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An extension of the Simple Matching index measuring multiple association

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A similarity measure is defined, based on the intersection of appropriate sets. This definition allows to the Simple Matching index to be extended to measure association between more than two units or samples. The mathematical properties of the new measure makes it possible to build a hierarchical clustering . No linkage is needed because it is implicit in the algorithm defined. Although the known Simple Matching index works with binary data the proposed generalization may be used with multi-state characters.