

Psychometrics Primer

If researchers analyze scores from psychological tests, such as self-report questionnaires about mood, observational measures of behavior completed by one or more raters, or group- or individually administered tests of cognitive abilities, they should know something about the statistical properties of test scores, or psychometrics. These properties include score reliability coefficients and validity coefficients. Reliability coefficients estimate score precision in a particular sample, and validity coefficients concern whether interpretations of test scores in a particular context of use are supported by relevant data. If scores are imprecise or have no trustworthy interpretation, then any results based on them may be meaningless. We begin with suggestions about how to select good psychological tests. Next, reporting standards for psychometrics by the American Psychological Association are summarized. Finally, basic psychometric concepts and statistics are described. Note that it is not possible to cover all aspects of psychometrics in a single chapter, but more advanced works are cited throughout, and they should be consulted for more information.¹

SELECTING GOOD MEASURES AND REPORTING ABOUT THEM

It is just as critical in SEM as in other types of analyses to (1) select measures with strong psychometric properties and (2) report these characteristics in written summaries. This is because the product of measures, or scores, is what is analyzed. If the scores do not have good psychometrics, then the results can be meaningless.

Presented in Table P.1 is a checklist of descriptive, practical, and technical information that should be considered before selecting a measure. In the table, **test user qualifications** refers to the level of knowledge, experience, or professional credentials deemed necessary for optimal test use. There are three basic levels (Urbina, 2014). The lowest level is “A,” which includes tests that require little, if any, special training to administer, score, and interpret. Level “B” designates

tests that require specialized training in psychometrics and usually at least a Master’s-level degree in psychology, education, or a related field. The highest level, or “C,” designates tests strictly limited to those with very advanced training in psychometrics and assessment, such as at the Ph.D. level or its equivalent. Professional licensure or certification may also be required. Not all of these points may be relevant in a particular study, and some types of research have special measurement needs that may not be represented in the table. If so, just modify the checklist to better reflect a particular situation.

The *Mental Measurements Yearbook* (MMY), which as of late 2022 was in its 21st edition (Carlson, Geisinger, & Jonson, 2019) is a good source of information about commercial (i.e., copyrighted tests). The MMY includes both information about published tests and expert reviews (critiques) of test psychometrics, strengths, and weakness. It is available as a search-

¹Parts of this presentation are adapted from Kline (2020).

A Psychometrics Primer

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A Psychometrics Primer:

A Psychometrics Primer Paul Kline, 2000 This text provides an introduction to psychometrics The central chapters describe the nature of scientific measurement the way psychometric tests are constructed and illustrate intelligence aptitude and other psychological tests

A Handbook of Research Methods for Clinical and Health Psychology Jeremy Miles, Paul Gilbert, 2005 Though psychology as a discipline has grown enormously in popularity in recent years compulsory courses in research methods and statistics are seldom embarked upon with any great enthusiasm within the undergraduate and postgraduate communities Many postgraduate and PhD students start their research ill equipped to design effective experiments and to properly analyse their results This lack of knowledge also limits their ability to critically assess and evaluate research done by others This book is a practical guide to carrying out research in health psychology and clinical psychology It bridges the gap between undergraduate and postgraduate study As well as describing the various techniques and methods available to students it provides them with a proper understanding of what a specific technique does going beyond the introductory descriptions typical of most undergraduate methods books The book describes both quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection providing valuable advice on methods ranging from psychometric testing to discourse analysis For both undergraduate and postgraduate students the book will be essential in making them aware of the full range of techniques available helping them to design scientifically rigorous experiments and effectively analyse their results

Psychometric Testing Barry Cripps, 2017-03-03 Psychometric Testing offers an in depth examination of the strengths and limitations psychometric testing with coverage of diverse methods of test development and application A state of the art exploration of the contemporary field of psychometric testing bringing together the latest theory and evidence based practice from 21 global experts Explores a variety of topics related to the field including test construction use and applications in human resources and training assessment and verification of training courses and consulting Includes applications for clinical psychology performance psychology and sport and exercise psychology across a range of professions research teaching coaching consulting and advising Acknowledges the dynamic nature of the field and identifies future directions in need of more research including Internet and smart phone testing

Overcoming Test Anxiety Alex Jordan, Benjamin J. Lovett, 2025-01-24 This state of the art resource offers school and clinical professionals a comprehensive approach to addressing test anxiety in students from sixth grade through college and beyond ages 11 to adulthood The book uniquely combines acceptance based behavior therapy interventions with practical strategies for improving study skills and enhancing test performance By learning to disengage from unhealthy worries students can decrease avoidance and unlock their academic potential In a convenient large size format the book features sample dialogues and scripts concrete test taking guidance and 27 reproducible handouts that can be downloaded and printed This book is in The Guilford Practical Intervention in the Schools Series edited by Sandra M Chafouleas

A Step-by-Step Guide to Exploratory Factor Analysis

with Stata Marley Watkins, 2021-09-08 This is a concise easy to use step by step guide for applied researchers conducting exploratory factor analysis EFA using Stata In this book Dr Watkins systematically reviews each decision step in EFA with screen shots of Stata code and recommends evidence based best practice procedures This is an eminently applied practical approach with few or no formulas and is aimed at readers with little to no mathematical background Dr Watkins maintains an accessible tone throughout and uses minimal jargon and formula to help facilitate grasp of the key issues users will face when applying EFA along with how to implement interpret and report results Copious scholarly references and quotations are included to support the reader in responding to editorial reviews This is a valuable resource for upper level undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as for more experienced researchers undertaking multivariate or structure equation modeling courses across the behavioral medical and social sciences

Philosophy of Anthropology and Sociology, 2011-08-12 This volume concerns philosophical issues that arise from the practice of anthropology and sociology The essays cover a wide range of issues including traditional questions in the philosophy of social science as well as those specific to these disciplines Authors attend to the historical development of the current debates and set the stage for future work Comprehensive survey of philosophical issues in anthropology and sociology Historical discussion of important debates Applications to current research in anthropology and sociology

Principles and Practice of Structural Equation Modeling Rex B. Kline, 2023-05-24 Significantly revised the fifth edition of the most complete accessible text now covers all three approaches to structural equation modeling SEM covariance based SEM nonparametric SEM Pearl's structural causal model and composite SEM partial least squares path modeling With increased emphasis on freely available software tools such as the R lavaan package the text uses data examples from multiple disciplines to provide a comprehensive understanding of all phases of SEM what to know best practices and pitfalls to avoid It includes exercises with answers rules to remember topic boxes and new self tests on significance testing regression and psychometrics The companion website supplies helpful primers on these topics as well as data syntax and output for the book's examples in files that can be opened with any basic text editor New to This Edition Chapters on composite SEM also called partial least squares path modeling or variance based SEM conducting SEM analyses in small samples and recent developments in mediation analysis Coverage of new reporting standards for SEM analyses piecewise SEM also called confirmatory path analysis comparing alternative models fitted to the same data and issues in multiple group SEM Extended tutorials on techniques for dealing with missing data in SEM and instrumental variable methods to deal with confounding of target causal effects Pedagogical Features New self tests of knowledge about background topics significance testing regression and psychometrics with scoring key and online primers End of chapter suggestions for further reading and exercises with answers Troublesome examples from real data with guidance for handling typical problems in analyses Topic boxes on special issues and boxed rules to remember Website promoting a learn by doing approach including data extensively annotated syntax and output files for all the book's

detailed examples *A Step-by-Step Guide to Exploratory Factor Analysis with SPSS* Marley W. Watkins, 2021-06-21 This is a concise easy to use step by step guide for applied researchers conducting exploratory factor analysis EFA using SPSS In this book Dr Watkins systematically reviews each decision step in EFA with screen shots and code from SPSS and recommends evidence based best practice procedures This is an eminently applied practical approach with few or no formulas and is aimed at readers with little to no mathematical background Dr Watkins maintains an accessible tone throughout and uses minimal jargon to help facilitate grasp of the key issues users will face while applying EFA along with how to implement interpret and report results Copious scholarly references and quotations are included to support the reader in responding to editorial reviews This is a valuable resource for upper level undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as for more experienced researchers undertaking multivariate or structure equation modeling courses across the behavioral medical and social sciences Handbook of Assessment Methods for Eating Behaviors and Weight-Related Problems David B. Allison, David Bradley Allison, Monica L. Baskin, 2009-07-10 This handbook is a comprehensive collection of measures and assessment tools intended for use by researchers and clinicians that work with people with problem eating behaviors obese clients and the associated psychological issues that underlie these problems
People Management ,2000

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