

How to compile your data to use in CognitiveMapr

With CognitiveMapr you can create a visual cognitive map (CM) and analyse it using only an edgelist or with a combination of an edge and a nodelist.

- An edgelist contains the relations in your cognitive map (and any supplemental information you need) in a simple format.
- A nodelist is a list of all unique concepts in your cognitive map (and any supplemental information you need) in a simple format.

The software requires these lists to be formatted as a csv file. You can compile such a file using excel, then save the file using the 'save-as' option and choose 'csv-UTF-8 comma delimited' as the output format.

The software is case-insensitive, but when using concepts more than once in your edge or nodelist, they must have the exact same spelling. If you use other column names than suggested, the software will ask you to indicate what columns correspond with what variable.

CognitiveMapr can assist you in compiling the nodelist associated with your edgelist. Just upload your edgelist, built the graph and you can download the associated nodelist by simply pushing the 'export' button.

Format edgelist

An edgelist lists all the relations in a cognitive map below each other in separate rows with 4 mandatory columns.

- 1) Column 1 named "from": contains the cause-concept of the relation. This column is mandatory.
- 2) Column 2 named "to": contains the effect-concept of the relation. This column is mandatory.
- 3) Column 3 named "edge_value": contains a number (1, 0, -1) indicating whether the relation is positive (1), negative (-1) or non-existent (0). This column is mandatory.
- 4) Column 4 named "weight": contains the number of times the relation appears in your data. If you leave this field empty, by default the weight will be 1. You can list the same exact relation multiple times in your edgelist, the software will merge them (provided your spelling is exactly the same in all columns). This column is optional.
- 5) Further columns may contain meta-data. This information will not be used for the analysis but is retained in the exported edgelist. These columns are optional.

Format nodelist

A nodelist lists all unique concepts that appear in the edgelist below each other in separate rows. It has 1 mandatory columns. To make use of all the features in the software you need to include further columns.

- 1) Column 1 named "node_name": contains the names of all concepts in the edgelist once (unique concepts, can be exported out of CognitiveMapr). This field is mandatory.
- 2) Column 2 named "value" contains the intrinsic value of the node-concept represented as a number: positive or neutral (1) or negative (-1). If the column is left empty, the concept is

seen to be positive or neutral. It is advisable to use the 'negative' category sparsely (see Van Esch & Snellens 2023). This field is optional.

- 3) Column 3 named "paradigms": contains information about whether the concept is associated to a (policy) paradigm or not (see Van Esch & Snellens 2023). There can only be two paradigms and these are treated as rivalling (like Keynesianism and Ordoliberalism). Each cell can only contain the name of one of the paradigms. If left empty the concept is seen as not associated with either paradigm. This field is optional.
- 4) Column 4 named "instruments" contains information about whether the concept refers to a type of (policy) instrument or not (see Van Esch & Snellens 2023). You can distinguish as many different instruments as you like, but each cell can only contain the name of one type of instrument. If left empty the concept is seen as not a policy instrument. This field is optional. This column can also be used for categorizing your concepts in other ways (as themes for instance).
- 5) Further columns may contain meta-data. This information will not be used for the analysis but is retained in the exported edgelist. These columns are optional.