglinear models for sparse complete multidimensional contingency tables where there are margins containing zeros has been discussed in [2]. There is also the possibility of parameter inestimability without any marginal zeros - the simplest case is the 2x2x2 table with zeros in the (1,1,1) and (2,2,2) cells discussed in [1]. This presentation will explore how the problem of inestimable parameters even without marginal zeros generalises to tables with more than two categories per variable, or greater than three dimensions.

## Keywords

Estimability, internal zeros, hierarchical models, loglinear models, marginal zeros, seed zeros, sparse contingency tables

## References

- [1] Bishop, Y.M.M, S.E. Fienberg, and P.W Holland (1975). *Discrete Multivariate Analysis: Theory and Practice*, Cambridge Massachusetts: MIT Press.
- [2] Haslett, S. (1990). Degrees of freedom and parameter estimability in hierarchical models for sparse complete contingency tables, *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis* 9, 179–195.