**Lumping versus Splitting Personality Quiz**

1. When you open a bag of M&M’s, you: A. Dump the whole thing right in your mouth— who wants melted chocolate on their hands? B. It depends.

C. Lay out the entire bag, organize the candies by color, and then eat them in reverse-favorite color order.

D. M&M’s aren’t on the Atkins diet, so I can’t remember.

2. When behind the wheel, you come to an intersection where the light has just turned yellow. There are no cops in sight.

A. You blaze right through the intersection without slowing down.

B. It depends.

C. You stop and wait for the next green light. Hey—it’s the courteous thing to do!

D. On your way to work you’d stop; On your way home you’d cruise right on through.

3. When you read the morning paper, the front-page stories are always continued on the back of the first section. You:

A. Skim everything on the front page, cruise through the rest of the first section, and when you get to the back of the first section, you’ll finish the front-page stories.

B. It depends.

C. Read the front-page stories individually and in detail. At the end of each story, you flip to the back page to finish the story.

D. I only read peer-reviewed publications.

4. The last time you purchased a car, you: A. Drove it once, fell in love with it, bought it the same day, and proved your instincts right. B. It depends.

C. Drove about 20 cars, researched each online, created a table showing the pros and cons of each model, and made a sound decision

weighted in facts.

D. Car, what car? I ride my bicycle everywhere I go.

5. The day after Thanksgiving you decide to eat some leftovers. You:

A. Slap some turkey, mashed potatoes,

cranberries, and stuffing between two pieces of bread and make a sandwich.

B. It depends.

C. Put the turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberries, and stuffing into neat piles on a plate, just like the day before.

D. I prefer Tofurkey.

6. Crazy Uncle Joe has left a message on your answering machine. You’d really rather not talk to him, but you know you’ll have to eventually. You: A. Call him back immediately to get it over with. B. It depends.

C. Let the message sit on your answering machine for weeks before finally calling back. D. “Accidentally” blow up your answering machine having never “received” the message.

7. To balance your checkbook, you:

A. Make a sort of mental note of all transactions and transfer money when necessary.

B. It depends.

C. Keep track of every transaction and balance the checkbook as you go.

D. My spouse does that stuff.

8. A movie you checked out for 5 days was due yesterday. You know you’ll have to pay a late fee equal to the original fee.

A. You keep it to get your money’s worth— you’ve got 4 more days!

B. It depends.

C. You return it as soon as possible to give someone else a chance—the movie was pretty good!

D. You’ll just keep the movie and never go back to that rental store again.

9. This is the last question on the quiz.

A. You are done and ready to move onto the next task. What’s taking everybody else so long? B. It depends.

C. You might go back and check over some of your answers. You still can’t decide about that one question . . .

D. This is the last question? You were just getting started—this stuff is fun!

*For all questions, score yourself then review interpretations below:*

*1 point for answers A*

*3 points for answers B*

*2 points for answers C*

*0 points for answers D*

**Are you a lumper or a splitter?**

If you scored 0-4, you are a **Funny Lumper!** You have a sense of humor and tend to make quick decisions—not taking yourself too seriously. You will be an efficient modeler, but we hope you’ll take modeling more seriously than you took this quiz!

If you scored 5-13, you are a **Lumper**! You tend to make decisions easily, avoid minutia, and see the big picture well. You will be an efficient and effective modeler—but don’t neglect to pay attention to important details.

If you scored 14-22, you are a **Splitter**! You tend to make decisions carefully and weigh all the details. While this detail-oriented approach will make your models impeccable, it will probably take you weeks to complete them. It’s best to work with lumpers to increase your efficiency—plus, you can help ensure that they pay attention to details.

If you scored 22-27, you are **a Professional Indecisive**! You can’t make a decision to save your life. Everything depends on something else and you often don’t start what you finish. You probably have a comprehensive understanding of the world’s complexity, but we’ll need you to work hard (with a lumper, of course) at finishing your models in a timely manner.

***Why does this matter to us? Well, one person may take a hike and see “forests” (the Funny Lumper) while another may see many different ecosystems (a Splitter). With our data and maps we may “lump” or “split” based on what we are trying to do, or what data is available. Think of this as you explore the dashboard, or drive along. When would YOU label one group of trees as one ecosystem, and a different group of trees as another? For example, if you saw sugar maples, yellow birches and hemlocks would you call that “Northern Hardwoods” or “Northern hardwood-hemlock”? If the former, how many hemlocks would there need to be? If you saw one forest with red, jack and white pines next to a forest with red and white pines (no jack pine) would you call them different ecosystems (splitting) or label them as the same (lumper)?***