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Notes

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Abstract: Structure in perceptual classification by S. Imai, Hokkaido University, and W. R. Garner, Yale University

An article was recently published as a Psychonomic Monograph Supplement that should be of interest to readers of this Journal. It was published as a Monograph because it was a long article and because space in this Journal is under heavy pressure, but an abstract of it is given below so that readers will know of its existence and may either purchase it (price \$1.00) or refer to it in their libraries.

Imai, S. and Garner, W. R. Structure in perceptual classification. *Psychon. Monogr. Suppl.*, 1968, 2, No. 9 (Whole No. 25):

Four experiments were carried out on the role of structure of stimulus sets in perceptual classification. All experiments used a total set of nine visual stimuli derived from three forms times three colors. The first experiment showed that the judged similarity of any pair of stimuli depended only on whether the pair differed by one or by two attributes; thus there was in effect no metric structure of the attributes. The second experiment required S to select a single subset from

the total set so as to include different stimuli specified by E. This experiment showed that the structure of the subset itself and of the total set both influenced how subsets were selected. The third experiment required selections of two subsets, again so as to include different stimuli specified by E. This experiment showed that the structure of the two subsets combined is similar to the structure of selected single subsets. The fourth experiment required complete classification (partitioning) of subsets of 4, 5, or 6 different stimuli selected by E. Regardless of the size or structure of a subset, classification tended to maintain the attribute structure of the total set. Taken together, these experiments demonstrate that attribute structure of the total set and subsets is more important in determining perceptual classification than simple similarity and difference relations between stimuli. Furthermore, there is the strong suggestion that subsets or classes are perceived more in relation to larger classes and the total set than in contrast to other classes of the same size.