

## Blocking and Confounding in $2^k$ Factorial

Design of Experiments - Montgomery  
Chapter 7

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### Confounding in $2^k$ with only 2 blocks

- Blocks assumed to allow  $2^{k-1}$  combinations
- First consider  $2^2$  factorial (2 combs per blk)
- Possible pairings
  - 1 (1) and b together  $\rightarrow$  a and ab together
  - 2 (1) and a together  $\rightarrow$  b and ab together
  - 3 (1) and ab together  $\rightarrow$  a and b together
- 1 Effect of A,  $(ab+a-b-(1))/2$ , is block difference
- 2 Effect of B,  $(ab-a+b-(1))/2$ , is block difference
- Both have a main effect confounded with block
- 3 Effect of AB,  $(ab-a-b+1)/2$ , is block difference
- Allows for main effect estimates (blk's cancel out)

### Blocking in $2^k$ Factorial Designs

- For RCBD, each combination run in each block
  - $2^2 \rightarrow 4$  EU's per block
  - $2^3 \rightarrow 8$  EU's per block
  - Randomize run order within block
- Suppose you cannot run all comb. within block
- Must do some sort of incomplete block analysis
- If you do not, certain effects confounded
- Confounding: two effects are indistinguishable
- May "sacrifice" certain effects thought to be small
- $2^k$  design makes set-up simple

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### Choice of Confounding Factors

- Common to confound highest order interaction
- Can use +/− table to determine blks
- For two factor, recall the following table

A	B	AB	Symbol
−	−	+	(1)
+	−	−	a
−	+	−	b
+	+	+	ab

- Use confounding column to determine blks  
+'s in blk 1 and −'s in blk 2
  - Consider three factor
- | A | B | C | AB | AC | BC | ABC | Symbol |
|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|--------|
| − | − | − | +  | +  | +  | −   | (1)    |
| + | − | − | −  | −  | +  | +   | a      |
| − | + | − | −  | +  | −  | +   | b      |
| + | + | − | +  | −  | −  | −   | ab     |
| − | − | + | +  | −  | −  | +   | c      |
| + | − | + | −  | +  | −  | −   | ac     |
| − | + | + | −  | −  | +  | −   | bc     |
| + | + | + | +  | +  | +  | +   | abc    |
- Best assignment would be a,b,c,abc together
  - Can estimate all but three factor interaction

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## $2^k$ Factorial in Four Blocks

- Four blocks each containing  $2^{k-2}$  EUs
- Useful in situations where  $k \geq 4$
- Must select two effects to confound
- Will result in a third confounded factor
- Consider 6 factor factorial run in 4 blocks of 16 EUs
  - Block 1 uses ABC + and DEF +
  - Block 2 uses ABC + and DEF -
  - Block 3 uses ABC - and DEF +
  - Block 4 uses ABC - and DEF -
- Results in  $(ABC)(DEF) = ABCDEF$  confounded
  - ABCD and DEF → ABCEF confounded
  - AB and ABEF → EF confounded
- Can extend to 8 and 16 blks
- Table 7-8 summarizes these designs (pg 298)

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## Partial Confounding

- Can replicate blocking design
- Confound different effects each replication
- Allows estimation of all effects
  - Confounded effects based on nonconfounded replicates
  - Can use Yates' Algorithm for all nonconfounded effects
  - See Example 7-3 (pg 300)

```
\* Example 7-3 *
data cool;
input block fact1 fact2 fact3 y;
cards;
1 -1 -1 -1 -3
1 1 1 -1 2
...
;
proc glm;
class fact1 fact2 fact3 block;
model y= block fact1|fact2|fact3;
```

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## Example

Consider a  $2^3$  factorial run in 4 blocks

Each replicate will result in 3 confounded effects

Consider 4 replicates for 32 total observations

Replicate 1: Confound BC and AC → AB

Replicate 2: Confound BC and ABC → A

Replicate 3: Confound AC and ABC → B

Replicate 4: Confound AB and ABC → C

Three replicates to estimate A, B, and C

Two replicates to estimate AB, AC, and BC

One replicate to estimate ABC

Class	Levels	Values
FACT1	2	1 -1
FACT2	2	1 -1
FACT3	2	1 -1
BLOCK	4	1 2 3 4

Dependent Variable: Y					
Source	DF	Sum of Squares	F Value	Pr > F	
Model	10	74.25000000	9.90	0.0103	
Error	5	3.75000000			
Corrected Total	15	78.00000000			
Source	DF	Type I SS	F Value	Pr > F	
BLOCK	3	3.50000000	1.56	0.3101	
FACT1	1	36.00000000	48.00	0.0010	
FACT2	1	20.25000000	27.00	0.0035	
FACT1*FACT2	1	0.50000000	0.67	0.4513	
FACT3	1	12.25000000	16.33	0.0099	
FACT1*FACT3	1	0.25000000	0.33	0.5887	
FACT2*FACT3	1	1.00000000	1.33	0.3004	
FACT1*FACT2*FACT3	1	0.50000000	0.67	0.4513	

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