

8. Title: Ordering from partial ranking
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Summary: Suppose that each individual can look at a few items from a finite collection. Each individual then ranks the items as 1, 2 or also ran. What can we infer about the overall ordering of the items in the collection? The question arises in university choice where candidates can accept an offer firmly (rank 1), accept as an insurance (rank 2) or decline (also ran). What does this tell us about the ordering of universities from the perspective of the student population? The statistical methodology will be Bayesian. Familiarity with Markov chain Monte Carlo methods will be helpful but not essential.

References: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markov_chain_Monte_Carlo