

Science by analogy: PWAS or Persome Wide Association Studies

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University of California, Berkeley

William Revelle

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois USA



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Slides available at personality-project.org/sapa
R code included as an appendix

Outline

Overview

Open Science

Astronomy

Radio Astronomy: Synthetic Aperture Telescopes:: Synthetic
Aperture Personality Assessment (SAPA): Personality

Measuring individual differences: the tradeoff between breadth
versus depth

Items, not latent traits: The utility of using lots of items
Genome Wide Association Studies: GWAS:: Person Wide
Association Studies: PWAS

Profiles

Big Data

Summary

R code for analyses

Replicate on a much larger data set.

Open Science: A new idea or a long term tradition?

1. Science is a process for asking questions that have answers
 - Our questions and our answers need to be open and shared.
 - Our way of addressing these questions should be open to others.
 - Our results are for everyone, not just those who can afford to pay for journals.
 - Our results need to be trusted and trustworthy.
2. This is not a new idea, sharing ideas, methods and results is as old as the Royal Society from 1660.
 - It was an 'invisible college' of natural philosophers and physicians.
 - Royal Society's motto 'Nullius in verba' is taken to mean 'take nobody's word for it'. (We might now say, does it replicate?)
3. Personality research is an example of open science.
 - Tends to be well powered and replicable.
 - Tends to involve multiple studies over multiple years.
 - Growing tendency to use open and shared materials.

Questions we ask in personality

1. Kluckholm and Murray's (Kluckhohn & Murray, 1948) basic trichotomy remains active today
 - All people are the same (human nature)
 - Some people are the same (individual differences)
 - No person is the same (unique life stories of the individual)
2. Much of personality research is at this middle level of how some people are the same and differ from other people.
 - Description of individual differences
 - Dimensional models include Block's 2 (Block, 1971, 2002), Eysenck's Giant 3 (Eysenck, 1994), Big 5 (Digman & Takemoto-Chock, 1981; Digman, 1990; Goldberg, 1990), 8-9 (Comrey, 1995), Cattell's 16 (Cattell & Stice, 1957), and even Condon's "little 27" (Condon, 2017)
 - Different theoretical explanations of individual differences
 - SocioAnalytic (Hogan, 1982)
 - Biological (Eysenck, 1967; Gray, 1991; Corr, 2002; DeYoung, 2010, 2015)
 - Practical use of individual differences
 - Prediction of leadership effectiveness (Hogan, 2007), academic performance (Sackett & Kuncel, 2018) mortality, marital status, occupational choice, and mental health (Ozer & Benet-Martinez, 2006).

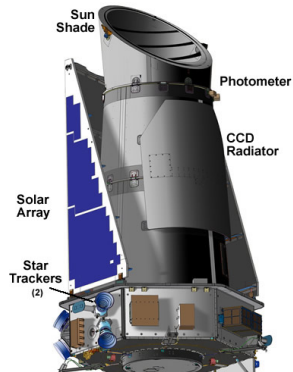
Traditional latent trait approach to measurement of personality

1. Known since [Spearman \(1904\)](#) that measures are befuddled with error.
2. Can reduce befuddlement (increase reliability) by aggregating items ([Brown, 1910](#); [Spearman, 1910](#)).
3. Structure of scales can be analyzed by latent trait (factor analytic) or components (not latent trait models, but frequently confused with them).
4. Factor analytic approaches led to convergence on a “consensual structure” of 5 factors ([Digman, 1990](#); [Goldberg, 1990](#))
5. Then, a race to bottom in developing shorter and shorter measures of the Big 5.
 - Goldberg’s original set of 100 adjectives ([Goldberg, 1992](#))
 - Gerard Saucier and the 40 mini markers [Saucier \(1994\)](#) and Oliver John et al ([John, Donahue & Kentle, 1991](#)) 44 phrased items.
 - Beatrice Rammstedt and Oliver John’s 10 items ([Rammstedt & John, 2007](#)) and the Gosling et al TIPI ([Gosling, Rentfrow & Swann, 2003](#)).
 - The lower bound: the 5 items of Ken Konstabel ([Konstabel, Lönnqvist,](#)

A different approach: the power of the item

1. But personality \neq Big 5.
2. An alternative approach to giving fewer and fewer items to measure just the Big 5 is to give more and more items to measure as much of personality as possible.
3. My colleagues and I are now examining the structure of more than 6,000 items and are on the way to 10,000 ([Condon, 2017](#); [Revelle, Wilt & Rosenthal, 2010](#); [Revelle, Condon, Wilt, French, Brown & Elleman, 2016](#))
4. We do this because we think that although only about 20% of any item measures a single higher order trait, at least 80-90% of an item is reliable variance.
5. We need ways to give more items and to examine the total reliable variance of the item.
6. But how to do this?
7. By apply techniques analogous to those of radio astronomy but already known to psychologists ([Lord, 1955b](#)),

- A now for something completely different: astronomy
- Resolution varies by aperture diameter (bigger is better)



A short diversion: history of radio telescopes

Just as with optical telescopes, resolution varies by aperture diameter (bigger is still better)



Aperture can be synthetically increased across multiple telescopes
or even multiple observatories



Can we increase N (subjects) and n (items) at the same time?

1. Frederic [Lord \(1955a\)](#) introduced the concept of sampling people as well as items.
2. Apply basic sampling theory to include not just people (well known) but also to sample items within a domain (less well known).
3. Basic principle of Item Response Theory and tailored tests.
4. Used by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to pilot items.
5. Used by Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in incomplete block design ([Anderson, Lin, Treagust, Ross & Yore, 2007](#)).
6. Can we use this procedure for the study of individual differences without being a large company?
7. Yes, apply the techniques of radio astronomy to combine measures synthetically and take advantage of the web.
8. My colleagues and I have discussed this technique for several years as a way of embracing your missingness ([Revelle et al., 2010, 2016](#))

The basic problem: Fidelity versus bandwidth

- Many personality traits, interests and cognitive abilities are multidimensional and have complex structure.
 - To measure these, we need to have the precision that comes with many participants.
 - But we also need the bandwidth that comes with many items.
 - But participants are reluctant to answer very many items.
- This has led to the quandary of should you give many people a few items or a few people, many items?
- Our answer is to do both, but with a *Massively Missing Completely At Random* (MMCAR) data structure.
- We refer to this technique as *Synthetic Aperture Personality Assessment* (SAPA) to recognize the analogy to synthetic aperture radio astronomy ([Revelle et al., 2010, 2016](#))
- This is functionally what Frederic [Lord \(1955a, 1977\)](#) suggested 65 years ago. It is time to take him seriously.

SAPA overview

1. At the sapa-project.org we use Synthetic Aperture Personality Assessment (SAPA) methods to assess $\approx 20K$ participants per month. This is just a technique of Massively Missing Completely at Random (MMCAR) data presentation. Each participant is given a random subset of items chosen from an item pool of more than 6600 items. These items, extended from the [International Personality Item Pool](#) (Goldberg, 1999) and the [International Cognitive Ability Resource](#), assess temperament, cognitive ability, interests and attitudes as well as self reported behaviors and demographic information.
2. Conventional psychometric techniques (both classical and IRT) are used to identify homogeneous scales; empirical item selection procedures are use to develop optimal item composites to predict a wide range of criteria. Data analysis code is done using the *psych* package (Revelle, 2020) in R (R Core Team, 2019).

Lord (1955a) and matrix sampling

- Given an N (subjects) by n (item) matrix, we can sample:
- Type 1: Subjects – basic statistical theory
 - \bar{x} and its standard error $\sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{N-1}}$
 - r_{xy} and its standard error $\sqrt{\frac{1-r^2}{N-2}}$
- Type 2: Items – this is the basis of classical reliability theory especially domain sampling ([Tryon, 1957, 1959](#))
 - $KR_{20} = \alpha = \lambda_3$ represent the correlation of a test with a test just like it sampled from a larger population of items.
 - ω_h and ω_t similarly are estimates of what the general factor, ω_h , or total, ω_t , correlation would be with another representation in the domain. (See [Revelle & Condon, 2019](#), for everything you want to know about reliability but were afraid to ask).
- Type 12: Matrix sampling of subjects and items
 - Special case is balanced incomplete blocks (BIB).
 - General case is Missing Completely at Random (MCAR).

3 Methods of collecting 256 subject * items data

| 1) 8 x 32 complete | 2) 32 x 8 complete | 12) 32 x 32 MCAR p=.25 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 46213634521143453443645331212414 | 46323114 | ..3..2..6....4.55.....44..... |
| 21243623166421516154432261516513 | 25443314 |4..6..45..3.4..6....1 |
| 51661351155165463622224435623344 | 43315423 | 6..3.....6.1.....6.2.....5.6 |
| 11141343362332215612152135614522 | 26314145 |3522.....5.3....3.....5.... |
| 25353121264561433433232246526411 | 41435614 |3.2.2.....3..2.....65..5.. |
| 61335154566424114612641225353516 | 42236153 |51.....324.....23.....5 |
| 24634342151536242425413513435116 | 62421344 |552.....25...54.5.... |
| 11554654453123111162423325516334 | 35234443 | ...44.4.5...3..6...6.....3.. |
| | 34514166 | ...61.523.2...2.....3... |
| Type 1 = sample subjects | 63415154 | 5.....42.4..6.5.....61.. |
| | 44441342 | ...3...3.6..1.4...1..5.....5.. |
| | 13514321 | 1...54.....2..4.33..6..... |
| | 66365663 | 4....52..6....44.3.....2 |
| Type 2 = sample items | 12264546 | ..44..1.....1..42...5..1... |
| | 31466135 | ..1..3.....2..3.521.....6... |
| | 32645514 |3.142.....22.....12.. |
| | 66151251 | ..4...2.....3..162...4.....4 |
| | 14411441 | ..4..6..3.4...1...5.33..... |
| Type 12 sample items and subjects | 62443636 | 5.....243..5...41.....1.. |
| | 33316236 | ..5..3..4...4.4..5..1.....4.. |
| | 63325425 |4.....3..5..2....64.4..4.. |
| | 11531126 | ...1.1.2...6....4.....55...2.. |
| | 61155546 |3..2..53.....2..2.3.3..... |
| | 33245361 |1...2..43...3.13.....5.. |
| | 52241654 | ...2.....4..54...2.3..62.... |
| | 63212356 | 22.....332..1.....5.....6.... |
| | 24414663 | ...5..3.4.....3...5.241..... |
| | 63661414 |63.1.....6...5..4..2...5 |
| | 45555223 | ..2.4..5.....52.4....44.... |
| | 14364433 | 2.55....2....6.....6.....53/52 |

3 Methods of collecting 256 subject * items data

1) complete (Ideal)

2) Sample people

3) Items

22552141414336514122645166143244
32144265454235634562343524256611
43553143152141541641526114551151
5265422344561444431162645313124
6222225524231544265235514213325
22125412454242154221456444214564
65113311244511226522615346451412
544364524252452445546332246526466
55223643555215245514633426121226
35522554332664265346655451531612
63261241341466311243222233323541
32224431433144451645255464435552
11564655513111334341463561655541
2453262466444656366642463322555
25516362264452325566524564412561
32255635422342631523143414221354
23244456631411361161615126144214
345266332365425363633625123624421
13451522616451531355135621451536
31625444241623135123121345134162
44252526365556663522524162313453
54361436651313615433261662235132
46635454552135645224352362433436
26511624245416441145655363265265
63512331235542645524352562623235
1152366543365644645252332216333
56436532623253433145633663651242
1513636623651513351113353515452
4632115221144634432655444225526
62156523111352364233551656146433

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 22552141414336514122645166143244 | 22552141 |
| ..... | 32144265 |
| ..... | 43553143 |
| ..... | 52654223 |
| ..... | 62222255 |
| ..... | 22125412 |
| ..... | 65113311 |
| ..... | 54436452 |
| 55223643555215245514633426121226 | 55223643 |
| ..... | 35522554 |
| 63261241341466311243222233323541 | 63261241 |
| ..... | 32224431 |
| 11564655513111334341463561655541 | 11564655 |
| ..... | 24532624 |
| ..... | 25516362 |
| ..... | 32255635 |
| ..... | 23244456 |
| ..... | 34526633 |
| 13451522616451531355135621451536 | 13451522 |
| ..... | 31625444 |
| ..... | 44252526 |
| ..... | 54361436 |
| 46635454552135645224352362433436 | 46635454 |
| ..... | 26511624 |
| ..... | 63512331 |
| 11523665433656446452523322216333 | 11523665 |
| ..... | 56436532 |
| ..... | 15136366 |
| ..... | 46321152 |
| ..... | 62156522 |
| ..... | 3 |

12 (Matrix) Sampling Methods of collecting 256 subject * items data

a) 32 x 16 balanced incomplete

```
.....4122645166143244
.....4562343524256611
.....1641526114551151
.....4431162645313124
.....2652355414213325
.....45424215.....44214564
.....24451122.....46451412
.....42524524.....46526466
.....55521524.....26121226
.....33266426.....51531612
.....3414663112432222.....
.....4331444516452554.....
.....5131113343414635.....
.....66444446563666424.....
.....2645232556652456.....
32255635.....14221354
23244456.....26144214
34526633.....23624421
13451522.....21451536
31625444.....45134162
44252526.....35225241.....
54361436.....54332616.....
46635454.....52243523.....
26511624.....11456553.....
63512331.....55243525.....
1152366543365644.....
5643653262325343.....
1513636623365151.....
4632115221144634.....
6215652311135236.....
```

b) 32 x 8 SAPA $p = .25$

```
..55....1.....4...6..16....4.
..2..4...45.....3.....2.2...1
..5.....1.....4...1..6...551...
..6..2.....4.....64...3.24
..22..5.....4.2..2...4..2....
..2.2..1.4.....1..2.....4....6.
.....1124.....65...1...6.....
..44..4.2.....2.....2...52...
..5..3...5.....4..1.6.....1..6
...25...2...6...65.....61.
...1...3.....311.4..22.....
...244.....44...45.....2
..1.....1.11..4.4...5.....4.
...6.4.....3.66.2...2..5.
25...3.2.....6.....4.12...
...3...22...3...1...42..3.
..2...5..31..1.....2...21.
...2.6...3...2.6.....12..2...
...5...1...1.3135.1.....
...2..4.....35.....13.16.
..2...6..5.....2...1...3.53
543.....5...2...2.51..
4...54...2...6.....3.36
...1..424...4...6.....5.6.
.....235...6.....262...5
..15...5..3...4.4.....2.3..
...6.3.....1.5.3..63...2..
..1...66.....35..1.35.....
...5221.....4.....42..5...
..21.....3.....1.5.1.6..3
```

Type 12 sampling (matrix sampling)

- Balanced incomplete blocks works but is hard if giving less than 50% coverage
 - 50% requires 6 blocks to be fully balanced (divide into 4ths and then present all pairs of the fourths)"
 - AB, AC, AD, BC, BD, CD where A, B, C, and D are 1/4 of the total
 - Even then, items within blocks co-occur more than items between blocks
 - 33% samples require 15 blocks, 25% 28 blocks
- SAPA sampling (Massively Missing Completely at Random) allows any sampling rate.
- BIB can be done with printed forms, MMCAR requires computer administration.
- Possible to do FIML with BIB design, need to do pairwise complete for SAPA. But, because it is MMCAR, it is unbiased.

Why we care: Breadth vs. depth of measurement

1. Factor structure of domains needs multiple constructs to define structure.
2. Each construct needs multiple items to be measured reliably.
3. This leads to an explosion of potential items.
4. But, people are willing to answer only a limited number of items.
5. This leads to the use of short and shorter forms (the NEO-PI-R (Costa & McCrae, 1992) with 300, the IPIP (Goldberg, 1999) Big 5 with 100, the BFI (John et al., 1991) with 44 items, the BFI2 (Soto & John, 2017) with 60, the 30 item 'Short Five' (Konstabel et al., 2017), the TIPI (Gosling et al., 2003) with 10 and the 10 item BFI (Rammstedt & John, 2007)) to include as part of other surveys.
6. Unfortunately, with this reduction of items, breadth of substantive content is lost. We offer an alternative procedure.

Subjects are expensive, so are items

1. In a survey such as Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTURK), we would need to pay by the person and by the item.
2. Volunteer subjects are not very willing to answer many items.
3. Why give each person the same items? Sample items, as we sample people ([Lord, 1955b](#))
4. Synthetically combine data across subjects and across items. This will imply a missing data structure which is
 - Missing Completely At Random (MCAR), or even more descriptively:
 - Massively Missing Completely at Random (MMCAR) (we sometimes have 99% missing data although our median is only 93% missing!)
5. This is the essence of Synthetic Aperture Personality Assessment (SAPA) ([Condon & Revelle, 2014](#); [Condon, 2014](#); [Revelle et al., 2016, 2010](#)).
6. This is a much higher rate of missingness than discussed in the balanced incomplete block design of NAEPS or PISA.

Measuring individual differences: the tradeoff between breadth versus depth

3 Methods of collecting 256 subject * items data

a) 8 x 32 complete b) 32 x 8 complete c) 32 x 32 MCAR $p=.25$

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
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| | 12264546 | ..44..1.....1..42...5..1... |
| | 31466135 | ..1..3.....2..3.521.....6... |
| | 32645514 |3.142.....22.....12.. |
| | 66151251 | .4...2.....3..162...4.....4 |
| | 14411441 | ..4..6..3.4...1...5.33..... |
| | 62443636 | 5.....243..5...41.....1.. |
| | 33316236 | ..5..3..4...4.4..5..1.....4. |
| | 63325425 |4.....3..5.2....64.4..4. |
| | 11531126 | ...1.1.2...6....4.....55...2.. |
| | 61155546 |3..2..53.....2..2.3.3..... |
| | 33245361 |1...2..43...3.13.....5. |
| | 52241654 | ...2.....4..54...2.3..62... |
| | 63212356 | 22.....332..1.....5.....6... |
| | 24414663 | ...5..3.4.....3...5.241..... |
| | 63661414 |63.1.....6...5..4..2... |
| | 45555223 | ..2.4..5.....52.4....44.... |
| | 14364433 | 2.55....2....6....6.....549/52 |

Synthetic Aperture Personality Assessment

1. Give each participant a random sample of pn items taken from a larger pool of n items. p_i might be anywhere from .01 to 1.
2. Find covariances based upon “pairwise complete data”. Each pair appears with probability $p_i p_j$ with a median of .01.
3. Find scales based upon basic covariance algebra.
 - Let the raw data be the matrix ${}_N\mathbf{X}_n$ with N observations converted to deviation scores.
 - Then the item variance covariance matrix is ${}_n\mathbf{C}_n = \mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}N^{-1}$
 - and scale scores, ${}_N\mathbf{S}_s$ are found by $\mathbf{S} = {}_N\mathbf{X}_p\mathbf{K}_s$.
 - ${}_n\mathbf{K}_s$ is a keying matrix, with $k_{ij} = 1$ if *item* _{i} is to be scored in the positive direction for scale j , 0 if it is not to be scored, and -1 if it is to be scored in the negative direction.
 - In this case, the covariance between scales,

$${}_s\mathbf{C}_s = {}_s\mathbf{S}'{}_N\mathbf{S}_sN^{-1} =$$

$${}_s\mathbf{C}_s = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{K})'(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{K})N^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}\mathbf{K}N^{-1} = \mathbf{K}'{}_n\mathbf{C}_n\mathbf{K}. \quad (1)$$

4. That is, we can find the correlations/covariances between scales from the item covariances, not the raw items.

Total information

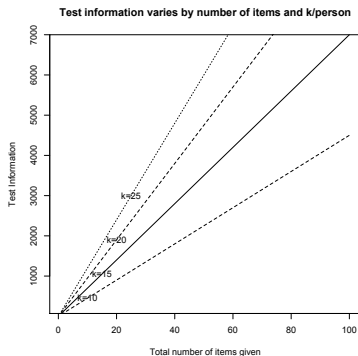
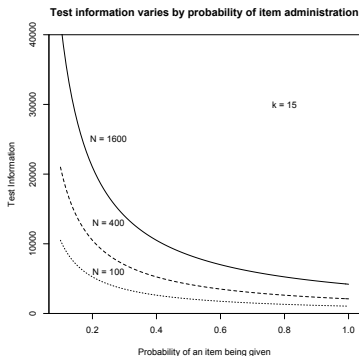
1. The information in a single correlation varies by the reciprocal of its standard error $\sigma_r = \sqrt{\frac{1-r^2}{N-2}}$ or $I = \sqrt{\frac{N-2}{1-r^2}}$
2. In SAPA, k items/person are randomly selected with probability p from a larger number, n of items ($k = pn$).
3. Thus, the number of subjects per item is pN .
4. The total number of correlations is just $\frac{n*(n-1)}{2}$ and the number of subjects per correlation is p^2N .
5. Total information is number of correlations * $\sqrt{p^2N} = \frac{n*(n-1)}{2} \sqrt{p^2N} = \frac{(k/p)((k/p)-1)}{2} * \sqrt{p^2N} = \frac{k*(k-1)\sqrt{N}}{2*p}$.
6. For the “normal case” where $p = 1$, the information is just what we expect—a quadratic function of k: $I_{kN} = \frac{k*(k-1)\sqrt{N}}{2}$.
7. But the more interesting case (the SAPA case) is for $p < 1$ the information is a hyperbolic function of p:
 $I_{pkN} = \frac{k*(k-1)\sqrt{N}}{2*p}$ but a linear function of the total number of items given ($n = k/p$) $I_{pkN} = \frac{n*(k-1)}{2} * \sqrt{N}$

Measuring individual differences: the tradeoff between breadth versus depth

Total information varies by the number of items (n) and the probability of sampling (p) and total sample size (N)

For k items/subject and N subjects, if every item is given with probability p, the information in the test is

$$I_{pkN} = \frac{k*(k-1)\sqrt{N}}{2*p} = \frac{n*(k-1)}{2} * \sqrt{N}$$



Measuring individual differences: the tradeoff between breadth versus depth

Theoretical demonstrations show this technique works with as few as 200 subjects

1. We have shown demonstrations of this technique for sampling from 10,000s of subjects ([Revelle et al., 2010, 2016](#)) with real data.
2. David Condon and I have reported on simulations of factor recovery with 1,000s of subjects ([Revelle & Condon, 2017](#); [Revelle, 2019](#)).
3. Sonja Heintz at the University of Geneva, Elizabeth Dworak at NU, David Condon (University of Oregon) and I have shown this technique works for as few as 200 subjects and can be applied to ESM data ([Revelle, Condon & Heintz, 2018](#)).
4. Our empirical investigations was originally based upon the open source International Personality Item Pool.

How do we get subjects?

1. Use the web and give feedback.
2. People like to be told about themselves.
3. The outofservice.com web site used by Sam Gosling, the Facebook site used by Kozinski and Stillwell, the site used by Soto, all of these work.
4. We have our own site where we emphasize sampling of items (the SAPA-project.org site).

IPIP and the personality assessment

1. Lew Goldbergs's International Personality Item Pool (IPIP) was very controversial when first released ([Goldberg, 1999](#)) but has helped establish the common measurement of personality by creating and administering short item stems that capture the essence of most published personality inventories.
2. Goldberg and his colleagues at the University of Oregon developed the Eugene-Springfield sample ([Goldberg & Saucier, 2016](#)) which has given several thousand items to $\approx 1,000$ predominantly white middle class participants over 10 years. This sample has been the basis of the development and validation of the International Personality Item Pool (see ipip.ori.org).
3. In fact, many of the subsequent attempts at personality scale development have used the Eugene-Springfield sample, e.g., the BFI-2 ([Soto & John, 2017](#)), and the Big Five Aspect Scales (BFAS) of [DeYoung, Quilty & Peterson \(2007\)](#).

The Eugene Springfield sample and the IPIP are WEIRD

1. Unfortunately, many of the items that have come out of the E-S sample were prematurely selected to represent the Big 5. That is, even though meant to capture the many dimensions of the lexicon, the adjectival descriptors used had been trimmed to those matching the 5 factors that have been known since the 1950's (Kelly & Fiske, 1950, 1951; Tupes & Christal, 1961; Norman, 1963).
2. Because of the ease of use and the openness of the IPIP, most of the short forms followed the Big Five structure that came out of the E-S sample.
3. SAPA subjects are less WEIRD, but still not typical.

Characteristics of SAPA reported here

1. Total number in shared data sets discussed today 126,884.
Roughly 1,000,000 total have been collected.
2. Age 14-90 (mean = 26, median= 22)
3. Gender 63% Female (have switched to non-binary scale for more recent participants)
4. Education 15% less than 12 years, 9% HS grad, 41% in college, 6% some college 15% BA, 5% in grad school, 10% Grad or prof degree
5. 68% US, 4.3% Can, 3.7% UK, 2.1% AUS, ...

More items, alternative stuctures

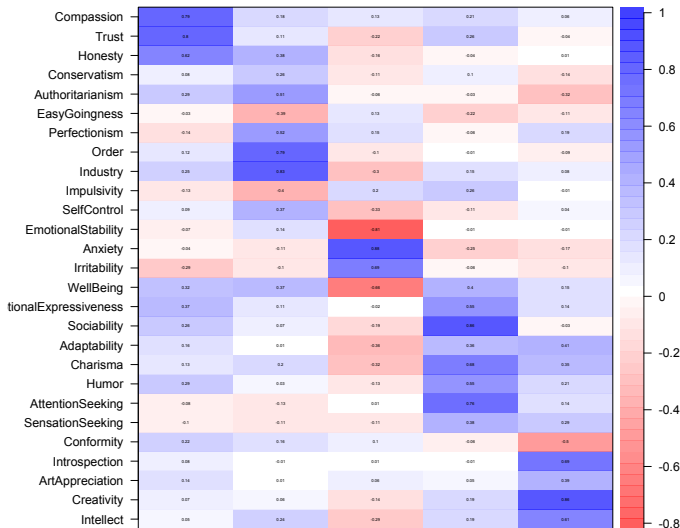
1. Of about 2,084 item in the IPIP, representing 200 different scales, David Condon found that 696 items were actually unique and had no dominant factor structure (Condon, 2017) . However, he found that 135 of the items could be well organized in terms of 5 broad factors (the Big 5) and 27 narrower factors (the little 27).
2. Scores for 4,000 visitors to the SAPA-project for these 135 items and 10 criteria are included in the *psychTools* package which accompanies the *psych* package (Revelle, 2020) for R (R Core Team, 2019).
3. I am going to use this example set for a series of demonstrations. To encourage you to do these analyses yourself, I include the R code as an appendix.
4. I will also discuss another public data set for 126,884 participants with scores on the 696 items and 22 distinct criteria (Condon & Revelle, 2015; Condon, Roney & Revelle, 2017a,b).

More items leads to improved measures at multiple levels

1. Better reliability of high level traits (e.g., Big 5)
 - The Big 5 scales from the spi are 14 item scales with an average α of .87 with a mean ω_h of .67 and ω_t of .91.
 - The little 27 are five items scales with mean α of .82 (ω_h is not really interpretable for item scales).
2. The little 27 are not meant to be facets of the big 5 but are rather narrower constructs.
3. This is best shown graphically as a `corPlot` and a `bassAckward` plot.

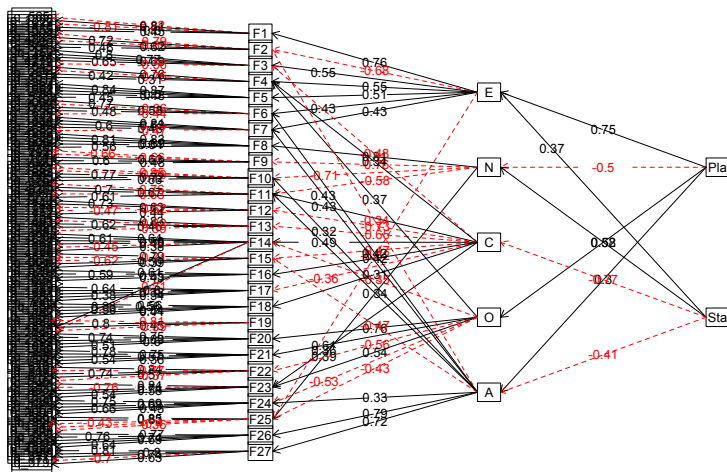
The structure of the spi is both 5 and 27 factors

Little 27 and the Big 5 from the SPI



bassAckward of the 135 spi items with 2 - 5 and 27 factor solutions

BassAckward

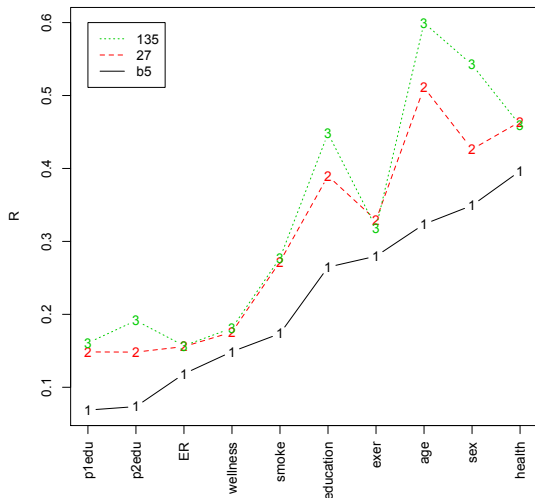


What about prediction?

1. We have examined structure, but how useful are these various levels of analysis?
2. Multiple regression of 10 criteria from the Big 5, the little 27, and the items.
3. One would expect to overfit the data if we use so many predictors, thus, we need to apply cross validation.
4. For some analyses, (e.g. `bestScales` we use “bagging” (bootstrap aggregation) or “kfolds”. Here we just do normal cross validation.
5. Derive model on half the sample, cross validate on the other half.
6. Plot the results.

Cross validation for 5, 27 and 135 predictors for the spi

Cross validation of multiple regression on spi data



1. Criteria differ in predictability
2. 135 items better than 27 factors
3. 27 better than 5

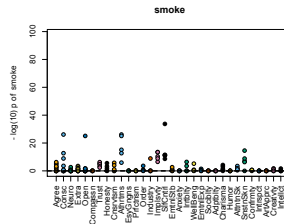
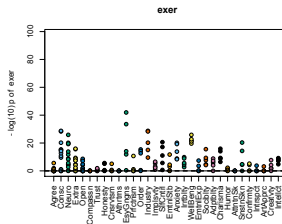
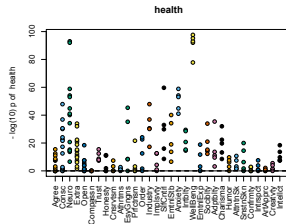
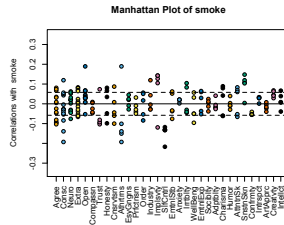
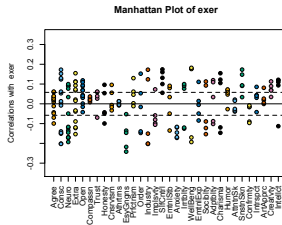
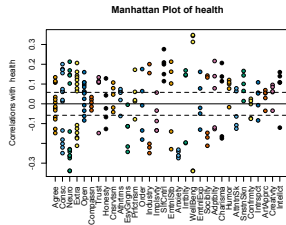
Yet another analogy; genetics

1. Most target gene studies have been dreadfully underpowered and produce too many type I errors.
2. With the exception of a few genes (color blindness, PKU), most genetic effects are very small.
3. Each Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) accounts for very little variance.
4. But with the ability to do Genome Wide studies aggregated across 100,000s to 1,000,000s of people, it is now possible to reliably identify SNPS associated with phenotypic traits.
5. It is also possible to find genetic propensity scores (basically just linear sums) of 1,000s SNPs at a time.
6. GWAS also introduces the concept of a genetic correlation, which is the correlation across the genome of effect sizes.
7. These genetic correlation assess the amount that the genetic variance in any two phenotypes is similar.

Analogous to GWAS is Persome Wide Association Studies (PWAS)

1. “Manhattan” plots are just ways of displaying GWAS or PWAS correlations.
2. In GWAS the plots are SNPS by chromosome.
3. in PWAS we organize the items by the scale they are associated with.
4. We do this for the spi data on three criteria: health, exercise and smoking.

Manhattan plots can show the raw correlations or -log p values

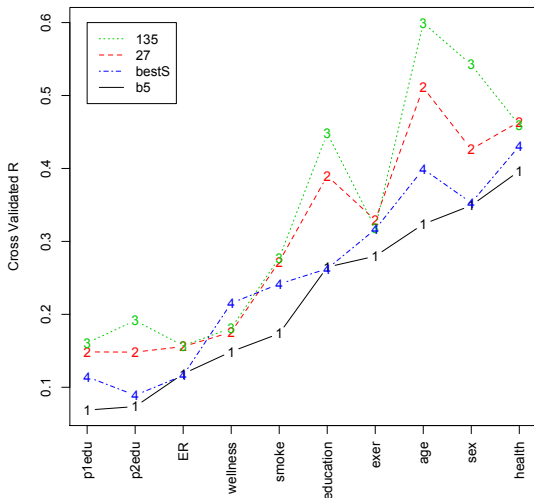


An alternative to regression: bestScales

1. An alternative to multiple regression is to choose the best unit weighted items. (see the Manhattan plots)
2. We describe a new algorithm based upon very old ideas ([Elleman, McDougald, Revelle & Condon, 2020](#)).
3. Choose items most correlated with a criterion. Cross validate these multiple times (using kfolds or bagging) and then form the unit weighted composites.
4. Based upon the “Robust beauty of improper linear models” ([Dawes, 1979](#)) and the idea that regression weights are funbible ([Waller, 2008](#)).
5. Generally pretty good, if not optimal, and much more understandable in that we can examine what the best items are.
6. We do this for the spi data set and compare the cross validated correlations with those of the Big5, little 27 and 135 item multiple Rs.

Cross validation for 5, 27, 135 and bestScales for the spi

Cross validation of multiple regression on spi data



1. Best scales (made up of the top 20 items are not as good as
2. linear regression from all 135 items
3. linear regression from 27 factors (using 135 items)
4. but are better than big 5 (using 70 items)

What are the best items predicting these criteria

Table: Smoking

A table from the psych package in R

| Variable | Freq | men.r | sd.r | item |
|----------|------|-------|------|---|
| q_1461 | 10 | -0.24 | 0.01 | Never spend more than I can afford. |
| q_1867 | 10 | -0.20 | 0.01 | Try to follow the rules. |
| q_1609 | 10 | 0.19 | 0.01 | Rebel against authority. |
| q_1173 | 10 | 0.17 | 0.01 | Jump into things without thinking. |
| q_1624 | 10 | -0.17 | 0.01 | Respect authority. |
| q_369 | 10 | -0.16 | 0.01 | Believe that laws should be strictly enforced. |
| q_56 | 10 | -0.16 | 0.01 | Am able to control my cravings. |
| q_35 | 10 | 0.16 | 0.01 | Act without thinking. |
| q_1462 | 10 | -0.15 | 0.01 | Never splurge. |
| q_1424 | 10 | 0.15 | 0.01 | Make rash decisions. |
| q_736 | 10 | -0.15 | 0.01 | Easily resist temptations. |
| q_598 | 10 | 0.14 | 0.01 | Do crazy things. |
| q_1590 | 10 | -0.13 | 0.01 | Rarely overindulge. |
| q_1452 | 9 | 0.13 | 0.01 | Neglect my duties. |
| q_4276 | 9 | 0.12 | 0.01 | Often make decisions on the spur of the moment. |

Best items predicting rated health

Table: health

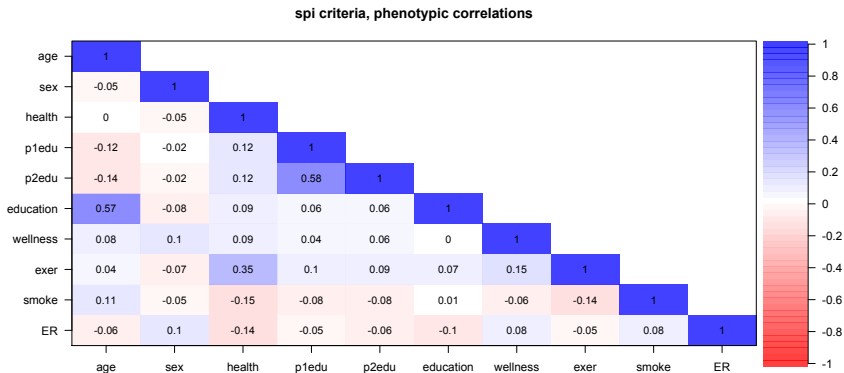
A table from the psych package in R

| Variable | Freq | men.r | sd.r | item |
|----------|------|-------|------|--|
| q_820 | 10 | 0.36 | 0.01 | Feel comfortable with myself. |
| q_811 | 10 | -0.35 | 0.01 | Feel a sense of worthlessness /hopelessness. |
| q_2765 | 10 | 0.35 | 0.00 | Am happy with my life. |
| q_578 | 10 | -0.34 | 0.01 | Dislike myself. |
| q_1371 | 10 | 0.31 | 0.01 | Love life. |
| q_56 | 10 | 0.28 | 0.01 | Am able to control my cravings. |
| q_1505 | 10 | -0.28 | 0.01 | Panic easily. |
| q_808 | 10 | -0.27 | 0.01 | Fear for the worst. |
| q_4249 | 10 | -0.27 | 0.01 | Would call myself a nervous person. |
| q_1452 | 10 | -0.24 | 0.01 | Neglect my duties. |
| q_979 | 10 | -0.24 | 0.01 | Get overwhelmed by emotions. |
| q_39 | 10 | 0.24 | 0.01 | Adjust easily. |
| q_4252 | 10 | -0.24 | 0.01 | Am a worrier. |
| q_1444 | 10 | -0.23 | 0.01 | Need a push to get started. |
| q_1024 | 10 | -0.23 | 0.01 | Hang around doing nothing. |
| q_1840 | 10 | 0.23 | 0.01 | my moods don't change more than most peoples |
| q_1080 | 10 | 0.22 | 0.01 | Worry about things |

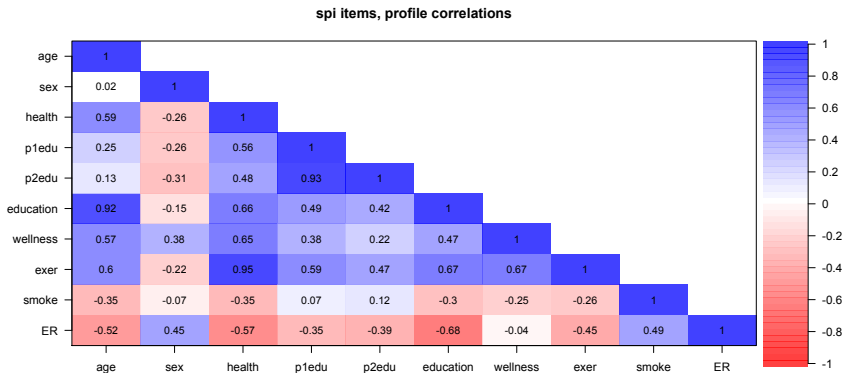
PWAS correlations

1. Genetic correlations are correlations taken across the genome and reflect the amount of shared genetic variance in two pheontypes.
2. So, we can find the profile correlation across the persome to examine shared predictable variance of phenotypes
3. I show three different correlation plots
 - Phenotypic correlations of our 10 spi crteria
 - Profile correlations of these same 10 criteria where the profile is essentially the Manhattan plot
 - To compare these two, I combine them into one plot

Phenotypic correlations of the spi criteria

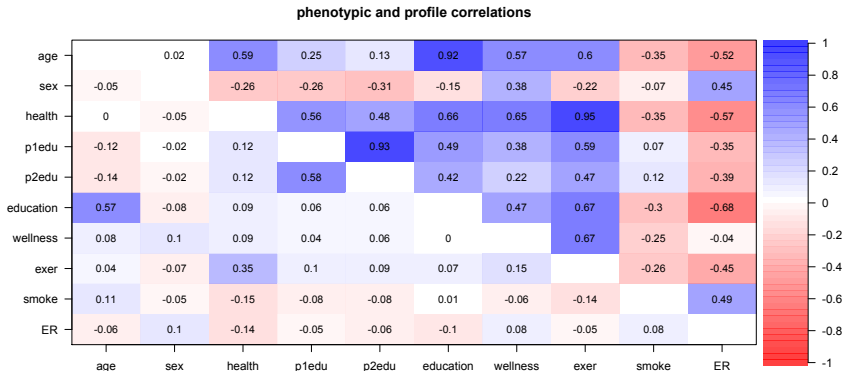


Profile correlations of the spi criteria



Show both the phenotypic and profile correlations

Compare the magnitude of the effects



Profile correlations reflect shared predictable variance

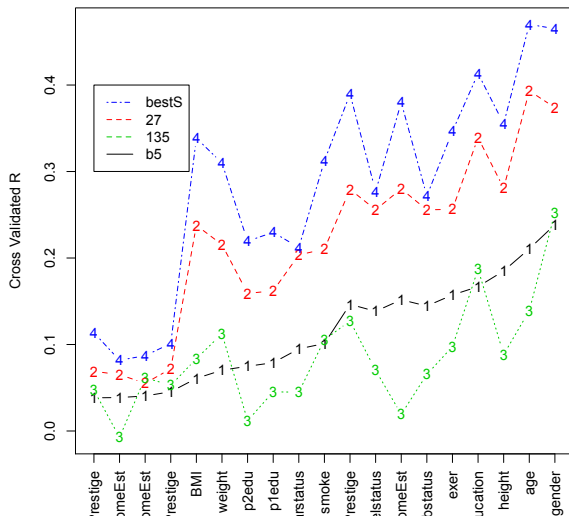
1. Phenotypic correlations reflect all of the variance of the criteria.
2. Profile correlations reflect shared *predictable* variance.
3. Do we achieve a better understanding of the phenomena by examining what they have in common?
4. Consider the correlation between exercise and health (.35 versus .95), Emergency Room visits and smoking (.08 versus .49)
5. Is this an alternative way to adjust correlations for reliability?

We can replicate this with 126,884 cases

1. The data are taken from DataVerse [Condon & Revelle \(2015\)](#); [Condon et al. \(2017b,a\)](#)
2. I show just a few analyses
3. First the cross validated prediction
4. Then the profile results.

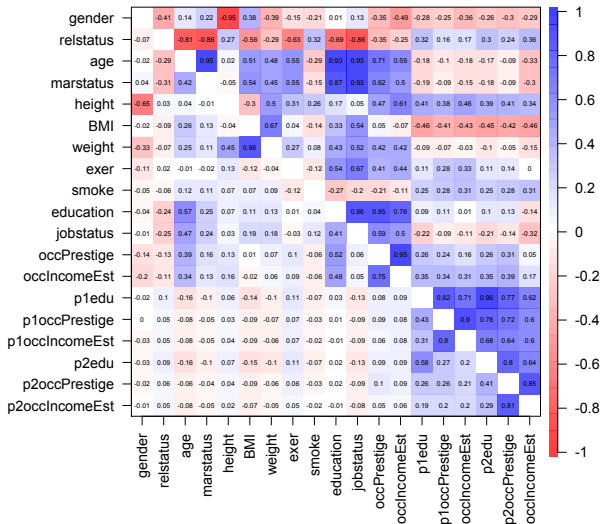
Comparing Big 5, little 27, 135 item regressions with best of 696

Cross validation of multiple regression on sapa data



19 criteria phenotypic versus profile correlations

Phenotypic (lower) and Profile (upper) correlations



Profiles have more uses than shown

1. Profile weights can be derived for one criteria but can predict many more.
2. We have previously shown that the profile technique can be used to cluster the similarities of countries based upon the personality profiles that best predict dummy code country
3. We are doing this for college major and for occupations. By definition, majors are distinct and the phenotypic correlations will be slightly negative, but the profiles show how the natural sciences differ from the social sciences.
4. Even if you have just the 44 items of the BFI or the 60 of the BFI-2, these profile techniques can be applied to your data as well.

Conclusion and an invitation

1. Other sciences have developed techniques that we can share (at least by analogy).
2. Combining techniques similar to those from Radio Astronomy and from genetics allows us to ask different questions than we have been asking.
3. Items have much more information that we think (although the developers of empirical methods such as [Gough \(1957\)](#) or [Hathaway & McKinley \(1943\)](#) knew this years ago).
4. It is time to rethink our reliance on latent variable models., Perhaps we should focus on observables that we care about.
5. This is a direct challenge to those of us who like to think in casual models and the biological basis of personality.
6. Am I advocating personality engineering or personality theory? I am not sure.
7. However, I am sure that it might be time for us to rethink our reliance on latent trait models.

Need for open science

1. These techniques rely on shared materials, shared methods, and open science.
2. Can we use SAPA like techniques to refocus on the power of the item and move beyond the Big 5?
3. We have used a similar approach in the measurement of ability in the International Cognitive Ability Resource (ICAR). By combining traditional temperament measures (e.g. the spi items or the magic 696 with measures of interests and ability, we can go even further.
4. Join us.

Slides, data and code are available for all to use

1. This work reflects contributions from David Condon, Liz Dworak, Lorien Elleman and members of the Personality, Motivation and Cognition Laboratory (aka the Telemetrics Lab)
2. The slides for this and other talks and articles are available at personality-project.org/sapa.
3. The data are available as part of the *psych* package or at Dataverse.
4. The R code is included as an appendix to this talk.

R code

```
library{psych}
sessionInfo() #to show status of R packages

#To get the most recent development release of psych from the
#personality-project.org repository
\install.packages("psych",repos="https://personality-project.org/r,
    type="source")
#Note that you need to restart after installing
```

```
R version 3.6.1 Patched (2019-09-23 r77210)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin15.6.0 (64-bit)
Running under: macOS Catalina 10.15.2
```

```
Matrix products: default
BLAS: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib,
LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib,
```

```
Random number generation:
RNG: Mersenne-Twister
Normal: Inversion
```

Sample: Rounding

locale:

```
[1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
```

attached base packages:

```
[1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods    base
```

other attached packages:

```
[1] psychTools_2.0.1 psych_2.0.1
```

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

```
[1] compiler_3.6.1      tools_3.6.1          parallel_3.6.1
[6] mnormt_1.5-5        grid_3.6.1           GPArotation_2014.11
```

Now score the spi data and do various regressions with it.

R code

```
sc <- scoreItems(spi.keys,spi) # give alpha
mean(sc$alpha[1:5]) #just the big 5
mean(sc$alpha[6:32]) #average alpha for the little 27
```

```

R <- cor(sc$scores)
corPlot(R[6:32,1:5],symmetric=FALSE,main="Little 27 and the Big 5 f

ba <- bassAckward(spi[,11:145],c(2,5,27))

sc.demos <-cbind(spi[1:10],sc$scores) #combine with scores with dem
set.seed(42) #for reproducible results
ss <- sample(1:nrow(sc.demos),nrow(sc.demos)/2)
#derivation multiple Rs
sc.5 <- setCor(y=1:10,x=11:15,, data=sc.demos[ss,], plot=FALSE)
sc.27 <- setCor(y=1:10,x=16:42, data=sc.demos[ss,], plot=FALSE)
sc.135 <- setCor(y=1:10,x=11:145,data=spi[ss,] ,plot=FALSE)

#now cross validate
cv.5 <- crossValidation(sc.5,sc.demos[-ss,])
cv.27 <- crossValidation(sc.27,sc.demos[-ss,])
cv.135 <- crossValidation(sc.135,spi[-ss,])

cross.valid.df <- data.frame(cv5=cv.5$crossV, cv.27=cv.27$crossV, c
cross.valid.df.sorted <- dfOrder(cross.valid.df,1)
#show it
matPlot(cross.valid.df.sorted[c(1,3,5)],main="Cross validation of
legend(1,.6,cs(135,27,b5),lty=c(3,2,1),col=c(3,2,1))

```

#now do a bestScales approach

```
bs <- bestScales(spi[ss,],criteria=colnames(spi)[1:10], folds=10, n
bs.cv <- crossValidation(bs,spi[-ss,])
```

```
cross.valid.df.bs <- cbind(cross.valid.df,bs=bs.cv$crossV)
cv.df.bs.sorted <- dfOrder(cross.valid.df.bs,1)
matPlot(cv.df.bs.sorted[c(1,3,5,7)],main="Cross validation of mult
legend(1,.6,cs(135,27,bestS,b5),lty=c(3,2,4,1),col=c(3,2,4,1))
```

Manhattan plots of the persome: Predict 3 criteria

R code

```
labels <- names(spi.keys)
labels <- abbreviate(labels,minlength=8)
op <- par(mfrow=c(2,3)) #two row by three column display
man <- manhattan(spi,criteria=cs(health,exer,smoke),keys=spi.keys,a
man <- manhattan(spi,criteria=cs(health,exer,smoke),keys=spi.keys,a
labels=labels,log.p = TRUE,main="")
op <- par(mfrow=c(1,1)) #put it back to the normal condition
```

[Replicate on a much larger data set.](#)

Now find the phenotypic and profile correlations

R code

```
Rpheno <- corPlot(spi[1:10], scale=FALSE, upper=FALSE, main="spi crite
R <- cor(spi[, 11:145], spi[, 1:10], use="pairwise")
R.profile <- corPlot(R, upper=FALSE, scale=FALSE)
corPlot(lowerUpper(Rpheno, R.profile), main='phenotypic and profile c
```

Now, do this for the 126K cases in the bigger sapa data set We get this by going to [Condon & Revelle \(2015\)](#); [Condon et al. \(2017b,a\)](#) and getting the 3 rda files there. We then stitch these three together using rbind to create the full.sapa data

R code

```
sapa <- read.file() #goes to my directory to find the file
load(sapa) #one extra step required
sapa <- char2numeric(sapa) #makes the fields numeric
criteria <- colnames(sapa)[c(2:10, 14:23)] #choose 19 criteria
spi.items <- selectFromKeys(spi.keys)
options("mc.cores"=8) #I am using a mac with multiple cores
scores <- scoreIrt.2pl(spi.keys, sapa) #ldo IRT scoring of the data
```

[Replicate on a much larger data set.](#)

```
big.scores <- rbind(sapa[criiteria],scores)

set.seed(42) #for reproducible results
ss <- sample(1:nrow(big.scores),nrow(big.scores)/2)

#derivation multiple Rs
sc.5 <- setCor(y=criteria,x=20:24, data=big.scores[ss,], plot=FALSE)
sc.27 <- setCor(y=criteria,x=25:51, data=big.scores[ss,], plot=FALSE)
sc.135 <- setCor(y=criteria, x=spi.items,data=sapa[ss,] ,plot=FALSE)

#now cross validate
cv.5 <- crossValidation(sc.5,big.scores[-ss,])
cv.27 <- crossValidation(sc.27,big.scores[-ss,])
cv.135 <- crossValidation(sc.135,sapa[-ss,])

cross.valid.df <- data.frame(cv5=cv.5$crossV, cv.27=cv.27$crossV, cv.135=cv.135$crossV)
cross.valid.df.sorted <- dfOrder(cross.valid.df,1)
#show it
matPlot(cross.valid.df.sorted[c(2,4,6)],main="Cross validation of
  legend(1,.6,cs(135,27,b5),lty=c(3,2,1),col=c(3,2,1))
#now do a bestScales approach with all 696 items
bs.sapa<- bestScales(sapa[ss,],criteria=criteria, folds=10, n.item=10)
bs.cv <- crossValidation(bs.sapa,sapa[-ss,])
```

Replicate on a much larger data set.

```
#combine the best scales
cross.valid.df <- data.frame(cv5=cv.5$crossV, cv.27=cv.27$crossV, c
cross.valid.df.sorted <- dfOrder(cross.valid.df,1)
  matPlot(cross.valid.df.sorted[c(2,4,6,8)],main="Cross validation o
legend(1,.4,cs(bestS,27,135,b5),lty=c(4,2,2,1),col=c(4,2,3,1))
#now try profiles
R.big <- cor(sapa[ss,24:719],sapa[ss,criteria],use="pairwise")
R.pheno <- cor(sapa[ss,criteria],use="pairwise")
  R.profile <- cor(R.big)
sapa.pheno.profile <- lowerUpper(R.pheno,R.profile)
corPlot(sapa.pheno.profile,xlas=3,main="Phenotypic (lower) and Prof
```

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