

Power Analysis: Why use alternating coefficients for categorical factors with more than 2-levels?

Background and Short Answer

In Design Evaluation > Power Analysis, anticipated coefficients for categorical factors with more than two levels have default values of alternating +/- 1.

```
d = DOE(  
  Custom Design,  
  {Add Response( Maximize, "Y", ., ., . )},  
  Add Factor( Categorical, {"L1", "L2", "L3"}, "X1", 0 ),  
  Set Random Seed( 100 ), Number of Starts( 100 ),  
  Add Term( {1, 0} ), Add Term( {1, 1} ), Set Sample Size( 6 ),  
  Simulate Responses( 1 ), Save X Matrix( 0 ), Make Design}  
);
```

Term	Anticipated Coefficient	Power
Intercept	1	0.395
X1 1	1	0.231
X1 2	-1	0.231

Effect	Power
X1	0.185

These coefficients are generated by providing **Delta** (default=2), which is the desired difference you want to detect in the response due to changing from the low to high level (continuous factors) or between categories (categorical factor). See [JMP 18 Help](#) for more information. **JMP sets the coefficients for categorical factors as alternating +/- Delta/2 because this ensures, as we change between categories of the categorical factor, the difference in the mean response is Delta.**

Statistical Details

We define a linear model

$$y = X\beta + e$$

Where y is an $n \times 1$ vector of responses, X is an $n \times p$ design matrix, β is a $p \times 1$ vector of parameters, and e is an $n \times 1$ vector of iid random error.

For a design with categorical factors, you can see the X matrix used in the power analysis calculations by saving the coding table from Fit Model.

```
dt = d << Make Table;  
obj = (dt << Run Script("Model")) << Run;  
dtCoding = obj << Save Coding Table;
```

In the above example, since X1 is a 3-level categorical factor, we need 2 columns in the coding table to define X1.

- In the Custom Design, whenever X1=L1, the coding table sets X1[L1] = 1 and X1[L2]= 0.
- In the Custom Design, whenever X1=L2, the coding table sets X1[L1] = 0 and X1[L2]= 1.
- In the Custom Design, whenever X1=L3, the coding table sets X1[L1] = -1 and X1[L2]= -1.

Coding Table - JMP Pro [2]

	Intercept	X1[L1]	X1[L2]
1	1	-1	-1
2	1	0	1
3	1	0	1
4	1	1	0
5	1	-1	-1
6	1	1	0

Using the coding table and the Anticipated Coefficients, we can calculate the mean response for each level, based on the model, as follows.

$$E(Y|X1 = L1) = [1 \ 1 \ 0] \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = 2$$

$$E(Y|X1 = L2) = [1 \ 0 \ 1] \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$E(Y|X1 = L3) = [1 \ -1 \ -1] \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = 1$$

Therefore, the maximum change in mean response across the levels of X1 is equal to 2, which is the desired difference that we want to detect (Delta).

If we set $\beta_A = [1, 1, +1]$ instead, these expectations would be 2, 2, and -1 respectively. So the change in mean response across levels of the factor would be $2 - (-1) = 3$, which is *not equal* to the desired difference we want to detect.