ABSTRACT. This research is devoted to a methodological study of interrelations among varieties of involvement in political issues, utilizing data designed and gathered in the context of the Israel election campaign for the Seventh Knesset in 1969.

The observations on political involvement were defined by means of a mapping sentence. The interrelations were studied by calculating a weak monotonicity coefficient between each pair of variables. This correlation matrix was submitted to a smallest space analysis (SSA-I) in order to help ascertain the correspondence between the structure of the matrix and the facets of political issues in the mapping sentence.

It is hypothesized that the regression of one form of involvement on another should be monotone and of positive sign. Such a 'first law' of involvement does hold empirically here. Furthermore, the structure of the intercorrelation matrix can be represented geometrically by a cylindrical interpretation of the SSA space which corresponds to the facet design of the varieties of involvement. The axis of the cylinder distinguishes between instrumental and cognitive involvement, while the circularity within strata of the cylinder corresponds to the facet of political issues which are the objects of the involvement.

The most common and official way for a citizen to participate in a democratic political system is the act of voting. (Indeed, most of those eligible in Israel do vote.) But one of the main problems of a democratic society is not merely to ensure a high level of voting, but to have members of the society involved as much as possible in the entire political process. This paper is concerned with methodological problems of defining and analyzing involvement in the political process, from the point of view of attitude research.

First, we shall define the universe of involvement items by means of a cartesian set of concepts. This then facilitates definition of the universe of observations on political involvement by means of a mapping sentence. The structure of the intercorrelations among political involvement items will be estimated with the aid of smallest space analysis (SSA-I), in order to test the hypothesis of a correspondence between regions of the SSA space and the content of the involvement variables as defined by the mapping sentence.
I. DEFINITION OF INVOLVEMENT BEHAVIOR

Involvement is but one variety of human behavior. Among other varieties of behavior one can list: attitude, achievement (intelligence), closure, etc. Attitude and intelligence have already been defined in a way which leads to certain kinds of empirical lawfulness, as will be briefly reviewed here.

The concept of 'attitude' is approached by Guttman through the following definition (Gratch, 1973):

An item belongs to the universe of attitude items if and only if its domain asks about behavior in a cognitive affective instrumental modality toward an object, and its range is ordered from very positive to very negative toward that object.

The First Law of Attitude made possible by this definition is concerned with monotone regressions, and has been stated as (Gratch, 1973, p. 36):

If any two items are selected from the universe of attitude items towards a given object, and if the population observed is not selected artificially, then the population regressions between these two items will be monotone and with positive or zero sign.

The First Law of Intelligence, which was made possible by Guttman's definition of intelligence, is also concerned with monotone regressions (Gratch, 1973, p. 37).

Further laws made possible by these definitions for intelligence and attitude include that of the radex (Guttman, 1965; Schlesinger and Guttman, 1969; Levy and Guttman, 1975a) and the cylindrex (Levy and Guttman, 1975b). Previous attempts at definitions of 'attitude' and 'intelligence' have tended to be descriptions rather than actual definitions, and have not led to any laws such as those made possible by Guttman's definitions.

For 'involvement', too, there have been many interpretations and descriptions of the word. A tentative definition for involvement has been proposed by the present writer, as follows (Levy, 1978):

An item belongs to the universe of involvement items if and only if its domain asks about the amount of contact in a cognitive affective instrumental modality with an object, and its range is ordered from very high to very low amount of contact with that object.