System Requirements

RMRATE runs on a personal computer with Microsoft Windows 95/NT.

Downloading the RMRATE Installation File

Our website has a link for downloading the RMRATE installation file (http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/value/rmrate.html).

After you download "rmrate.exe", double-click on it to decompress installation files on your hard drive. The default directory is "C:\RMwin". You should then see these seven files:

RMwin1.CAB
RMwin2.CAB
RMwin3.CAB
sample.rmw
sample.txt
setup.exe
SETUP.LST

Installation

Close all Windows applications you may have running, go to the Windows Start menu, and choose "Run". In that dialog box, click "Browse…", navigate to the directory in which you decompressed the RMRATE download files (the default directory is "C:\RMwin"), select the "setup.exe" file in that folder, and click "Open" then "OK". Follow the instructions on the screen that guide you through the installation process.

Installation is not allowed in the same directory as the "setup.exe" file, or in directories that have spaces in their names.

Operation

To launch the software, click "Start" on the lower left corner of your screen, go to "Programs", and then to "RMwin". Select "RMwin".

Example File Included with RMRATE Installation

RMRATE comes with a sample dataset and "Example" input parameters (sample.txt, sample.rmw). This combination produces the outputs illustrated in *"Analysis of Ratings: A Guide to RMRATE"* (GTR RM-195).

To run an analysis with the sample data, follow the instructions labeled "**Example**" in each section.

Input File Format

Data input files must be in tab delimited text format (must have a "txt" extension) or comma delimited text format (must have a "csv" extension). RMRATE requires the 'observers' to be in rows and 'stimuli' in columns (if this is not the case with your data file, you can use the Transpose function in RMRATE, described later in this document).

Enter a value that represents missing values in your data (Figure 1). If there are no missing values, enter a number that is not in the data.

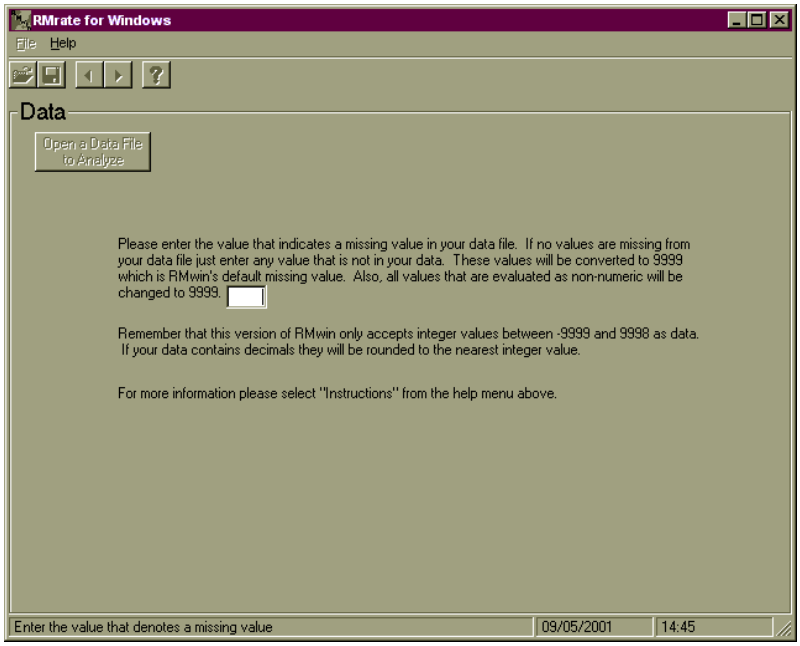

Figure 1 - Enter the value that defines missing values in the dataset.

Example

1. Enter "-1" for the missing value.

Data File

Click "Open a Data File to Analyze". This button becomes active as soon as you define a number for missing data. Choose a "txt" or "csv" text file and click "Open".

From the "Data" screen (Figure 2) you can:

1. Open a different data file
2. Transpose data if necessary (to run properly, 'observers' must be row headings and 'stimuli' must be column headings)
3. Change the number that defines missing data in your file

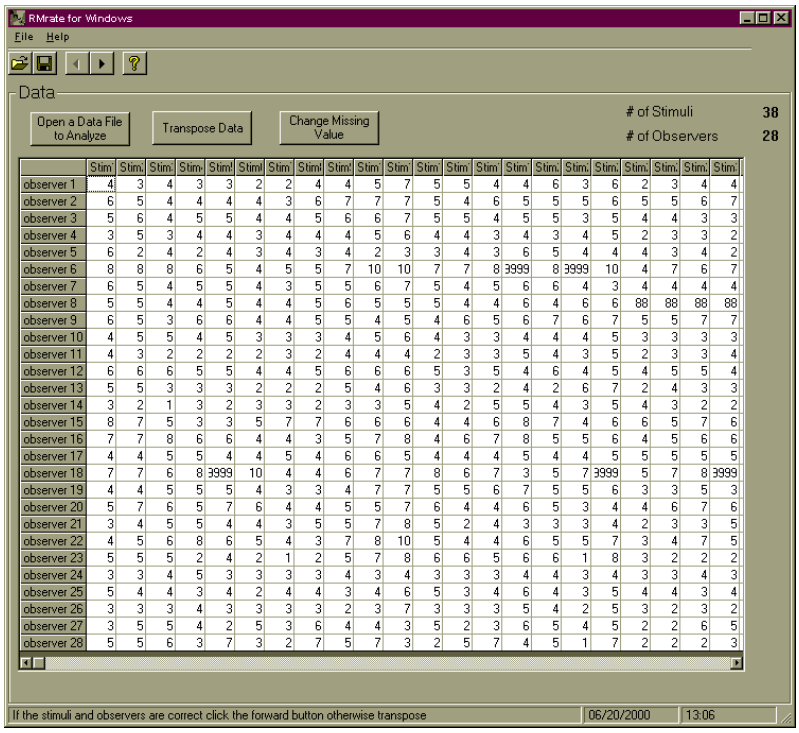

Figure 2 - Data screen

Example

1. Click "Open a Data File to Analyze".
2. Navigate to C:\RMWin and select sample.txt (C:\RMWin is the default directory, unless you've chosen a different directory during the extraction process. See "Downloading the RMRATE Installation File" on page 1).
3. The example file has 13 observers and 35 stimuli. You will notice when you open sample.txt that it displayes with 13 stimuli and 35 observers. The Windows version of RMRATE requires observers to be in rows and stimuli to be in the columns. Click Transpose to swap the rows and columns. This does not alter your original data file.

To continue, click the right-arrow to advance to the "Input Parameters" window (Figure 3). You may navigate back and forth throughout all the RMRATE screens by using the left and right arrows.

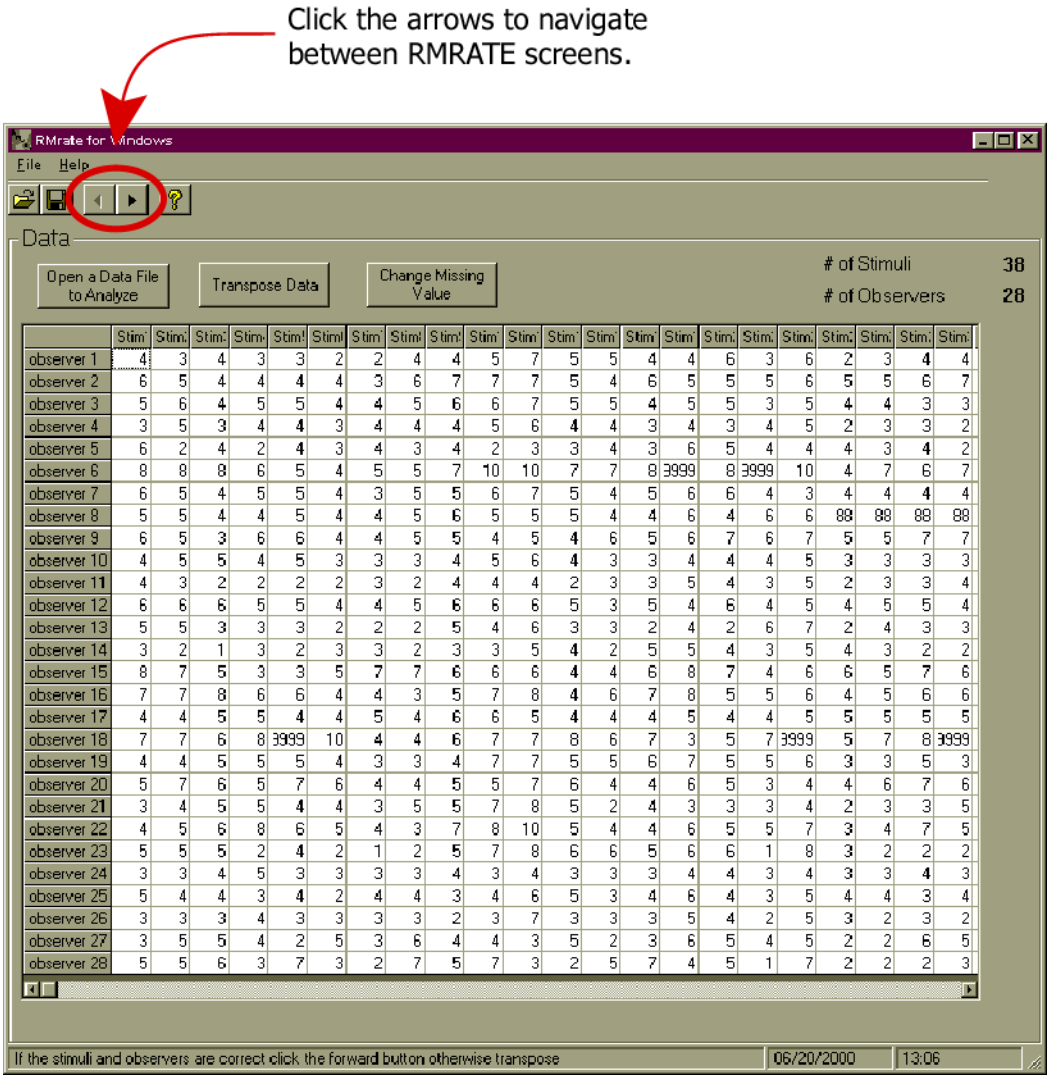

Figure 3 - Navigational arrows

Example

Click the right arrow (Figure 3) to advance to the next screen (Figure 4).

Input Parameters

Output File Title
Enter a name for the output file (Figure 4).

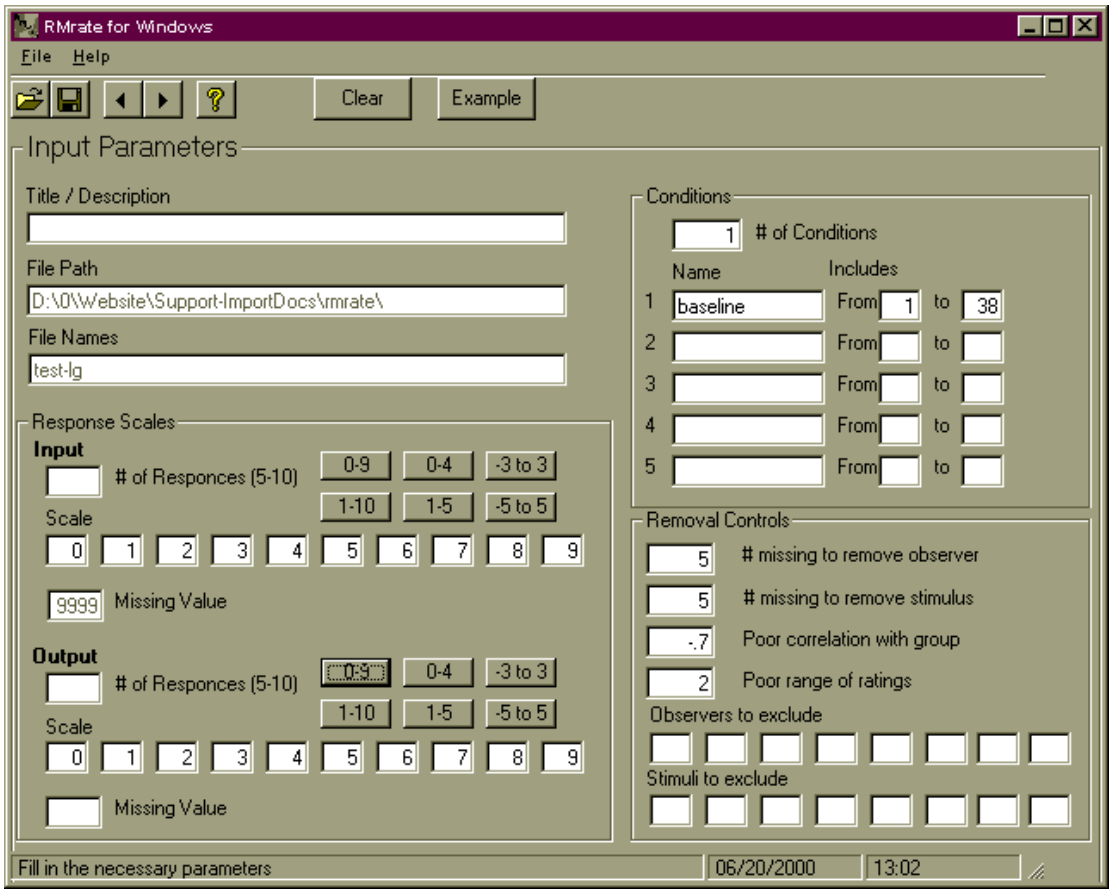

Figure 4 - Input Parameters

Response Scale
What values defined the rating scale in your data file? Choose one of the pre-defined scales or enter whatever scale the observers used to rate the stimuli (e.g., scale of 1 to 10, 0 to 5, etc.).

Output Scale
The output scale is usually identical to the input scale. If not, enter the appropriate values.

Conditions
If you grouped the stimuli in any way—for example, forest scenes by timber stand—you can define condition names and the columns that represent each condition.

You can define up to 20 conditions, including the baseline condition (a baseline condition is required if you define *any* conditions). Enter a "1" if there are no conditions or you do not wish to define any.

Removal Controls

You can remove observers or stimuli if you decide they don't meet specific criteria. Criteria for removing observers may include:

1. Too many missing ratings
2. Too small a range of rating values
3. Inadequate correlation with mean ratings

Observers/Stimuli to Exclude

This provides an area where you can define unconditional removal of specific observers or stimuli.

Example

To open the sample input parameters go to File, Open and select sample.rmw (in the same directory as RMRATE download files and the sample.txt file).

Output Options

On the left side of this screen, check the first column of boxes for statistics and graphs you wish to display and the second column for items you want to save in the output file (Figure 5). The columns on the right list the Principal Component Analyses (PCA Options).

See GTR RM-195, "Analysis of Ratings: A Guide to RMRATE" for detailed descriptions of output options (http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/value/rmrate.html).

When you have selected the options you want, use the right arrow to advance to "Summary".

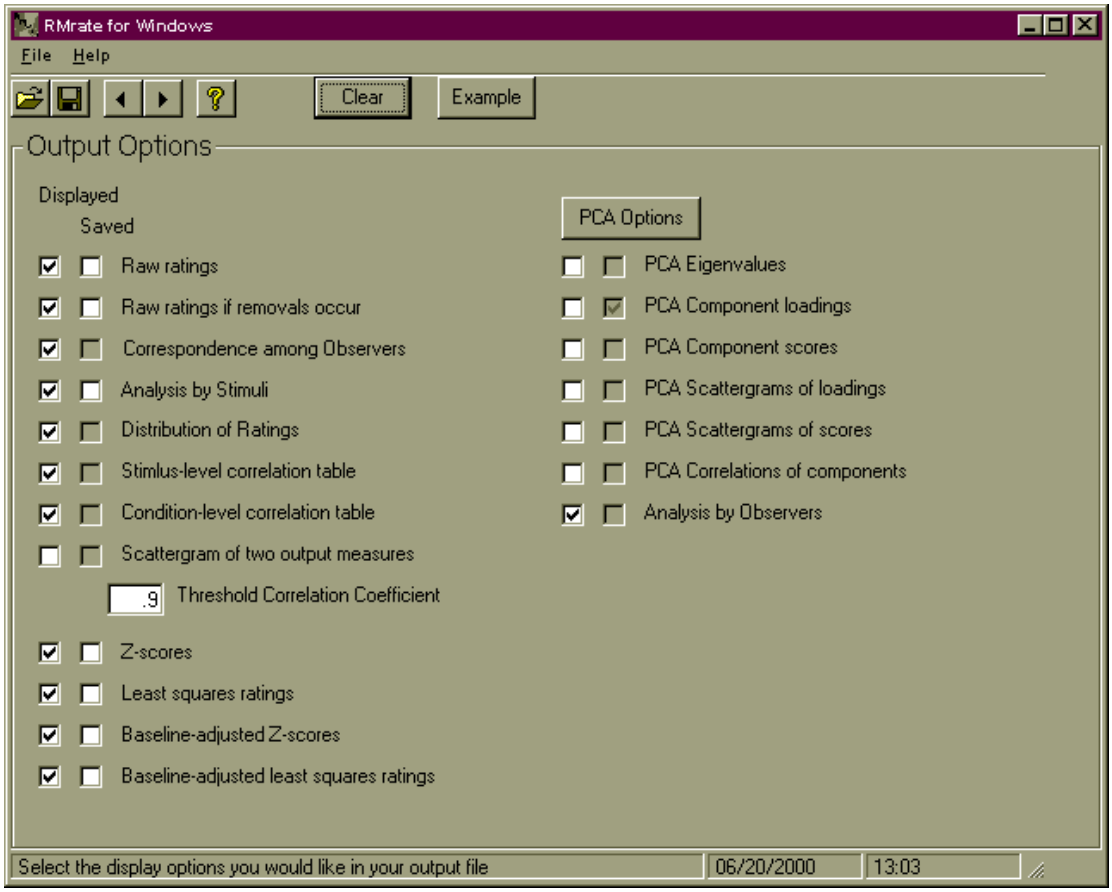

Figure 5 - Output Options

Example

The example does not require any changes to the Output Options. Click the right arrow to continue.

Summary

The final RMRATE window summarizes the parameters you have defined for the output file. You may go back at any time to modify your selections (Figure 6).

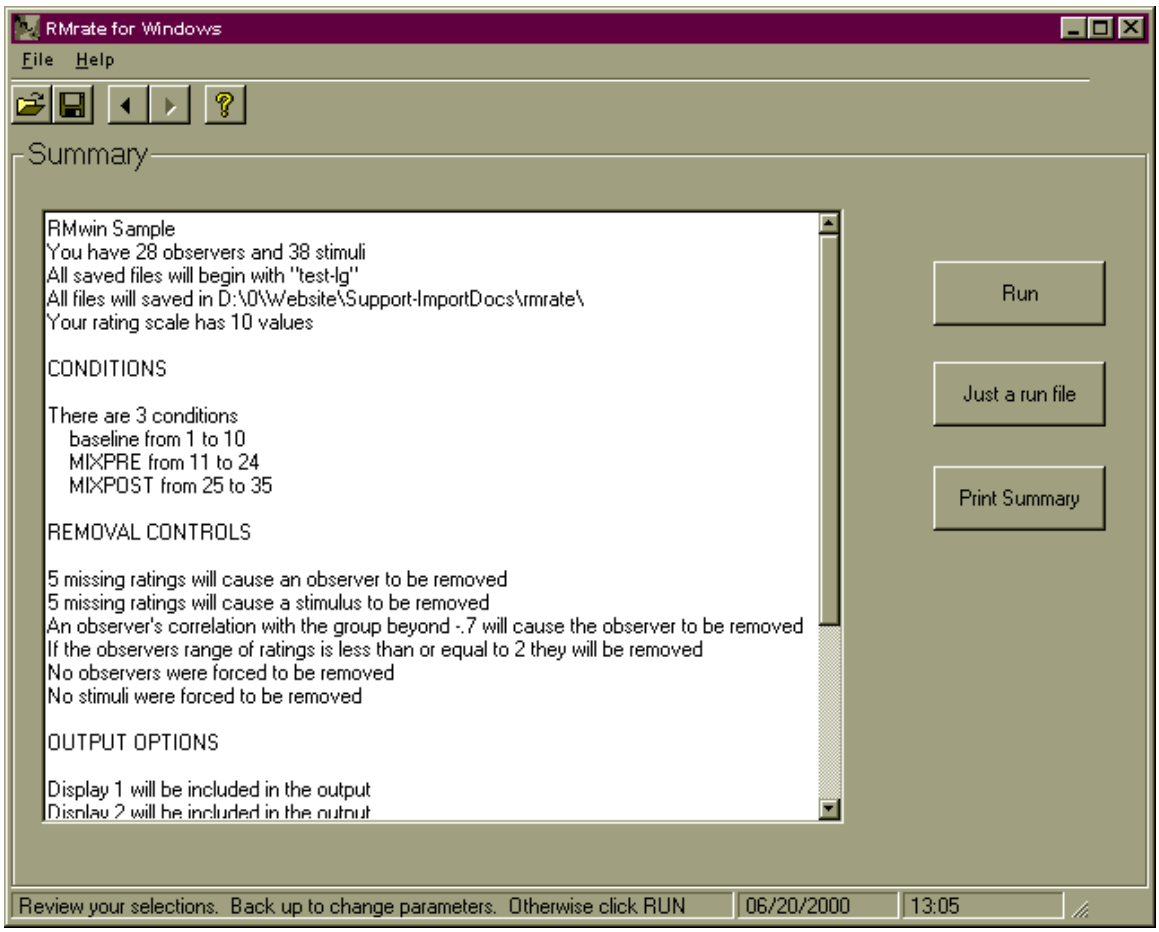

Figure 6 - Summary

Analysis

Click "Run" or "Just a Run File" to analyze your data. Both of these options produce a WordPad text file that contains your results.

Click "Print Summary" to generate a hard copy of the summary.

Example

1. Click Run.

2. RMRATE displays a text file with the results when in *"Analysis of Ratings: A Guide to RMRATE"* (GTR RM-195), pages 18 through 40. Some of the output (scattergrams, etc.) will be missing as we did not choose those options to run this example.