# Package 'SmallCountRounding'

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Type Package

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Imports methods

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**Description** A statistical disclosure control tool to protect frequency tables in cases where small values are sensitive. The function PLSrounding() performs small count rounding of necessary inner cells so that all small frequencies of cross-classifications to be published (publishable cells) are rounded. This is equivalent to changing micro data since frequencies of unique combinations are changed. Thus, additivity and consistency are guaranteed. The methodology is described in Langsrud and Heldal (2018) <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327768398\_An\_Algorithm\_for\_Small\_Count\_Rounding\_of\_Tabular\_Data">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327768398\_An\_Algorithm\_for\_Small\_Count\_Rounding\_of\_Tabular\_Data>.

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URL https://github.com/statisticsnorway/ssb-smallcountrounding

BugReports https://github.com/statisticsnorway/ssb-smallcountrounding/issues

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# **Description**

A statistical disclosure control tool to protect frequency tables in cases where small values are sensitive. The main function, PLSrounding, performs small count rounding of necessary inner cells (Heldal, 2017) so that all small frequencies of cross-classifications to be published (publishable cells) are rounded. This is equivalent to changing micro data since frequencies of unique combinations are changed. Thus, additivity and consistency are guaranteed. This is performed by an algorithm inspired by partial least squares regression (Langsrud and Heldal, 2018).

## Author(s)

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#### References

Heldal, J. (2017): "The European Census Hub 2011 Hypercubes - Norwegian SDC Experiences". In: *Work Session on Statistical Data Confidentiality*, Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, September 20-22, 2017.

Langsrud, Ø. and Heldal, J. (2018): "An Algorithm for Small Count Rounding of Tabular Data". Presented at: *Privacy in statistical databases*, Valencia, Spain. September 26-28, 2018. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327768398\_An\_Algorithm\_for\_Small\_Count\_Rounding\_of\_Tabular\_Data

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## See Also

Useful links:

- https://github.com/statisticsnorway/ssb-smallcountrounding
- Report bugs at https://github.com/statisticsnorway/ssb-smallcountrounding/issues

HD

Hellinger Distance (Utility)

## **Description**

Hellinger distance (HD) and a related utility measure (HDutility) described in the reference below. The utility measure is made to be bounded between 0 and 1.

## Usage

```
HD(f, g)
HDutility(f, g)
```

# Arguments

- f Vector of original counts
- g Vector of perturbed counts

#### **Details**

```
HD is defined as "sqrt(sum((sqrt(f) - sqrt(g))^2)/2)" and HDutility is defined as "1 - HD(f, g)/sqrt(sum(f))".
```

#### Value

Hellinger distance or related utility measure

## References

Shlomo, N., Antal, L., & Elliot, M. (2015). Measuring Disclosure Risk and Data Utility for Flexible Table Generators, Journal of Official Statistics, 31(2), 305-324. doi:10.1515/jos20150019

```
f <- 1:6
g <- c(0, 3, 3, 3, 6, 6)
print(c(
    HD = HD(f, g),
    HDutility = HDutility(f, g),
    maxdiff = max(abs(g - f)),
    meanAbsDiff = mean(abs(g - f)),
    rootMeanSquare = sqrt(mean((g - f)^2))
))</pre>
```

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PLS2way

Two-way table from PLSrounding output

# Description

Output from PLSrounding is presented as two-way table(s) in cases where this is possible. A requirement is that the number of main dimensional variables is two.

## Usage

```
PLS2way(obj, variable = c("rounded", "original", "difference", "code"))
```

## **Arguments**

```
obj Output object from PLSrounding
```

variable One of "rounded" (default), "original", "difference" or "code".

#### **Details**

When parameter "variable" is "code", output is coded as "#" (publish), "." (inner) and "&" (both).

## Value

A data frame

```
# Making tables from PLSrounding examples
z <- SmallCountData("e6")
a <- PLSrounding(z, "freq", formula = ~eu * year + geo)
PLS2way(a, "original")
PLS2way(a, "difference")
PLS2way(a, "code")
PLS2way(PLSrounding(z, "freq", formula = ~eu * year + geo * year), "code")
eHrc2 <- list(geo = c("EU", "@Portugal", "@Spain", "Iceland"), year = c("2018", "2019"))
PLS2way(PLSrounding(z, "freq", hierarchies = eHrc2))</pre>
```

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PLSrounding	PLS inspired rounding	
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# Description

Small count rounding of necessary inner cells are performed so that all small frequencies of cross-classifications to be published (publishable cells) are rounded. The publishable cells can be defined from a model formula, hierarchies or automatically from data.

# Usage

```
PLSrounding(
  data,
  freqVar = NULL,
  roundBase = 3,
  hierarchies = NULL,
  formula = NULL,
  dimVar = NULL,
  maxRound = roundBase - 1,
  printInc = nrow(data) > 1000,
  output = NULL,
  preAggregate = is.null(freqVar),
  ...
)

PLSroundingInner(..., output = "inner")
```

# Arguments

data	Input data as a data frame (inner cells)
freqVar	Variable holding counts (inner cells frequencies). When NULL (default), microdata is assumed.
roundBase	Rounding base
hierarchies	List of hierarchies
formula	Model formula defining publishable cells
dimVar	The main dimensional variables and additional aggregating variables. This parameter can be useful when hierarchies and formula are unspecified.
maxRound	Inner cells contributing to original publishable cells equal to or less than maxRound will be rounded
printInc	Printing iteration information to console when TRUE
output	Possible non-NULL values are "input", "inner" and "publish". Then a single data frame is returned.

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preAggregate	When TRUE, the data will be aggregated beforehand within the function by the dimensional variables.
	Further parameters sent to RoundViaDummy

## **Details**

This function is a user-friendly wrapper for RoundViaDummy with data frame output and with computed summary of the results. See RoundViaDummy for more details.

#### Value

Output is a four-element list with class attribute "PLSrounded" (to ensure informative printing).

inner	Data frame corresponding to input data with the main dimensional variables and with cell frequencies (original, rounded, difference).
publish	Data frame of publishable data with the main dimensional variables and with cell frequencies (original, rounded, difference).
metrics	A named character vector of various statistics calculated from the two output data frames ("inner_" used to distinguish). See examples below and the function HDutility.
freqTable	Matrix of frequencies of cell frequencies and absolute differences. For example, row "rounded" and column "inn.4+" is the number of rounded inner cell frequencies greater than or equal to 4.

## References

```
Langsrud, Ø. and Heldal, J. (2018): "An Algorithm for Small Count Rounding of Tabular Data". Presented at: Privacy in statistical databases, Valencia, Spain. September 26-28, 2018. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327768398_An_Algorithm_for_Small_Count_Rounding_of_Tabular_Data
```

#### See Also

RoundViaDummy, PLS2way, ModelMatrix

```
# Small example data set
z <- SmallCountData("e6")
print(z)

# Publishable cells by formula interface
a <- PLSrounding(z, "freq", roundBase = 5, formula = ~geo + eu + year)
print(a)
print(a$inner)
print(a$publish)
print(a$metrics)
print(a$freqTable)

# Recalculation of maxdiff, HDutility, meanAbsDiff and rootMeanSquare</pre>
```

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```
max(abs(a$publish[, "difference"]))
HDutility(a$publish[, "original"], a$publish[, "rounded"])
mean(abs(a$publish[, "difference"]))
sqrt(mean((a$publish[, "difference"])^2))
# Six lines below produce equivalent results
# Ordering of rows can be different
PLSrounding(z, "freq") # All variables except "freq" as dimVar
PLSrounding(z, "freq", dimVar = c("geo", "eu", "year"))
PLSrounding(z, "freq", formula = ~eu * year + geo * year)
PLSrounding(z[, -2], "freq", hierarchies = SmallCountData("eHrc"))
PLSrounding(z[, -2], "freq", hierarchies = SmallCountData("eDimList"))
PLSrounding(z[, -2], "freq", hierarchies = SmallCountData("eDimList"), formula = ~geo * year)
# Define publishable cells differently by making use of formula interface
PLSrounding(z, "freq", formula = ~eu * year + geo)
# Define publishable cells differently by making use of hierarchy interface
eHrc2 <- list(geo = c("EU", "@Portugal", "@Spain", "Iceland"), year = c("2018", "2019"))
PLSrounding(z, "freq", hierarchies = eHrc2)
# Also possible to combine hierarchies and formula
PLSrounding(z, "freq", hierarchies = SmallCountData("eDimList"), formula = ~geo + year)
# Single data frame output
PLSroundingInner(z, "freq", roundBase = 5, formula = ~geo + eu + year)
PLSroundingPublish(z, roundBase = 5, formula = ~geo + eu + year)
# Microdata input
PLSroundingInner(rbind(z, z), roundBase = 5, formula = \simgeo + eu + year)
# Parameter avoidHierarchical (see RoundViaDummy and ModelMatrix)
PLSroundingPublish(z, roundBase = 5, formula = ~geo + eu + year, avoidHierarchical = TRUE)
# Package sdcHierarchies can be used to create hierarchies.
# The small example code below works if this package is available.
if (require(sdcHierarchies)) {
 z2 <- cbind(geo = c("11", "21", "22"), z[, 3:4], stringsAsFactors = FALSE)</pre>
 h2 <- list(
   geo = hier_compute(inp = unique(z2$geo), dim_spec = c(1, 1), root = "Tot", as = "df"),
   year = hier_convert(hier_create(root = "Total", nodes = c("2018", "2019")), as = "df"))
 PLSrounding(z2, "freq", hierarchies = h2)
# Use PLS2way to produce tables as in Langsrud and Heldal (2018) and to demonstrate
# parameters maxRound, zeroCandidates and identifyNew (see RoundViaDummy).
# Parameter rndSeed used to ensure same output as in reference.
exPSD <- SmallCountData("exPSD")</pre>
a <- PLSrounding(exPSD, "freq", 5, formula = ~rows + cols, rndSeed=124)
PLS2way(a, "original") # Table 1
PLS2way(a) # Table 2
a <- PLSrounding(exPSD, "freq", 5, formula = ~rows + cols, identifyNew = FALSE, rndSeed=124)
PLS2way(a) # Table 3
```

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```
a <- PLSrounding(exPSD, "freq", 5, formula = ~rows + cols, maxRound = 7)
PLS2way(a) # Values in col1 rounded
a <- PLSrounding(exPSD, "freq", 5, formula = ~rows + cols, zeroCandidates = TRUE)
PLS2way(a) # (row3, col4): original is 0 and rounded is 5</pre>
```

**PLSroundingFits** 

Small count rounding with post-processing to expected frequencies

## **Description**

The counts rounded by PLSrounding Thereafter, based on the publishable rounded data, expected inner cell frequencies are generated by iterative proportional fitting using Mipf. To ensure that empty cells missing in input data are included in the fitting process, the data is first extended using Extend0.

# Usage

```
PLSroundingFits(
  data,
  freqVar = NULL,
  roundBase = 3,
  hierarchies = NULL,
  formula = NULL,
  dimVar = NULL,
  preAggregate = is.null(freqVar),
  xReturn = FALSE,
  extend0 = TRUE,
  limit = 1e-10,
  viaQR = FALSE,
  iter = 1000,
  eps = 0.01,
  tol = 1e-13,
  reduceBy0 = TRUE,
  reduceByColSums = TRUE,
  reduceByLeverage = FALSE,
)
```

## **Arguments**

dimVar

data data frame (inner cells)
freqVar Variable holding counts
roundBase Rounding base
hierarchies List of hierarchies
formula Model formula

Dimensional variables

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preAggregate	Aggregation	
xReturn	Dummy matrix in output when TRUE. To return crossTable as well, use xReturn = 2.	
extend0	Data is automatically extended by Extend0 when TRUE. Can also be specified as a list meaning parameter varGroups to Extend0.	
limit	LSfitNonNeg parameter	
viaQR	LSfitNonNeg parameter	
iter	Mipf parameter	
eps	Mipf parameter	
tol	Mipf parameter	
reduceBy0	Mipf parameter	
reduceByColSums		
	Mipf parameter	
reduceByLeverage		
	Mipf parameter	
	Further parameters to PLSrounding.	

#### **Details**

The seven first parameters is documented in more detail in PLSrounding. If iterative proportional fitting succeeds, the maximum difference between rounded counts and ipFit is less than input parameter eps.

## Value

Output from PLSrounding (class attribute "PLSrounded") with modified versions of inner and publish:

inner Extended with more input data variables and with expected frequencies (ipFit).

Extended with aggregated expected frequencies (ipFit).

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PLSroundingLoop

PLSrounding on portions of data at a time

## **Description**

The PLSrounding runs are coordinated by using preliminary differences as input for the next run (parameter preDifference)

## Usage

```
PLSroundingLoop(
   data,
   loopId,
   ...,
   zeroCandidates = FALSE,
   forceInner = FALSE,
   preRounded = NULL,
   plsWeights = NULL,
   printInc = TRUE,
   preDifference = TRUE,
   preOutput = NULL,
   rndSeed = 123
)
```

## **Arguments**

data Input data as a data frame (inner cells)

loopId Variable holding id for loops
... PLSrounding parameters

zeroCandidates PLSrounding parameter (see details)
forceInner PLSrounding parameter (see details)
preRounded PLSrounding parameter (see details)
plsWeights PLSrounding parameter (see details)

printInc Printing iteration information to console when TRUE

preDifference When TRUE, the preDifference parameter to PLSrounding is used. Each time

with the differences obtained so far.

preOutput The function can continue from output from a previous run

rndSeed If non-NULL, a random generator seed to be set locally at the beginning of

PLSroundingLoop without affecting the random value stream in R. Within PLSroundingLoop,

PLSrounding is called with rndSeed = NULL.

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## **Details**

Note that in this function zeroCandidates, forceInner, preRounded and plsWeights cannot be supplied as vectors. They may be specified as functions or as variables in the input data.

## Value

As output from PLSrounding

# **Examples**

```
mf2 <- ~region + fylke * hovedint
z2 <- SmallCountData("z2")
a <- PLSroundingLoop(z2, loopId = "kostragr", freqVar = "ant", formula = mf2)
a</pre>
```

print.PLSrounded

Print method for PLSrounded

## **Description**

Print method for PLSrounded

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'PLSrounded'
print(x, digits = max(getOption("digits") - 3, 3), ...)
```

## **Arguments**

x PLSrounded object

digits positive integer. Minimum number of significant digits to be used for printing

most numbers.

... further arguments sent to the underlying

#### Value

Invisibly returns the original object.

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RoundViaDummy

Small Count Rounding of Tabular Data

## **Description**

Small count rounding via a dummy matrix and by an algorithm inspired by PLS

## Usage

```
RoundViaDummy(
  data,
  freqVar,
  formula = NULL,
  roundBase = 3,
  singleRandom = FALSE,
  crossTable = TRUE,
  total = "Total",
 maxIterRows = 1000,
 maxIter = 1e+07,
  x = NULL,
 hierarchies = NULL,
  xReturn = FALSE,
 maxRound = roundBase - 1,
  zeroCandidates = FALSE,
  forceInner = FALSE,
  identifyNew = TRUE,
  step = 0,
  preRounded = NULL,
  leverageCheck = FALSE,
  easyCheck = TRUE,
 printInc = TRUE,
  rndSeed = 123,
  dimVar = NULL,
  plsWeights = NULL,
 preDifference = NULL,
 allSmall = FALSE,
)
```

# Arguments

data Input data as a data frame (inner cells)
freqVar Variable holding counts (name or number)

formula Model formula defining publishable cells. Will be used to calculate x (via

ModelMatrix). When NULL, x must be supplied.

roundBase Rounding base

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singleRandom Single random draw when TRUE (instead of algorithm)

crossTable When TRUE, cross table in output and caculations via FormulaSums()

total String used to name totals

maxIterRows See details

maxIter Maximum number of iterations

x Dummy matrix defining publishable cells

hierarchies List of hierarchies, which can be converted by AutoHierarchies. Thus, a

single string as hierarchy input is assumed to be a total code. Exceptions are "rowFactor" or "", which correspond to only using the categories in the data.

xReturn Dummy matrix in output when TRUE (as input parameter x)

maxRound Inner cells contributing to original publishable cells equal to or less than maxRound

will be rounded.

zeroCandidates When TRUE, inner cells in input with zero count (and multiple of roundBase

when maxRound is in use) contributing to publishable cells will be included as candidates to obtain roundBase value. With vector input, the rule is specified individually for each cell. This can be specified as a vector, a variable in data or

a function generating it (see details).

forceInner When TRUE, all inner cells will be rounded. Use vector input to force individual

cells to be rounded. This can be specified as a vector, a variable in data or a function generating it (see details). Can be combined with parameter zeroCandidates

to allow zeros and roundBase multiples to be rounded up.

identifyNew When TRUE, new cells may be identified after initial rounding to ensure all

rounded publishable cells equal to or less than maxRound to be roundBase multiples. Use NA for the a less conservative behavior (old behavior). Then it is ensured that no nonzero rounded publishable cells are smaller than roundBase.

When maxRound is default, there is no difference between TRUE and NA.

step When step>1, the original forward part of the algorithm is replaced by a kind

of stepwise. After step steps forward, backward steps may be performed. The step parameter is also used for backward-forward iteration at the end of the

algorithm; step backward steps may be performed.

preRounded A vector or a variable in data that contains a mixture of missing values and

predetermined values of rounded inner cells. Can also be specified as a function

generating it (see details).

leverageCheck When TRUE, all inner cells that depends linearly on the published cells and with

small frequencies (<=maxRound) will be rounded. The computation of leverages can be very time and memory consuming. The function Reduce0exact is called. The default leverage limit is 0.999999. Another limit can be sent as input instead of TRUE. Checking is performed before and after (since new zeros)

rounding. Extra iterations are performed when needed.

easyCheck A light version of the above leverage checking. Checking is performed after

rounding. Extra iterations are performed when needed. Reduce0exact is called

with reduceByLeverage=FALSE and reduceByColSums=TRUE.

printInc Printing iteration information to console when TRUE

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rndSeed If non-NULL, a random generator seed to be used locally within the function without affecting the random value stream in R. dimVar The main dimensional variables and additional aggregating variables. This parameter can be useful when hierarchies and formula are unspecified. plsWeights A vector of weights for each cell to be published or a function generating it (see details). For use in the algorithm criterion. preDifference A data frame with differences already obtained from rounding another subset of data. There must be columns that match crossTable. Differences must be in the last column. allSmall When TRUE, all small inner cells (<= maxRound) are rounded. This parameter is a simplified alternative to specifying forceInner (see details). Further parameters sent to ModelMatrix. In particular, one can specify removeEmpty=TRUE to omit empty combinations. The parameter inputInOutput can be used to specify whether to include codes from input. The parameter avoidHierarchical

#### **Details**

Small count rounding of necessary inner cells are performed so that all small frequencies of cross-classifications to be published (publishable cells) are rounded. This is equivalent to changing micro data since frequencies of unique combinations are changed. Thus, additivity and consistency are guaranteed. The matrix multiplication formula is: yPublish = t(x) %% yInner, where x is the dummy matrix.

(Formula2ModelMatrix) can be combined with formula input.

Parameters zeroCandidates, forceInner, preRounded and plsWeights can be specified as functions. The supplied functions take the following arguments: data, yPublish, yInner, crossTable, x, roundBase, maxRound, and ..., where the first two are numeric vectors of original counts. When allSmall is TRUE, forceInner is set to function(yInner, maxRound, ...) yInner <= maxRound.

#### Value

A list where the two first elements are two column matrices. The first matrix consists of inner cells and the second of cells to be published. In each matrix the first and the second column contains, respectively, original and rounded values. By default the cross table is the third element of the output list.

#### Note

Iterations are needed since after initial rounding of identified cells, new cells are identified. If cases of a high number of identified cells the algorithm can be too memory consuming (unless singleRandom=TRUE). To avoid problems, not more than maxIterRows cells are rounded in each iteration. The iteration limit (maxIter) is by default set to be high since a low number of maxIterRows may need a high number of iterations.

#### See Also

See the user-friendly wrapper PLSrounding and see Round2 for rounding by other algorithm

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## **Examples**

```
# See similar and related examples in PLSrounding documentation
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData("e6"), "freq")
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData("e6"), "freq", formula = ~eu * year + geo)
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData("e6"), "freq", hierarchies =
  list(geo = c("EU", "@Portugal", "@Spain", "Iceland"), year = c("2018", "2019")))
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData('z2'),
             'ant', ~region + hovedint + fylke*hovedint + kostragr*hovedint, 10)
mf <- ~region*mnd + hovedint*mnd + fylke*hovedint*mnd + kostragr*hovedint*mnd</pre>
a <- RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData('z3'), 'ant', mf, 5)</pre>
b <- RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData('sosialFiktiv'), 'ant', mf, 4)</pre>
print(cor(b[[2]]),digits=12) # Correlation between original and rounded
# Demonstrate parameter leverageCheck
# The 42nd inner cell must be rounded since it can be revealed from the published cells.
mf2 <- ~region + hovedint + fylke * hovedint + kostragr * hovedint
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData("z2"), "ant", mf2, leverageCheck = FALSE)$yInner[42, ]
RoundViaDummy(SmallCountData("z2"), "ant", mf2, leverageCheck = TRUE)$yInner[42, ]
## Not run:
# Demonstrate parameters maxRound, zeroCandidates and forceInner
# by tabulating the inner cells that have been changed.
z4 <- SmallCountData("sosialFiktiv")</pre>
for (forceInner in c("FALSE", "z4$ant < 10"))</pre>
 for (zeroCandidates in c(FALSE, TRUE))
   for (\max Round in c(2, 5)) {
     set.seed(123)
     a <- RoundViaDummy(z4, "ant", formula = mf, maxRound = maxRound,
                       zeroCandidates = zeroCandidates,
                       forceInner = eval(parse(text = forceInner)))
     change <- a$yInner[, "original"] != a$yInner[, "rounded"]</pre>
     cat("\n\n-----\n")
          maxRound:", maxRound, "\n")
     cat("zeroCandidates:", zeroCandidates, "\n")
     cat(" forceInner:", forceInner, "\n\n")
   print(table(original = a$yInner[change, "original"], rounded = a$yInner[change, "rounded"]))
     cat("-----\n")
   }
## End(Not run)
```

SmallCountData

Function that returns a dataset

#### Description

Function that returns a dataset

SmallCountData

## Usage

```
SmallCountData(dataset, path = NULL)
```

## **Arguments**

dataset Name of data set within the SmallCountRounding package
path When non-NULL the data set is read from "path/dataset.RData"

#### Value

The dataset

#### Note

Except for "europe6", "eHrc", "eDimList" and "exPSD", the function returns the same datasets as SSBtoolsData.

## See Also

SSBtoolsData, Hrc2DimList

```
SmallCountData("z1")
SmallCountData("e6")
SmallCountData("eHrc")  # TauArgus coded hierarchies
SmallCountData("eDimList")  # sdcTable coded hierarchies
SmallCountData("exPSD")  # Example data in presentation at Privacy in statistical databases
```

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