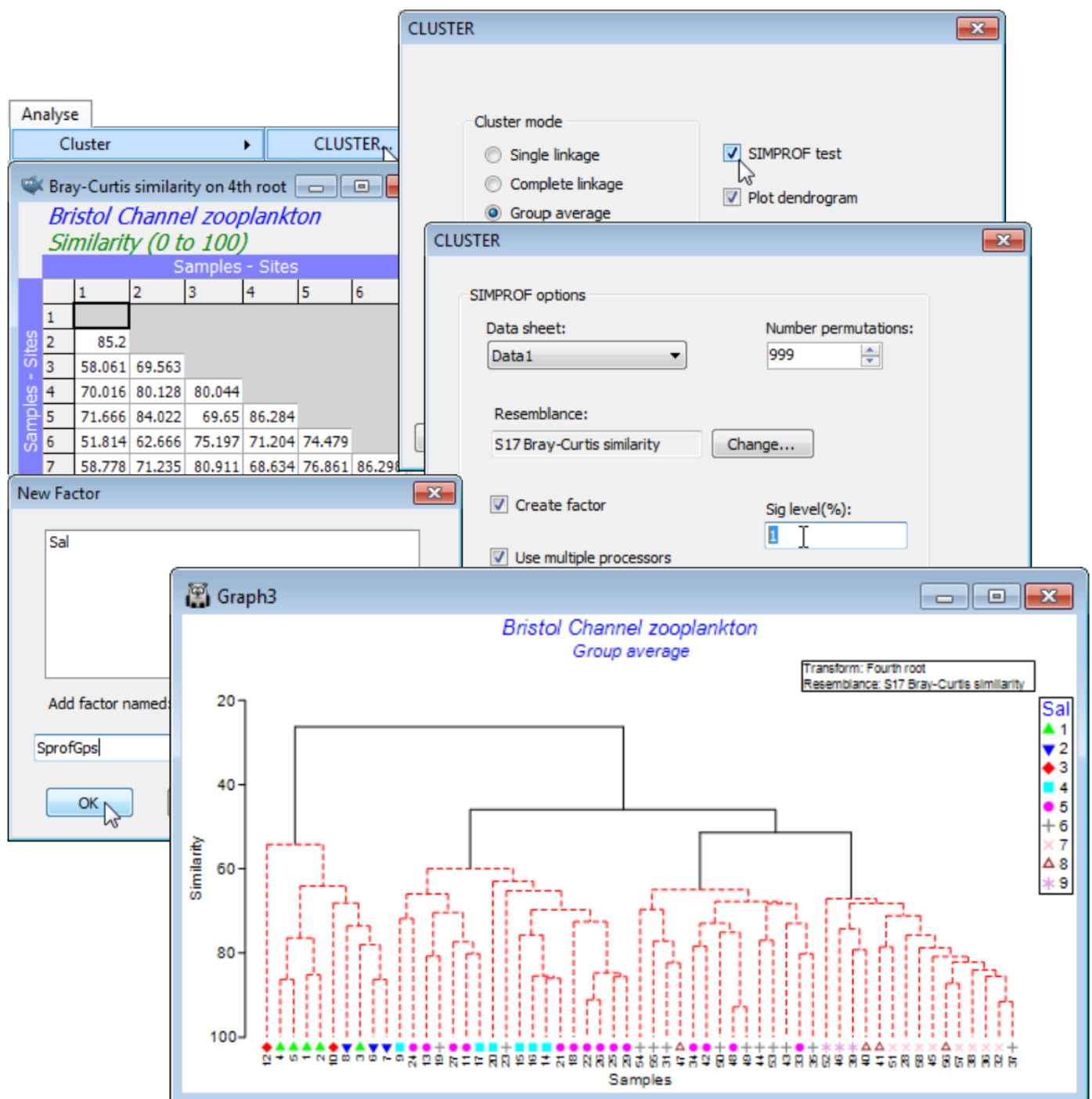


(Bristol Channel zooplankton)

Densities from 24 species of zooplankton at 57 sites in the Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary, collected by double-oblique net hauls, are in C:\Examples v7\BC zooplankton\BC zooplankton density(.pri). The sampling sites were defined as a grid (Fig 3.2, CiMC), and samples taken through time over a single year and averaged to give one seasonally-averaged sample per site. There is thus no prior structure of groups and replicates within groups (though there is a natural salinity gradient, described by factor Sal, with 9 numeric levels). The original data is from Collins NR & Williams R 1982, Mar Ecol Prog Ser 9: 1-11, who identify four main clusters of sites.

It is relevant to ask what the statistical evidence is for there being such a division at all, and if so, how much of the group structure can justifiably be interpreted. Open the data file BC zooplankton density and generate the cluster dendrogram from Bray-Curtis similarities on 4th root transformed densities (as in Sections 4 & 5), then **Analyse>CLUSTER>**(Cluster mode•Group average), but this time taking the option (✓ SIMPROF test). Look at the dialog under the **SIMPROF** tab, though the defaults probably be taken for (nearly) all: the matrix whose species rows will be independently permuted is Data1, the 4th root transformed data; no other choice than Resemblance: S17 Bray-Curtis similarity makes sense on the randomly permuted matrices since that was the choice on the real matrix; the % significance level is conventionally taken as 5 though could be more stringent, given ultimately that 7 tests are performed here, so change it to, say, 1; the 999 permutations will typically be sufficient (for computing the mean, and a further 999 for departures π from the mean) bearing in mind the computation needed to recompute and re-order the $n(n-1)/2$ similarities (with n samples) for each permutation, and then repeat this through the dendrogram; and clearly the use of multi-cores in the processor is beneficial to that. The final group structure, from the series of SIMPROF tests, is placed in a factor, generating another dialog, (Add factor named: SprofGps).



With n only 57 in this case, and with few tests needed, the SIMPROF procedure runs very quickly. The dendrogram shows the four groups of sites identified by Collins & Williams but now with firm statistical support: the black lines indicate groups that are established, with red lines showing a sub-structure from the clustering for which there is no statistical support from SIMPROF to permit interpretation. That the groups bear a strong relation to salinity is seen by displaying the salinity factor as a symbol, with **Graph>Sample Labels & Symbols>Symbols:(✓ Plot)>(✓ By factor:Sal)**.

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