

# Package: CATAcode (via r-universe)

June 4, 2026

**Title** Explore and Code Responses to Check-All-that-Apply Survey Items

**Version** 1.0.0

**Description** Analyzing responses to check-all-that-apply survey items often requires data transformations and subjective decisions for combining categories. 'CATAcode' contains tools for exploring response patterns, facilitating data transformations, applying a set of decision rules for coding responses, and summarizing response frequencies.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**URL** <https://github.com/knickodem/CATAcode>,  
<https://knickodem.github.io/CATAcode/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/knickodem/CATAcode/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 3.6)

**Imports** rlang, dplyr (>= 1.1.0), tidyr, ggplot2

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Encoding** UTF-8

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**Repository** <https://knickodem.r-universe.dev>

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cata_code	<i>Code check-all-that-apply responses into a single variable</i>
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## Description

In a cross-sectional or longitudinal context, select a set of decision rules to combine responses to multiple categories from a check-all-that-apply survey question into a single variable.

## Usage

```
cata_code(
  data,
  id,
  categ,
  resp,
  approach,
  endorse = 1,
  time = NULL,
  priority = NULL,
  new.name = "Variable",
  multi.name = "Multiple",
  sep = "-"
)
```

## Arguments

data	A data frame with one row for each id (by time, if specified) by category combination. If data are currently in "wide" format where each response category is its own column, use <code>cata_prep()</code> first to transform data into the proper format. See <i>Examples</i> .
id	The column in data to uniquely identify each participant.
categ	Unquoted column in data indicating the check-all-that apply category labels.
resp	Unquoted column in data indicating the check-all-that apply responses.
approach	One of "all", "counts", "multiple", "priority", or "mode". See <i>Details</i> .
endorse	The value in resp indicating endorsement of the category in categ. This must be the same for all categories. Common values are 1 (default), "yes", TRUE, or 2 (for SPSS data).

<code>time</code>	The column in data for the time variable; used to reshape longitudinal data with multiple observations for each id.
<code>priority</code>	Character vector of one or more categories in the <code>categ</code> column indicating the order to prioritize response categories when <code>approach</code> is "priority" or "mode".
<code>new.name</code>	Character; column name for the created variable.
<code>multi.name</code>	Character; value given to participants with multiple category endorsements when <code>approach</code> is in <code>c("multiple", "priority", "mode")</code> .
<code>sep</code>	Character; separator to use between values when <code>approach = "all"</code> .

## Details

For all `approach` options, participants with missing data for all categories in `categ` are removed and not present in the output.

There are two options for `approach` that provide summary information rather than a single code for each id.

"all" returns a data frame with `new.name` variable comprised of all categories endorsed by separated by `sep`. The `time` argument is ignored when `approach = "all"`. Rather, if data includes a column for `time`, then output includes a row for each id at each time point. This approach is a useful exploratory first step for identifying all of the response patterns present in the data.

"counts" is only relevant for longitudinal data and returns a data frame with the number of times an id endorsed a category. Only categories with  $\geq 1$  endorsement are included for a particular id. As with "all", the `time` argument is ignored and instead assumes data is in longer format with a row for each id by `time` combination. If not, the column of counts will be 1 for all rows.

The three remaining options for `approach` produce a single code for each id. The output is a data frame with one row for each id. The choice of `approach` is only relevant for participants who selected more than one category whereas participants who only selected one category will be given that code in the output regardless of which `approach` is chosen.

"multiple" If participant endorsed multiple categories within or across time, code as `multi.name`.

"priority" Same as "multiple" unless participant endorsed category in `priority` argument at any point. If so, then code in order specified in `priority`.

"mode" Participant is coded as the category with the mode (i.e., most common) endorsement across all time points. Ties are coded as as the value given in `multi.name`. If the `priority` argument is specified, these categories are prioritized first, followed by the mode response. The "mode" approach is only relevant if `time` is specified. When `time = NULL` it operates as "priority" (when specified) or "multiple".

## Value

data.frame

## Examples

```
# prepare data
data(sources_race)
sources_long <- cata_prep(data = sources_race, id = ID, cols = Black:White, time = Wave)
```

```

# Identify all unique response patterns
all <- cata_code(sources_long, id = ID, categ = Category, resp = Response,
  approach = "all", time = Wave, new.name = "Race_Ethnicity")
unique(all$Race_Ethnicity)

# Coding endorsement of multiple categories as "Multiple"
multiple <- cata_code(sources_long, id = ID, categ = Category, resp = Response,
  approach = "multiple", time = Wave, new.name = "Race_Ethnicity")

# Prioritizing "Native_American" and "Pacific_Islander" endorsements
# If participant endorsed both, they are coded as "Native_American" because it is listed first
# in the priority argument.
priority <- cata_code(sources_long, id = ID, categ = Category, resp = Response,
  approach = "priority", time = Wave, new.name = "Race_Ethnicity",
  priority = c("Native_American", "Pacific_Islander"))

# Code as category with the most endorsements. In the case of ties, code as "Multiple"
mode <- cata_code(sources_long, id = ID, categ = Category, resp = Response,
  approach = "mode", time = Wave, new.name = "Race_Ethnicity")

# Compare frequencies across coding schemes
table(multiple$Race_Ethnicity)
table(priority$Race_Ethnicity)
table(mode$Race_Ethnicity)

```

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cata\_prep

*Prepare data for `cata_code()`*


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## Description

A helper function to transform data into a longer format in preparation for use in `cata_code()`.

## Usage

```

cata_prep(
  data,
  id,
  cols,
  time = NULL,
  names_to = "Category",
  values_to = "Response",
  ...
)

```

**Arguments**

<code>data</code>	A data frame where rows are participants or participant by time combinations if time is specified.
<code>id</code>	The column in <code>data</code> to uniquely identify each participant.
<code>cols</code>	<code>&lt;tidy-select&gt;</code> The columns in <code>data</code> indicating the check-all-that-apply categories to combine. Endorsement of the category should be indicated by the same value (e.g., 1, "Yes") across all columns included here. Columns are typically dichotomous variables with the two values indicating endorsement or not, but this is not a requirement.
<code>time</code>	The column in <code>data</code> for the time variable; used to reshape longitudinal data with multiple observations for each <code>id</code> .
<code>names_to</code>	Character. The name for the new column of category labels (i.e., names of the <code>cols</code> columns), which is passed to <code>pivot_longer()</code> .
<code>values_to</code>	Character. The name for the new column of responses (i.e., cell values in the <code>cols</code> columns), which is passed to <code>pivot_longer()</code> .
<code>...</code>	Optional additional arguments passed to <code>pivot_longer()</code> .

**Value**

An object of the same type as `data` with one row for each `id` (by `time`, if specified) by response category combination.

**Examples**

```
data(sources_race)
cata_prep(data = sources_race, id = ID, cols = Black:White, time = Wave)
```

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CATAcode	<i>CATAcode: Explore and Code Responses to Check-All-that-Apply Survey Items</i>
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**Description**

Analyzing responses to check-all-that-apply survey items often requires data transformations and subjective decisions for combining categories. CATAcode contains tools for exploring response patterns, facilitating data transformations, applying a set of decision rules for coding responses, and summarizing response frequencies.

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**See Also**

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/knickodem/CATAcode>
- <https://knickodem.github.io/CATAcode/>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/knickodem/CATAcode/issues>

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sources\_race

*Sources of Strength Race/Ethnicity Data*

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**Description**

Responses to the check-all-that-apply race/ethnicity question at four time points from a randomized controlled trial of the Sources of Strength program.

**Usage**

sources\_race

**Format**

A data frame with 16,922 rows and 9 columns:

**ID** Subject identification number

**Wave** Data collection time point

**Black, Native\_American, Asian, Hispanic, Multiracial, Pacific\_Islander, White** Indicator variables for check-all-that-apply responses where 1 = endorsement

**Source**

[doi:10.15139/S3/EZ8ILC](https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/EZ8ILC)

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