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# Determinacy Analysis of Weights as Mathematical Basis of the Future Sociology

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Abstract— The mathematical method for processing data of a sociological survey is considered, taking into account the significance of respondents' opinions. Similarly to the S.V.Chesnokov's determinacy analysis (DA) of frequencies, a determinacy analysis of weights (DAW) is constructed in which the intensities and capacities of determinations are calculated by other formulas that allow taking into account the knowledge, life experience and professionalism of the respondent in the subject area.

Keywords— determinacy analysis, significance of the respondent opinion, evaluation of the population satisfaction with the public services, management sociology

#### I. Introduction

The study of the internal state of the social environment and undergoing social processes is the main task of sociology. There are many ways to penetrate into this environment, among which the simplest, fastest and most reliable method is a direct sociological survey.

Recently, for example, sociologists of many countries are actively exploring the satisfaction of societies with the quality and quantity of state and municipal services provided to them [1-9]. In Russia, these works are regulated by Presidential Decree No. 607 of April 28, 2008, "On Evaluating the Efficiency of Local Self-Government Bodies in the Urban Districts and Municipal Areas" and the Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 1313-r of September 11, 2008. According to these documents, using sociological survey of the population of the urban district (municipal district), it is necessary to identify the level of satisfaction of the population with the activities of local government bodies, as well as with public services provided at the municipal level. The obtained quantitative characteristics should be used for the decision making on personnel and financing issues of municipalities (the RF Government resolution No. 1317 of December 17, 2012).

## II. DETERMINACY ANALYSIS BY FREQUENCIES

To solve such kind of problems, special methods for conducting interviews, methods of mathematical processing of survey results, methods of sociological, economic, managerial analyses are being developed. For example, when analyzing "satisfaction..." a respondent is offered a questionnaire in which he can point out one of three answers against each question: "satisfied", "not satisfied", "difficult to answer". When the questionnaires are processed, the positive answers are marked with number +1, negative ones with number -1, and neutral ones with number 0. After this, various relative fractions of certain properties are calculated in the context of other properties. These estimates allow discovering some of the necessary properties of societies. More fully, these properties are revealed in the analysis of determinations, the theory of

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which is described in the book of S.V. Chesnokov [10], some applications can be found [11-13]. For values a and b of properties A and B of the socium, S.V.Chesnokov considers a point (local) correspondence  $a \rightarrow b$  (read "from a to b"), which he calls *determination*, if two quantities are defined

$$I(a \to b) = \frac{N(a,b)}{N(a)} \quad \text{and} \quad C(a \to b) = \frac{N(a,b)}{N(b)}$$
(1)

Here, N(a), N(b) and N(a, b) are simply the numbers of those parts of the respondents that possess the values of a, b, and both together, respectively. The first of the values in (1) estimates the fraction of the value a used to form the value b; it is called the *intensity* (accuracy) of determination  $a \rightarrow b$ . The second one evaluates the proportion of the value b created with the value a; it is called the capacity (completeness) of determination  $a \rightarrow b$ . If the property A with the value a actively participates (I is large) in the creation of the value b of the property B, and thus contributes to the appearance of a notable fraction (C is large) of the property B in the value b, we seem to have the right to infer the effect of the property A in the value of a on property B in the value b. If the property A with the value a actively participates (I is large) in the creation of the value b of the property B, but it does not create a notable fraction (C is small) of the property B in the value b, we seem to have the right to conclude that the property B in the value b is not affected by the property A in the value a. Conversely, if the property A with the value a is not actively involved (I is small) in the creation of the value b of the property B, and a significant fraction (C is large) of the value b of the property B, then we seem to have the right to state the decisive influence of the property A in the value a on the formation of property B in the value b. Finally, what conclusion could we make if both characteristics of determination  $a \rightarrow b$  turn out to be small? The conclusion is that the properties of A and B are independent in the values of a and b. However, this conclusion, as well as the previous ones, is still insufficiently substantiated.

In order to understand this, we normalize all the quantities involved in the formation of intensity and capacity of determination, by dividing them by the total number N of respondents:

$$\frac{N(a)}{N} = P(a), \quad \frac{N(b)}{N} = P(b), \quad \frac{N(a,b)}{N} = P(a,b)$$

Denoting these relations by P, we explicitly point out the obvious analogy of relations (1) with the conditional probabilities from probability theory:



$$I(a \rightarrow b) = \frac{\frac{N(a,b)}{N}}{\frac{N(a)}{N}} = \frac{P(a,b)}{P(a)} = P(b|a)$$

$$C(a \rightarrow b) = \frac{\frac{N(a,b)}{N}}{\frac{N(b)}{N}} = \frac{P(a,b)}{P(b)} = P(a|b)$$

So we establish the similarity of the deterministic analysis (DA) to the probability theory [14]. This analogy immediately brings the first fruits. The matter is that the question of the independence of events in probability theory has been studied a long time ago, and as applied to the values a and b of the properties a and b of the society, it looks like this: the values a and b of the properties a and b are independent if and only if a and b are independent if and only if a and a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if and only if a and a are independent if a and a are independent if a and a and a are independent if a and a and a and a are independent if a and a and a are independent if a and a and a are independent if a and a are

$$N \cdot N(a, b) = N(a)N(b)$$
 (2)

This relation gives us grounds to use the absolute difference  $\Delta(a, b) = |N \cdot N(a, b) - N(a)N(b)|$  as a measure of the dependence of the values a and b of the properties of A and B.

As for the cases mentioned above, they should be considered together with the value of  $\Delta$ . For example, if N(a, b) = 0, then I = 0 and C = 0, but we cannot imply the independence of the values a and b of the properties A and B, since  $\Delta(a, b) = N(a)N(b) > 0$ .

# III. DETERMINACY ANALYSIS BY WEIGHTS

Formulas (1) clearly show that in DA the opinions of all respondents are considered to be equivalent, equally important. But two opinions about the medical services cannot be considered identically qualified, if one opinion comes from a young man, who almost does not need medical care, and another one is an opinion of old man who needs medicine almost every day. The same can be said about the opinions of professionals (who know everything about the subject of the issue, or almost everything), and the opinions of amateurs (who know a little or nothing about the subject area). Pythagoras taught that the judgment of one knowledgeable person weighs more than the chatter of a myriad of ignoramuses. The lack of differentiation in the significance of the opinions of professionals and amateurs leads to the deviation of the collective opinion estimator on the subject as compared to the real opinion. Understanding these issues leads to the need to take into account the significance of respondents' opinions when analyzing the results of sociological surveys. Having realized the significance of the respondent's opinion as his weight and denoting it through w, we come to the necessity of constructing a determinacy analysis of weights (DAW), in which the intensity and capacity of determinations are calculated by the formulas

$$I(a \to b) = \frac{W(a,b)}{W(a)} \quad \text{and} \quad C(a \to b) = \frac{W(a,b)}{W(b)} \quad (3)$$

Here W(a), W(b), and W(a, b) are simply the weights of those parts of the respondents that possess the properties a, b, and both together, respectively. For instance, in [15] regular amounts  $N(\cdot)$  replaced with scores  $W(\cdot)$ , where

$$W(ab) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w(x_i) \chi_a(x_i) \chi_b(x_i),$$

$$W(a) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w(x_i) \chi_a(x_i),$$

$$W(b) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w(x_i) \chi_b(x_i),$$

N is the total number of respondents (sample size),  $\mathbf{x_i}$  is the *i*-th respondent,  $\mathbf{w(x_i)}$  is individual significance of the respondent answer to the given question,  $\mathbf{x_a(x_i)}$  is indicator function that takes value 1 if the respondent  $\mathbf{x_i}$  has the property a and  $\mathbf{x_a(x_i)} = \mathbf{0}$  otherwise. Note that if all responses are equally significant, i.e.  $\mathbf{w(x_i)} \equiv \mathbf{1}$ , then the score equals to regular frequency, i.e.  $\mathbf{w(x_i)} \equiv \mathbf{1}$  and we have regular intensity and capacity (1) as the special case of (3).

It is clear that the DAW arising in this case is constructed similarly to the DA of frequencies, constructed by S.V. Chesnokov. The relationship between these theories is the same as that between probability theory in a classical probability space (with equiprobable outcomes) and probability theory in a general discrete probability space (in which the probabilities of outcomes are arbitrary within the limits of what is permissible). The transition from the classical probability space to the general discrete probability space unlimitedly expanded the scope of the probability theoretical methods in applied problems of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, economics, etc. If additionally to the frequencies we can involve the information on relation of the society members to the subject of the researched social phenomena, it will allow us to understand better the issue under discussion and make more adequate decisions.

Let's take a closer look at the use significance of respondents' opinions. Most available source of information on the level of knowledge and expertise of a respondent in the particular subject area is the respondent himself. Therefore, the questionnaire next to the column for answering questions requires a column to assess the expertise of the respondent's opinion on each issue separately. If we consider a case when the expertise of respondent is assessed on a five-point scale, than the expected response can vary from 0 to 4. The introduction of such a column in the questionnaire makes the task of the respondent slightly more complicated, but not so much as to abandon it at the expense of approaching the truth. The questionnaires received as a result of a poll are digitized and subjected to mathematical processing. Powerful



spreadsheet tools can safely handle arrays containing many thousands of questionnaires.

## IV. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

In this section we apply the methodology of determinacy analysis to data of the survey that conducted by sociologists of Tomsk State University in 2012 in one of the districts of Tomsk Oblast (Russia). The purpose of the survey was to study satisfaction of the population of the district with the functioning of local Administration and municipal services.

The study was conducted as a formalized "face to face" interview with the inhabitants of the main settlements. Sample size was 567 people, 5.3% of the total number of voters of the district. There were 49% of man, and 51% of women. The percent of age group 18-34 years was 30%, 39% of respondents were from 35 to 54 years old, and 31% were over 55 years old. The sample size was calculated on the basis of the official information on the number of voters in the district as of July 1, 2012.

The answers of respondents were recorded in the interview forms (questionnaires), which contain information about the satisfaction of the population with local authorities and municipal services. We will consider the following list of questions.

- 1. Are you satisfied with the quality of health care that hospitals provide in your settlement?
- 2. Are you satisfied with the quality of education, which is provided in the schools of your settlement?
- 3. Are you satisfied with the quality of preschool education in kindergartens of your settlement?
- 4. Are you satisfied with the quality of supplementary education for children in the clubs, art schools, music schools, etc.?
- 5. Are you satisfied with the quality of cultural services that provide cultural institutions of your settlement?
- 6. Are you satisfied with the housing and communal services?
- 7. Age: 1 from 18 to 34 years old (young), 2–from 35 to 54 years (senior), 3–over 55 years (old).
  - 8. Gender: 1 male, 2 female.

Consider the case when the individual "satisfaction" is assessed using three levels: positive, negative, and neutral. According to determinacy analysis approach we can measure the satisfaction of community (or a part of community, a group) by intensity and capacity of three determinations "group—positive", "group—negative", "group—neutral".

It gives us the following values to analyze:

$$U^+ = I(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{positive}), \quad V^+ = C(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{positive}),$$
  
 $U^- = I(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{negative}), \quad V^- = C(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{negative}),$   
 $U^0 = I(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{neutral}), \quad V^0 = C(\text{group} \rightarrow \text{neutral}).$ 

Based on that, we can describe satisfaction with two sets of intensity  $U=\{U^+,U^-,U^0\}$  and capacity  $V=\{V^+,V^-,V^0\}$ .

In the table 1 and the table 2 we present the intensity and capacity of determinations "group→assessment". We indicate

context in the table with the pair of digitized answers to the questions 7 and 8, for example, (1, 2) means the group of young women, (2,\*) indicates the group of all senior people. For the convenience of the reader, we have identified the maximum value in each row with the bold font, and the minimum value in the row is underlined. To simplify referencing to the elements of the table we numbered both rows and columns.

Tables 1 and 2 can be studied by different ways depending on the initial hypothesis, which must either be confirmed or rejected.

In the table 3 we suggest a version of evaluation of the group significance for each survey question. Finally, for comparison, the table 4 selectively presents the results of calculating the intensities taking into account the weights from the table 3, table 5 presents capacities calculated using weights from the table 3.



TABLE I. Intensity of determinations "group  $\rightarrow$  assessment"

№	Con- text	Inten- sity	Survey questions							
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
1	young	U+	0,34	0,28	0,41	0,25	0,19	0,36		
2	male	U-	0,47	0,10	0,05	0,10	0,23	0,20		
3	(1,1)	$U^{o}$	0,19	0,63	0,54	0,65	0,58	0,43		
4	senior	U+	0,26	0,39	0,21	0,30	0,26	0,34		
5	male	U-	0,49	0,04	0,04	0,06	0,15	0,27		
6	(2,1)	$U^{o}$	0,25	0,57	0,76	0,64	0,59	0,39		
7	old	U+	0,38	0,28	0,09	0,20	0,22	0,29		
8	male	U-	0,41	0,05	0,02	0,01	0,09	0,27		
9	(3,1)	$U^{o}$	0,21	0,67	0,88	0,79	0,68	0,44		
10	all	U+	0,32	0,32	0,23	0,25	0,23	0,33		
11	male	U-	0,46	0,06	0,04	0,05	0,16	0,25		
12	(*,1)	$U^{o}$	0,22	0,62	0,73	0,69	0,61	0,42		
13	young	U+	0,44	0,44	0,37	0,40	0,36	0,42		
14	female	U-	0,49	0,07	0,09	0,05	0,19	0,16		
15	(1,2)	$U^{o}$	0,07	0,49	0,53	0,56	0,45	0,42		
16	senior	U+	0,38	0,39	0,17	0,30	0,38	0,44		
17	female	U-	0,51	0,07	0,03	0,11	0,18	0,24		
18	(2,2)	$U^{o}$	0,11	0,54	0,81	0,59	0,44	0,32		
19	old	$U^+$	0,43	0,18	0,10	0,16	0,25	0,37		
20	female	U-	0,41	0,02	0,01	0,02	0,12	0,29		
21	(3,2)	$U^{o}$	0,16	0,80	0,89	0,82	0,63	0,34		
22	all	$U^+$	0,41	0,34	0,21	0,28	0,33	0,41		
23	female	U-	0,47	0,05	0,04	0,06	0,16	0,23		
24	(*,2)	$U^{o}$	0,11	0,61	0,75	0,65	0,51	0,36		
25	all	U+	0,39	0,36	0,39	0,33	0,28	0,39		
26	young	U-	0,48	0,08	0,07	0,07	0,21	0,18		
27	(1,*)	$U^{o}$	0,13	0,56	0,54	0,60	0,51	0,43		
28	all	$U^+$	0,32	0,39	0,19	0,30	0,32	0,39		
29	senior	U-	0,50	0,05	0,03	0,08	0,16	0,25		
30	(2,*)	$U^{o}$	0,18	0,55	0,78	0,62	0,51	0,35		
31	all	U+	0,40	0,23	0,10	0,18	0,24	0,33		
32	old	U-	0,41	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,11	0,28		
33	(3,*)	$U^o$	0,19	0,74	0,89	0,80	0,66	0,39		
34		U+	0,37	0,33	0,22	0,27	0,28	0,37		
35	all	U-	0,47	0,06	0,04	0,06	0,16	0,24		
36	(*,*)	$U^{o}$	<u>0,17</u>	0,61	0,74	0,67	0,56	0,39		

TABLE II. CAPACITY OF DETERMINATIONS "GROUP →ASSESSMENT"

	Ca-		Survey questions							
	pa-		1	2	3	4	5	6		
	sity									
№			1	2	3	4	5	6		
1		young male	0,13	0,12	0,27	0,14	0,10	0,14		
2		senior male	0,13	0,22	0,18	0,21	0,18	0,17		
3		old male	0,15	0,13	0,06	0,11	0,12	0,12		
4		young female	0,18	0,20	0,26	0,22	0,19	0,17		
5	V+	senior female	0,21	0,23	0,15	0,22	0,27	0,24		
6	V T	old female	0,19	0,09	0,07	0,10	0,14	0,16		
7		all male	0,42	0,47	0,52	0,46	0,39	0,43		
8		all female	0,58	0,53	0,48	0,54	0,61	0,57		
9		all young	0,32	0,32	0,53	0,36	0,29	0,31		
10		all senior	0,34	0,46	0,33	0,43	0,44	0,41		
11		all old	0,34	0,22	0,14	0,21	0,26	0,28		
12		young male	0,15	0,25	0,18	0,24	0,21	0,12		
13		senior male	0,20	0,13	0,18	0,18	0,18	0,21		
14		old male	0,13	0,13	0,09	0,03	0,09	0,17		
15		young female	0,16	0,19	0,36	0,12	0,18	0,10		
16	<i>V</i> -	senior female	0,22	0,25	0,14	0,36	0,22	0,20		
17	<i> </i> -	old female	0,14	0,06	0,05	0,06	0,12	0,20		
18		all male	0,48	0,50	0,45	0,45	0,48	0,50		
19		all female	0,52	0,50	0,55	0,55	0,52	0,50		
20		all young	0,31	0,44	0,55	0,36	0,39	0,23		
21		all senior	0,42	0,38	0,32	0,55	0,40	0,41		
22		all old	0,28	0,19	0,14	0,09	0,21	0,36		
23		young male	0,17	0,15	0,11	0,14	0,15	0,16		
24		senior male	0,29	0,18	0,19	0,18	0,20	0,19		
25		old male	0,19	0,16	0,18	0,18	0,18	0,17		
26		young female	0,06	0,12	0,11	0,13	0,12	0,16		
27	$V^0$	senior female	0,13	0,18	0,22	0,18	0,16	0,16		
28	V	old female	0,16	0,21	0,20	0,20	0,19	0,15		
29	1	all male	0,65	0,49	0,48	0,50	0,53	0,53		
30	1	all female	0,35	0,51	0,52	0,50	0,47	0,47		
31		all young	0,23	0,27	0,22	0,27	0,27	0,33		
32	1	all senior	0,41	0,35	0,41	0,36	0,36	0,36		
33		all old	0,35	0,38	0,38	0,38	0,37	0,32		

TABLE III. SIGNIFICANCE COEFFICIENTS

	Group									
Survey question	Young men	Senior men	Old men	Young women	Senior women	Old women				
1	1	2	3	1	2	3				
2	3	2	1	3	2	1				
3	3	2	1	3	2	1				
4	2	2	1	2	2	1				
5	3	2	1	3	2	1				
6	2	3	1	2	3	1				



TABLE IV. INTENSITY OF DETERMINATIONS "GROUP→ASSESSMENT" CALCULATED WITH SIGNIFICANCE COEFFICIENTS

	Context	uestions						
		sity	1	2	3	4	5	6
№			1	2	4	4	5	6
10	all	U+	0,30	034	0,25	0,27	0,24	0,34
11	male	U-	0,47	0,06	0,04	0,06	0,16	0,25
12	(*,1)	$U^{o}$	0,23	0,60	0,71	0,67	0,60	0,41
22	all	U+	0,41	0,37	0,22	0,31	0,35	0,42
23	female	U-	0,49	0,06	0,04	0,08	0,17	0,23
24	(*,2)	$U^{o}$	0,10	0,56	0,74	0,62	0,48	0,35
34		U+	0,35	0,36	0,23	0,29	0,30	0,38
35	all	U-	0,48	0,06	0,04	0,07	0,17	0,24
36	(*,*)	$U^{o}$	0,16	0,58	0,73	0,64	0,54	0,38

TABLE V. CAPACITY OF DETERMINATIONS "GROUP →ASSESSMENT" CALCULATED WITH SIGNIFICANCE COEFFICIENTS.

	Ca-		Survey questions							
	pa-		1	2	3	4	5	6		
	sity									
№			1	2	3	4	5	6		
1		young male	0.13	0.11	0.25	0.12	0.09	0.13		
2		senior male	0.20	0.30	0.24	0.28	0.24	0.24		
3		old male	0.08	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.06		
4		young female	0.18	0.18	0.24	0.20	0.18	0.16		
5	V+	senior female	0.31	0.31	0.21	0.30	0.37	0.33		
6	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	old female	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.08		
7		all male	0.41	0.47	0.52	0.46	0.39	0.43		
8		all female	0.59	0.53	0.48	0.54	0.61	0.57		
9		all young	0.32	0.29	0.49	0.32	0.27	0.29		
10		all senior	0.51	0.61	0.45	0.58	0.61	0.57		
11		all old	0.17	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.12	0.13		
12		young male	0.14	0.23	0.17	0.20	0.19	0.12		
13		senior male	0.28	0.17	0.25	0.22	0.24	0.31		
14		old male	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.08		
15		young female	0.15	0.17	0.33	0.10	0.16	0.10		
16	<i>V</i> -	senior female	0.31	0.34	0.19	0.44	0.30	0.29		
17	'-	old female	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.10		
18		all male	0.48	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.48	0.51		
19		all female	0.52	0.54	0.54	0.57	0.52	0.49		
20		all young	0.29	0.40	0.50	0.30	0.36	0.22		
21		all senior	0.58	0.51	0.44	0.67	0.55	0.60		
22		all old	0.13	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.18		
23		young male	0.16	0.15	0.11	0.14	0.15	0.16		
24		senior male	0.42	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.30	0.28		
25		old male	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08		
26		young female	0.06	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.16		
27	$V^0$	senior female	0.19	0.27	0.32	0.27	0.24	0.24		
28	ĺ <sup>′</sup>	old female	0.08	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.07		
29		all male	0.68	0.50	0.48	0.51	0.54	0.53		
30		all female	0.32	0.50	0.52	0.49	0.46	0.47		
31		all young	0.23	0.27	0.21	0.27	0.28	0.32		
32		all senior	0.60	0.53	0.60	0.54	0.54	0.52		
33		all old	0.17	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.15		

Comparison of the capacities in tables 2 and 5 shows that the values in lines 1, 4, 7, 8 (positive attitude), 12, 15, 19, 20

(negative attitude), 23, 26, 31, 29, 30 (neutral attitude) are the same or almost the same. In the table 5, in contrast with table 2, positive attitude  $V^+$  demonstrates an increased value of capacity at rows 2, 5, 10, increased value of capacity of the negative attitude of V at lines 13, 16, 17, 21, and increase in the capacity of the neutral attitude  $V^0$  - lines 24, 27, 32. The decrease in the capacity of the positive attitude can be noticed in the values at rows 3, 6, 9, 11, the decrease in the capacity of the negative attitude can be found in lines 14, 18, 22, and the decrease in the capacity of the neutral attitude at lines 25, 28, 33

The results of calculating the intensity and capacity of the studied determination, taking into account the importance of the respondents' opinion, showed an increase in the positive attitude, a decrease in the evaluation of the negative attitude and a remarkable decrease in the assessment of the indifferent attitude of the population to the problems of the district in comparison to the case of the equal importance of the respondents' opinions.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Usage of the significance of the respondents' opinions in DAW is not just the next level of structuring with DA (introduction of additional classification properties), it allows us to fill the assessments with objective content that more accurately and subtly reflects the reality.

The same role is played by both the most important characteristics of determinations - intensity and capacity. The appearance in the determinacy analysis of a new "figure" - an assessment of the significance of the respondent's opinion - changes the interpretation of these characteristics.

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