Errata – Random sampling and allocation using SPSS

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In the article that appeared on page e137 of volume 4 issue 1 2012, the formula for determination of the number of possible combination of group order given a particular block size was inaccurate and there was no need for different formula when the block size is equal or not equal to number of group. The affected sentences were from the second paragraph, starting from “Fourthly, determination of ...” to “... BCA, CAB and CBA.”. The sentences are rewritten to,

Fourthly, determination of the number of possible combination of group order in a particular block size. The number of possible combination of group order in a block is given by $\frac{b!}{(b/g)_1!(b/g)_2!...(b/g)_g!}$. For example the number possible combination when we have 2 groups (A, B) with block size of 4 is 6 (4! / 2!2! = 4.3.2.1 / 2.1.2.1 = 24/4 = 6). Thus we would have AABB, BBAA, ABAB, ABBA, BABA, and BAAB. When we have 3 groups (A, B, C) with block size of 3, the number of possible combination is 6 (3! / 1!1!1! = 3.2.1 / 1.1.1 = 6/1 = 6), or simply g! (3! = 3.2.1 = 6). Thus we would have ABC, ACB, BAC, BCA, CAB and CBA. As another example, when we have 2 groups (A, B) with block size of 6, the number of possible combination is 20 (6! / 3!3! = 6.5.4.3.2.1 / 3.2.1.3.2.1 = 720/36 = 20), and we would have AAABBB, BBBAAA, ABABAB and so on. You might find these rules useful to check the validity of your block random allocation.

REFERENCE

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