



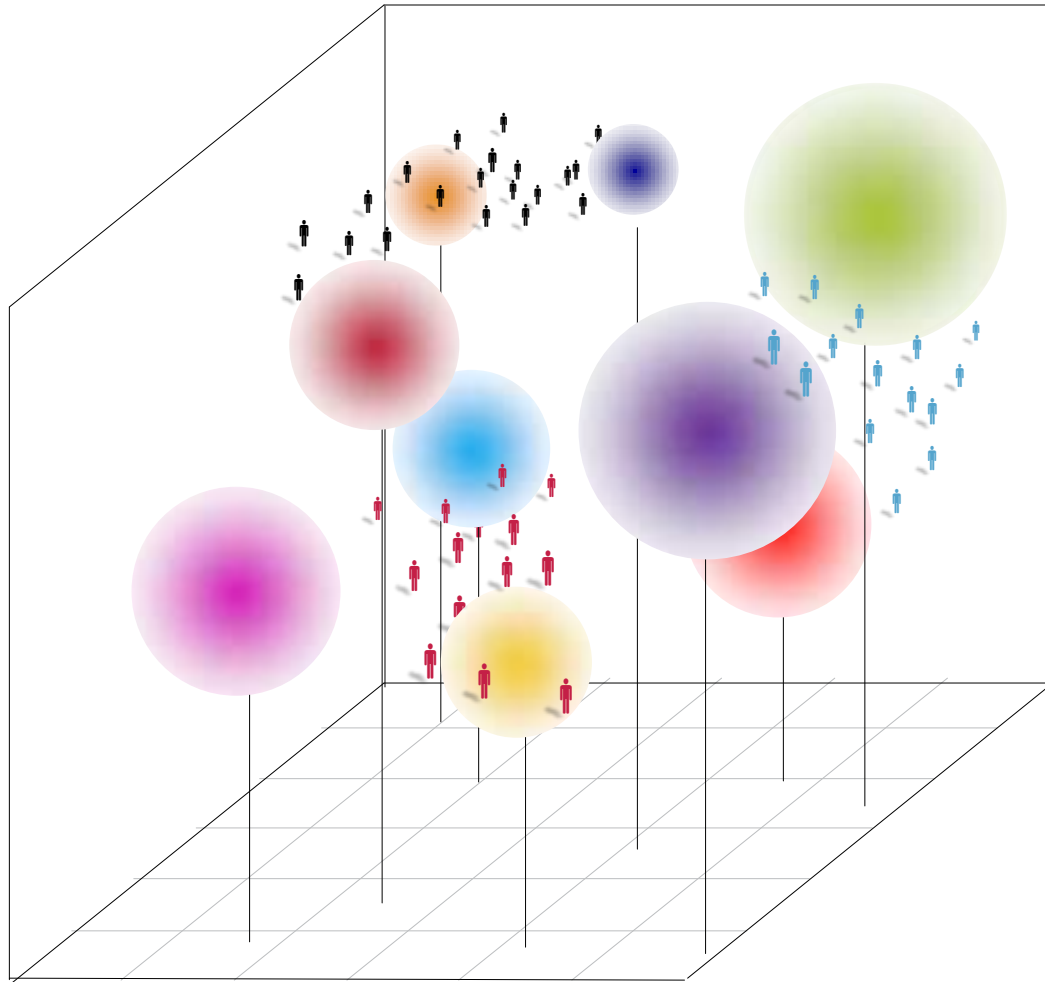
Product landscaping the Bayesian way: Uncovering the evaluative dimensions of consumer dominance data

Michael A. Nestrud¹, Michel Wedel², Steven H. Cohen¹

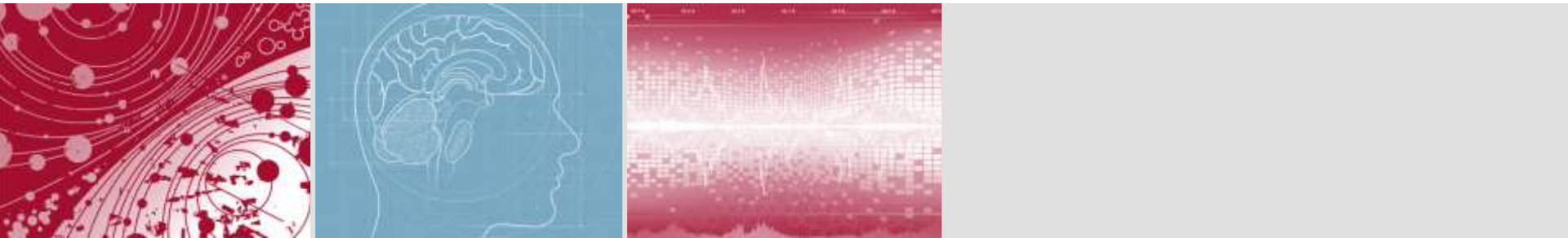
¹in4mation insights, Massachusetts, USA

²Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, USA

Where are we today?



“The discovery of a new dish does more for the happiness of the human race than the discovery of a star.” – Brillat-Savarin



BaSIC /'beɪ.sɪk/

- 1) most important or central to something
- 2) **B**ayesian Sensory model Integrated with Characteristics

The BaSIC lower model specification

$$d_{i,j} = \alpha_{i,0} - \sum_{t=1}^T (x_{j,t} - y_{i,t})^2 + \varepsilon_{i,j}$$

$d_{i,j}$	= Preference rating for product j by respondent i
t	= $1, \dots, T$ unknown dimensions
$x_{j,t}$	= The location of product j on dimension t
$y_{i,t}$	= The location of respondent i on dimension t
$\alpha_{i,0}$	= Additive constant for respondent i (e.g. scaling effects)
$\varepsilon_{i,j}$	= Error term for product j by respondent i

The BaSIC upper model specification

$$\mathbf{x}_{j,t} \sim N(r_j' \gamma, \sigma_x^2)$$

$$d_{i,j} = \alpha_{i,0} - \sum_{t=1}^T (\mathbf{x}_{j,t} - y_{i,t})^2 + \varepsilon_{i,j}$$

$\mathbf{x}_{j,t}$ = the location of product j on dimension t

r_j' = Vector of predictors, e.g. expert sensory and analytic variables

σ_x^2 = Standard deviation of x

The BaSIC upper model specification

$$y_{i,t} \sim \sum_{s=1}^S \pi_s N([\beta_{0,s,t} + z_i' \beta_t], \sigma_{y,t,s}^2)$$

$$d_{i,j} = \alpha_{i,0} - \sum_{t=1}^T (x_{j,t} - y_{i,t})^2 + \varepsilon_{i,j}$$

$y_{i,t}$	= the location of respondent i 's ideal point on dimension t
π_s	= Probability of being in segment s
$\beta_{0,s,t}$	= Segment Center
z_i'	= Vector of subject predictors, e.g. demographics
$\sigma_{y,t,s}^2$	= Standard deviation of y, t, s

The BaSIC upper model specification

Product Predictors $x_{j,t} \sim N(r_j' \gamma, \sigma_x^2)$

People Predictors $y_{i,t} \sim \sum_{s=1}^S \pi_s N([\beta_{0,s,t} + z_i' \beta_t], \sigma_{y,t,s}^2)$

$$d_{i,j} = \alpha_{i,0} - \sum_{t=1}^T (x_{j,t} - y_{i,t})^2 + \varepsilon_{i,j}$$

Bayesian parameter estimation

Upper & Lower Model Parameters		
$\alpha_{i,0}$	$x_{j,t}$	$y_{i,t}$
α	σ_{α}^2	σ_y^2
γ	σ_x^2	β_t
$\sigma_{y,t,s}^2$	$\beta_{0,s,t}$	π_s

These full conditional distributions can be obtained by standard prior-to-posterior computations using Bayes' theorem. The MCMC algorithm cycles through these twelve distributions, drawing a sample of the parameters from each distribution in turn, conditioning each next draw upon the realizations of the last draws of all other parameters until convergence is obtained.

Non-informative priors with sensible bounds are used to avoid prejudicing the estimation.

Why we use a Bayesian model?

MCMC Estimation of parameters



Information borrowing; Natural imputation of missing data

Upper Model link to lower model



- Easy ID of non-discriminators
- Dimension reduction
- Mitigate the influence of outliers
- Prediction for what-if scenarios

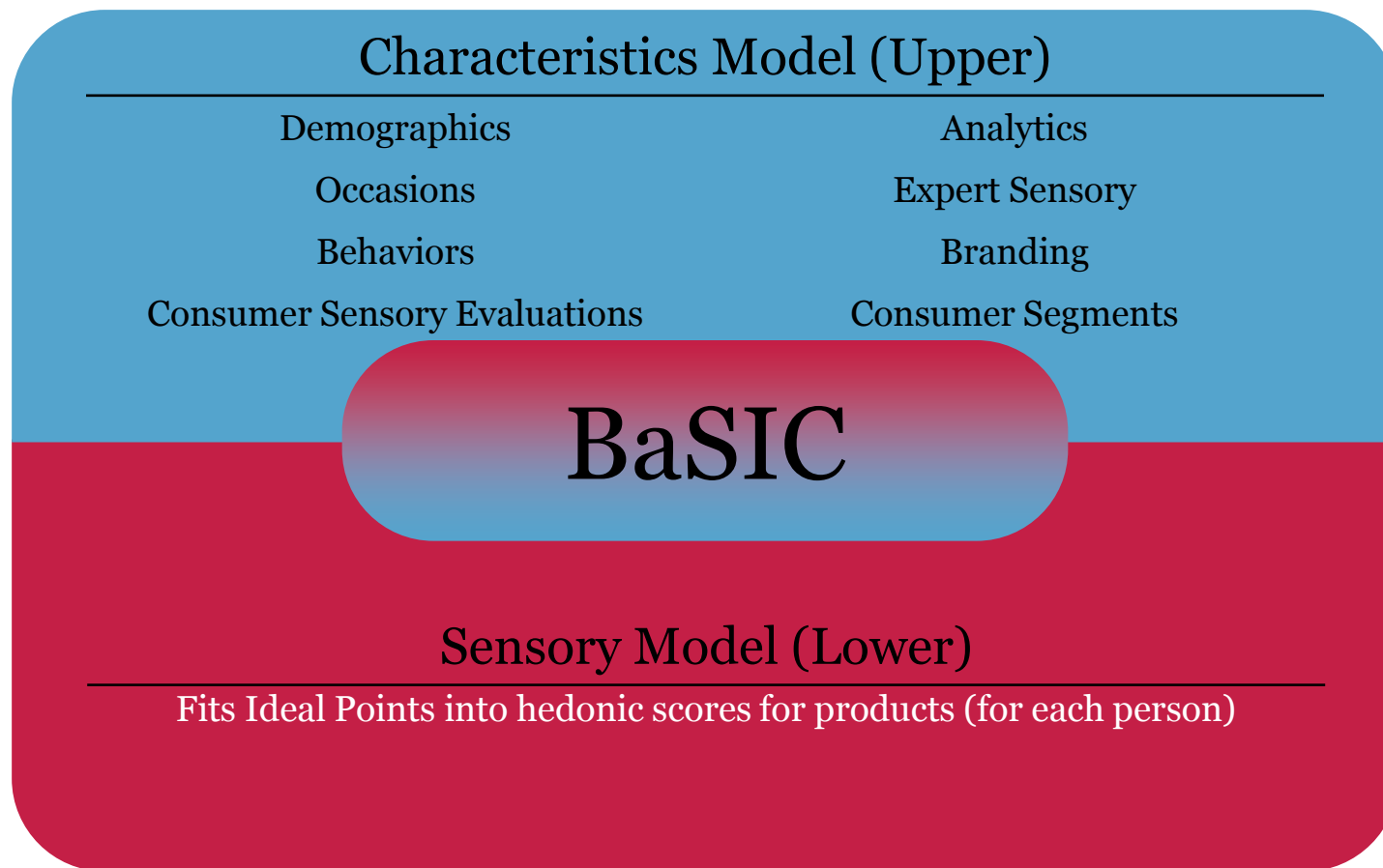


Prevention of the propagation of error



Greater reliability, even with smaller sample sizes

In Summary: HB and BaSIC combine and integrate multiple models



Case Study: Beverage Category

	Traditional Landscape	BaSIC
Total products tested	16	14-17
Number of days	6	4
Tastings per day	3 each for 5 days, 1 for 1 day	3
N	1600	~300
Number of products tasted per person	16	2/3 – 3/4
Number of tastings per product	100	Minimum of 75

Data collected

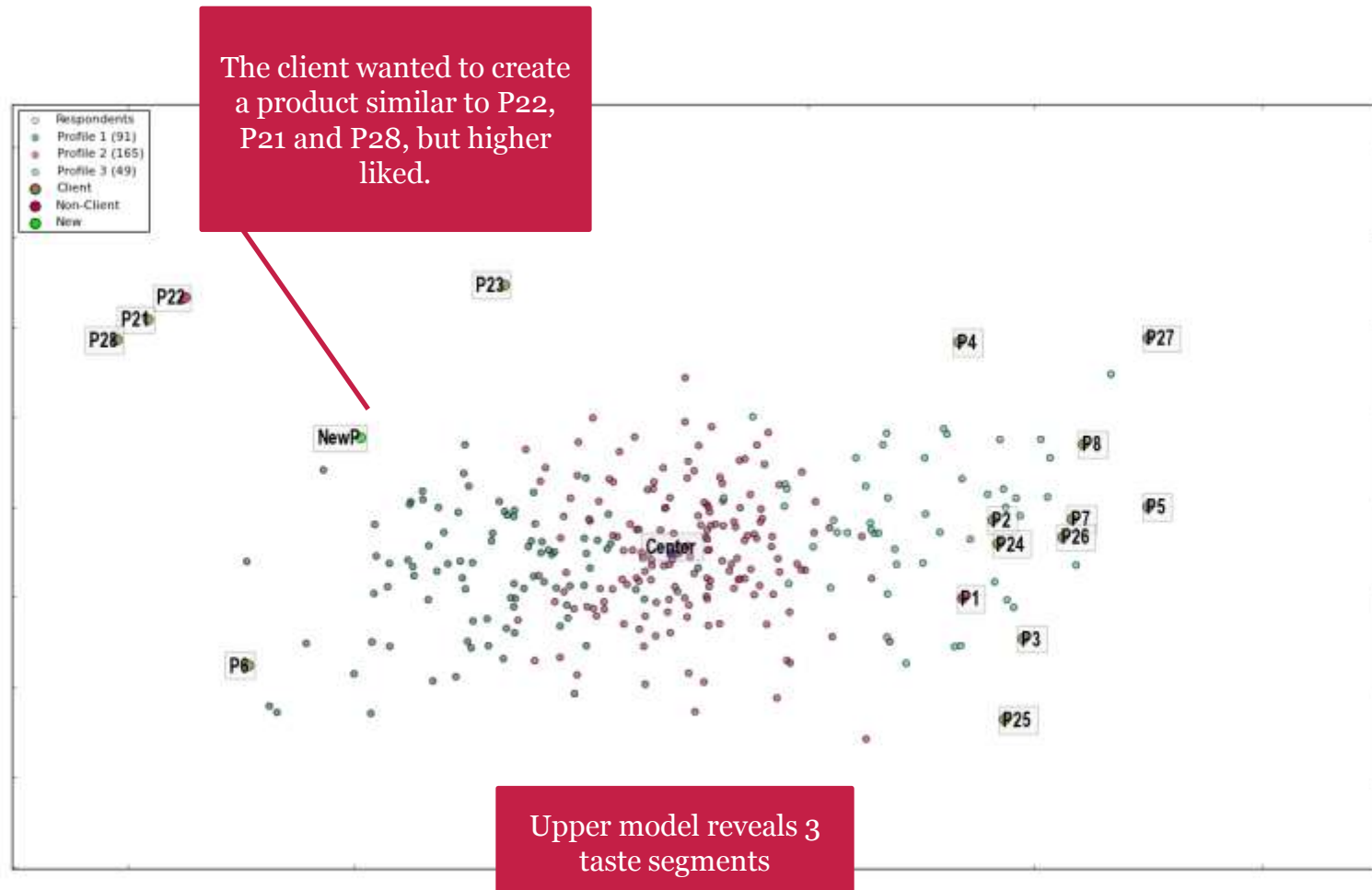
Consumer Information

- Overall Liking
- Sensory Attribute Intensity
- Demographics
- Usage Occasions

Other Data

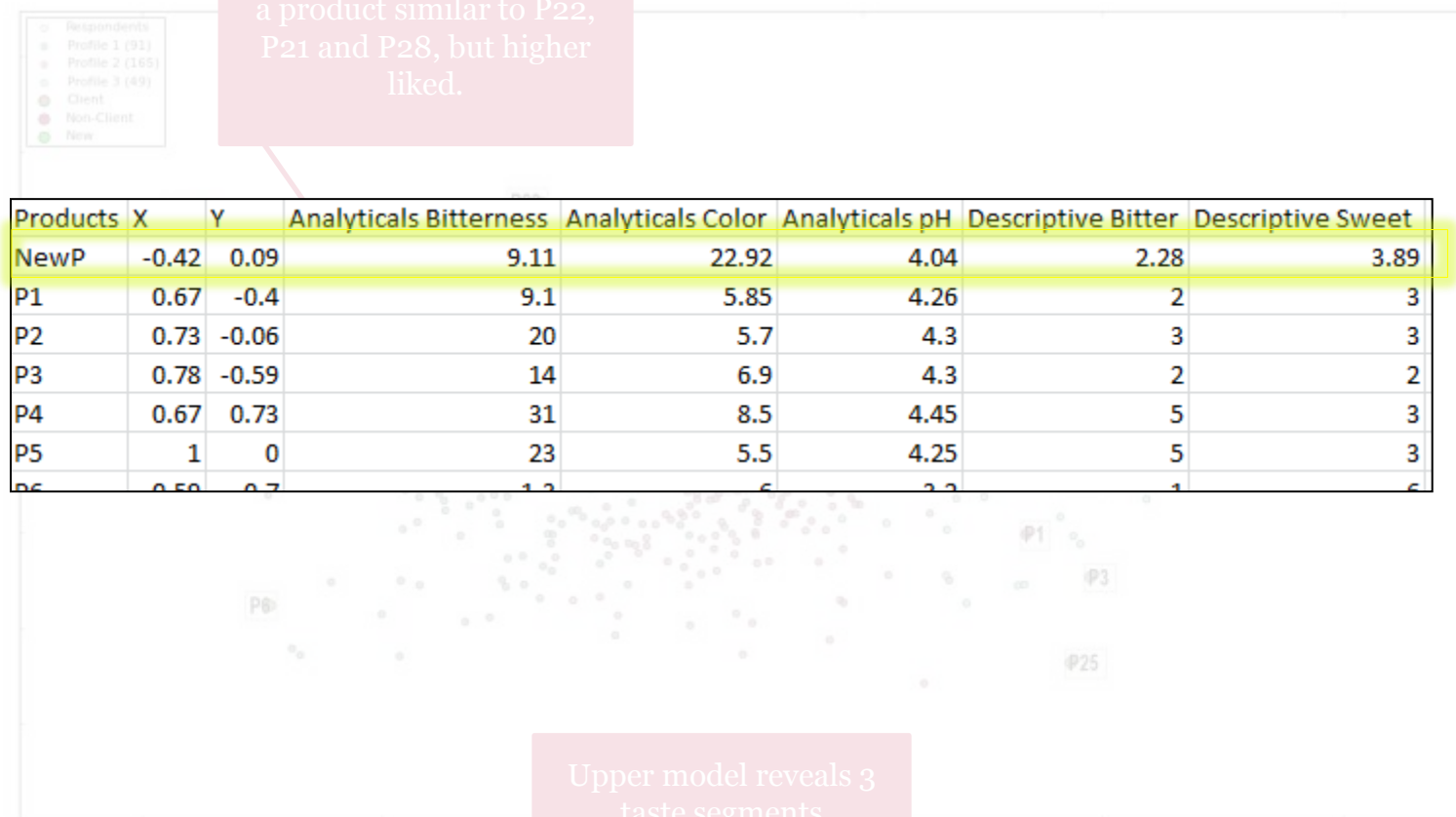
- Descriptive Sensory
- Analytical / Chemistry Measurements
- City/Location

2008 Landscaping Study



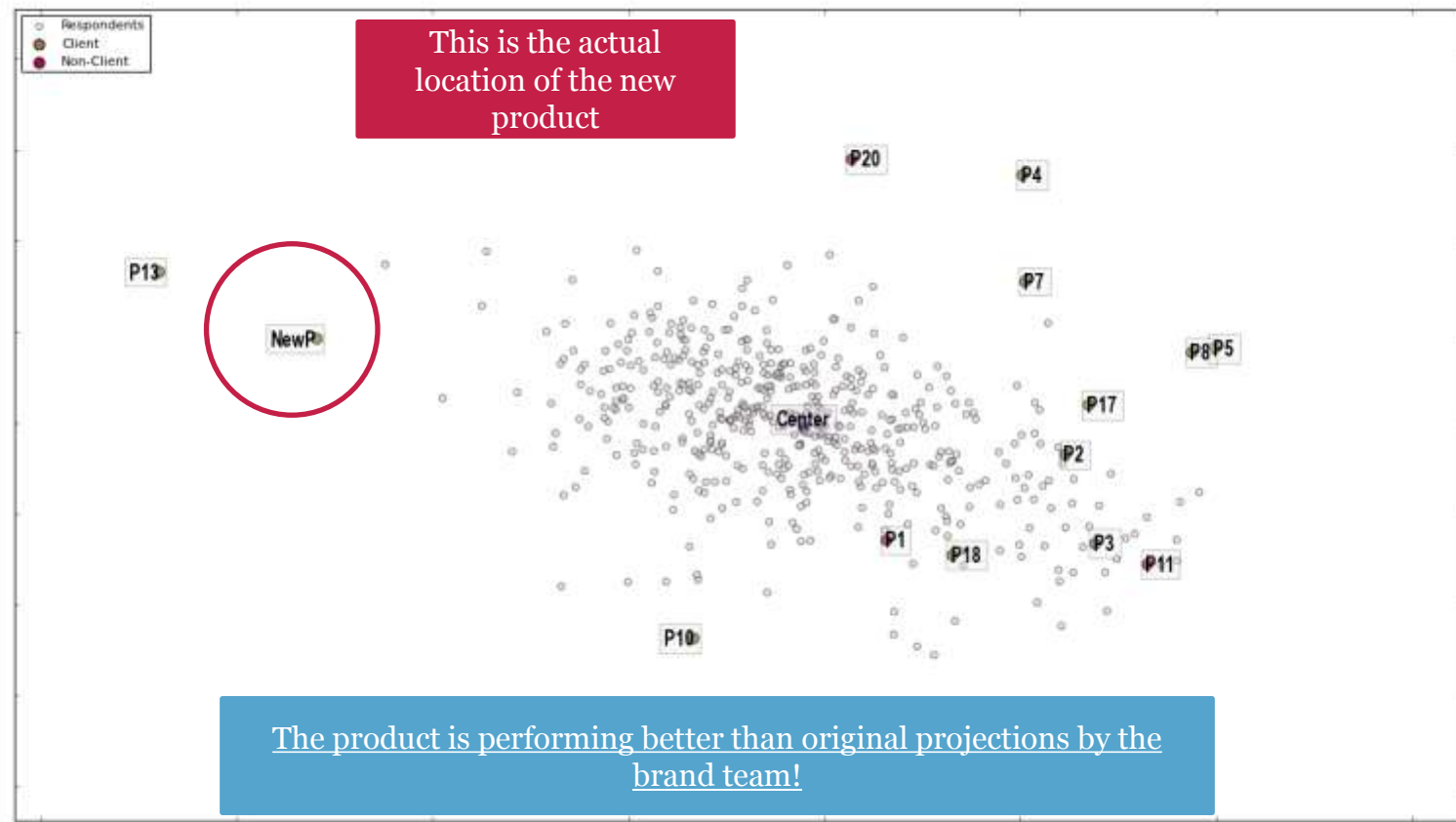
2008 Landscaping Study

The client wanted to create a product similar to P22, P21 and P28, but higher liked.



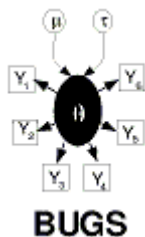
Upper model reveals 3 taste segments

2012 Study – Same Market, Same Scope



Tools for Bayesian Analysis

Software



OpenBUGS



SAS



The R Project



in4mation insights

Other thoughts

- HB can be used anywhere as long as you can define a model and a prior distribution
 - ✓ (Choice Based) Conjoint Analysis
 - ✓ Just About Right Scales
 - ✓ Ideal Profile Method

Thank you!



Michael Nestrud, Ph.D.
Director, Sensory Science
in4mation insights
mnestrud@in4ins.com
+011 781 444 1237 x126