

# Estimating Rater Consistency: Which Method Is Appropriate?

Robert L. Johnson  
Grant Morgan  
Min Zhu  
Vasanthi Rao

University of South Carolina

2010 AEA Presentation, San Antonio, Texas

## Methods for Examining Rater Consistency

Percent agreement (Andrade, Du, & Wang, 2008; Herman, Gearhart, & Baker, 1993; Johnson, McDaniel, & Willeke, 2000; Johnson, Penny, & Gordon, 2001; Koretz, Stecher, Klein, & McCaffrey, 1994; LeMahieu, Gitomer, & Eresh, 1995)

Pearson correlation (Herman, Gearhart, & Baker, 1993)

Spearman correlation (Johnson, McDaniel, & Willeke, 2000; Johnson, Penny, & Gordon, 2001; Koretz, Stecher, Klein, & McCaffrey, 1994; Supovitz, MacGowan, & Slattery, 1997)

Cronbach's alpha (van der Schaaf, Stokking, & Verloop, 2005)

Generalizability/dependability coefficient (Johnson, McDaniel, & Willeke, 2000; Johnson, Penny, & Gordon, 2001; Nie, Yeo, & Lau, 2007; Shavelson, Solano-Flores, & Ruiz-Primo, 1998; Yao, Thomas, Nickens, Downing, Burkett, & Lamson, 2008)

## Questions

- Do we arrive at different conclusions when we use different methods of estimating interrater consistency?
- If so, which method results in a better estimate of interrater reliability?

### *The Relation between Agreement Levels and Correlation Estimates of Interrater Reliability*

Rubric		Correlation between raters										
Scale	Agreement	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.95
Percent agreement between ratings using a 4- and 6-point rubric												
4	Exact	28	30	33	35	37	40	45	50	57	68	78
	Exact & Adjacent	73	77	80	83	85	89	92	95	98	100	100
6	Exact	26	28	30	32	34	35	40	46	52	64	75
	Exact & Adjacent	69	74	77	79	82	87	90	94	98	100	100

Johnson, R., Penny, J., & Gordon, B. (2009). *Assessing performance: Developing, scoring, and validating performance tasks*. New York: Guilford Publications.

- Empirical examination of interrater reliability estimates across methods – Min Zhu
- Monte Carlo simulation of interrater reliability estimates across methods – Grant Morgan

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# Estimating Rater Consistency: How Do Methods Differ?

Min Zhu, Robert Johnson, Grant Morgan, & Vasanthi Rao  
University of South Carolina  
Department of Educational Studies

2010 AEA Presentation, San Antonio, Texas

## SCAAP Overview

- ▶ The South Carolina Arts Assessment Program (SCAAP) was established by the SC Department of Education in 2000.
- ▶ Purpose: to provide arts educators and school administrators with a tool to measure their students' arts achievement and to objectively evaluate their schools' arts programs.
- ▶ Uniqueness: a web-based standardized arts assessment system
  - Include 6 assessments
  - Each assessment includes:
    - Two 45-item multiple-choice test forms
    - Two/three performance tasks
- ▶ Test developers –
  - South Carolina arts educators
  - Measurement specialists at the Office of Program Evaluation (OPE) at the University of South Carolina

## Data Source

- 2007 SCAAP entry-level visual arts performance assessment results
  - Two tasks: one writing and one drawing
  - 8 raters and 4 paired-rater groups
  - 500 students in each group

## SCAAP Visual Arts Task 1 -- Compare and Contrast

### Visual Arts Performance Task 1

Look carefully at Picture A and Picture B. They both show a person in an environment.

Picture A



Picture B



### Visual Arts Performance Task 1

#### Task 1:

Today, you will compare and contrast Picture A and Picture B. Use at least four of the art terms from WORD BANK 1 to EXPLAIN how the two pictures are similar and how they are different. Please write your answer in complete sentences using the space below.

#### WORD BANK 1

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> realistic	<input type="checkbox"/> foreground
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> background	<input type="checkbox"/> line	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pattern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> color	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> texture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> details

When you explain the similarities and differences, make sure to point out specific things in the pictures and remember to write down, each time, if you are talking about Picture A or if you are talking about Picture B.

**REMEMBER:** You must use at least four art terms and you must write about both pictures.

- Picture B is abstract because it is not real
- Picture B has a background
- Picture B does not use texture
- Picture A has texture I can feel the clothes he is wearing
- Picture A use color on his shirt
- Picture A is realistic
- Picture A has more details
- Picture A and Picture B both have to do with people
- Picture A uses patterns on his clothes

## SCAAP Visual Arts Task 2

### -- Drawing and Self-Critique

#### Task 2A:

Today, you will draw an imaginary creature in motion. Your drawing should include an environment for the creature. Use the space below to complete your drawing. (USE PENCIL ONLY)

#### Make sure your drawing has:

- |                                     |                                     |                                       |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> background | <input type="checkbox"/> foreground | <input type="checkbox"/> middleground | <input type="checkbox"/> pattern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> texture    | <input type="checkbox"/> line       | <input type="checkbox"/> details      |                                  |



#### Task 2B:

Now, you will write about your drawing. Use at least four of the art terms from WORD BANK 2 to DESCRIBE and EXPLAIN the things in your drawing that are good and the things that need improvement. Please write your answer in complete sentences using the space below.

#### WORD BANK 2

- |                                     |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> background | <input type="checkbox"/> foreground | <input type="checkbox"/> middleground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> texture    | <input type="checkbox"/> line       | <input type="checkbox"/> details      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-D        | <input type="checkbox"/> pattern    |                                       |

When you write about your drawing, make sure to point out specific things in your drawing and explain why you think those things are good or why they need improvement.

REMEMBER: You must use at least four art terms and you must be specific.

All of the things (tree, clouds, bush, sun) in the back are in the background because the bigger stuff (cheetah, stump, berry bushes) are in the foreground, and everything like the grass and the anthill is in the middleground. All the patterns like the spots on the cheetah, back on the tree and stump look like when you touch them they could feel like the real texture. Also if you look at the stump on the ground, the way I drew the top on it could make it look 3-D. Also the way the tree branch lines overlap the bee hives lines. I put in a lot of detail like the berries, the bird nest, grass, stump and the anthill.

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Every Level Visual Arts Performance Task

## SCAAP Web-Based Rating System

- ▶ Raters: Trained arts professionals
- ▶ Rubrics:
  - Holistic rubrics for visual arts
  - Scale ranges from 0 to 4 with raters also being allowed to use augmentation (e.g. 2-, 2, 2+).
- ▶ Benchmarking:
  - Validation Committee members select student responses representative of each rubric level and use these as:
    - ▶ anchor responses
    - ▶ practice responses
    - ▶ qualifying responses
    - ▶ seed responses

## SCAAP Web-Based Rating System (Cont')

### ► Rater Training

- One-day training session at a central location
- Anchor items are presented and explained.
- Raters take a web-based practice test that provides detailed feedback.
- Each rater is required to score at least 90% adjacent agreement on a 15-item, randomly generated qualifying test.
- After passing the qualifying test, raters can score student responses.
- Following the training, raters score student responses remotely via the SCAAP website – <https://scaap.ed.sc.edu>.

## SCAAP Web-Based Rating System (Cont')

### ► Scoring & Monitoring

- Raters are required to pass a randomly-generated 15-item refresher test after scoring every 100 student responses.
- Seed responses are randomly distributed among unscored student performances to monitor rater accuracy.
- Each student response is scored by two-raters. An expert rater is used for score resolution.

## Rater Consistency Estimates in the Literature

Methods	1990s	2000s
Percent Agreement		
Exact	/	2
Adjacent	1	5
Kappa coefficient	/	1
Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (PPMCC)	2	3
Spearman rank-order	1	/
Cronbach's alpha	/	/
Intraclass correlation (ICC)	/	4
G-theory		
G-coefficient	1	2
Phi-coefficient	/	/
Multifaceted Rasch model (MFRM)	2	3
Others	1	/

## Measures of Rater Agreement

- Percent Exact Agreement
- Percent Adjacent Agreement
- Advantage
  - Distribution-free estimate
  - Easy to compute
- Disadvantage
  - The small range of the scale in rubrics can inflate the estimate.
  - Chance agreement is not considered.



## Sample: Percent Agreement --Exact and Adjacent

R1	R2					Total
	0	1	2	3	4	
0	22 (4.41%)	19 (3.81%)	100 (20.04%)	7 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	148 (29.66%)
1	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	101 (20.24%)	13 (2.61%)	4 (0.8%)	123 (24.65%)
2	0 (0%)	2 (0.4%)	71 (14.23%)	38 (7.62%)	4 (0.8%)	115 (23.05%)
3	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	17 (3.41%)	26 (5.21%)	14 (2.81%)	57 (11.42%)
4	0 (0%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	18 (3.61%)	33 (6.61%)	56 (11.22%)
Total	23	26	293	102	55	499

‣ Note: Exact agreement 31.26%;

Adjacent agreement 73.34%

## Measures of Association

- Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (PPMCC)
- Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient (SRCC)
- Polychoric correlation coefficient (PCC)

## Measures of Association (Cont')

	Applications	Assumptions
PPMCC	Association between two continuous variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bivariate normality</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>
Spearman Rank-order	Association between two ordinal variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shape identity</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>
Polychoric	Association between two continuous latent variables grouped into ordered classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Latent bivariate normality</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>

## G-coefficient and Phi-coefficient

### ► G-coefficient

- When the ranking of individual or group scores is the focus
- In a G-study with raters as a facet

$$\rho^2 = \frac{\sigma^2(p)}{\sigma^2(p) + \sigma^2(pr)}$$

### ► Phi-coefficient (index of dependability)

- When examinees performance on a criterion-referenced test is of interest
- With raters as the only facet, the phi-coefficient takes into account shifts in rater means and allows detection of raters who are overly severe or lenient.

$$\phi = \frac{\sigma^2(p)}{\sigma^2(p) + \sigma^2(r) + \sigma^2(pr)}$$



## SCAAP Visual Arts Task 1 Consistency --With Augmentation in Rating

Raters	N	R1		R2		Exact (%)	Adj (%)	PPMCC	SRCC	PCC	G-C	Phi-C
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD							
G1	499	1.48	1.31	2.31	0.90	14.03	27.46	0.68	0.68	0.75	0.63	0.59
G2	491	1.72	1.24	1.71	1.08	47.45	53.56	0.74	0.73	0.82	0.74	0.74
G3	496	1.28	1.27	1.75	0.89	33.47	40.32	0.73	0.75	0.86	0.68	0.67
G4	496	1.98	0.95	1.33	1.18	32.46	40.32	0.69	0.66	0.78	0.68	0.65

- ▶ *Note: Exact – Exact agreement*  
*Adj – Adjacent agreement*  
*PPMCC – Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient*  
*SRCC – Spearman rank-order correlation coefficient*  
*PCC – Polychoric correlation coefficient*  
*G-C – G-coefficient*  
*Phi-C – Phi-coefficient*

## SCAAP Visual Arts Task 2A Consistency --Without Augmentation in Rating

Raters	N	R1		R2		Exact (%)	Adj (%)	PPMCC	SRCC	PCC	G-C	Phi-C
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD							
G1	495	2.02	0.68	2.20	1.02	49.29	94.95	0.63	0.62	0.75	0.58	0.57
G2	489	1.65	0.83	1.78	0.69	59.71	98.97	0.65	0.65	0.75	0.64	0.63
G3	491	1.90	0.78	1.96	0.83	58.04	98.16	0.63	0.62	0.72	0.63	0.63
G4	493	1.58	0.80	2.10	0.82	36.92	93.71	0.58	0.56	0.66	0.58	0.55

- ▶ *Note: Exact – Exact agreement*  
*Adj – Adjacent agreement*  
*PPMCC – Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient*  
*SRCC – Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient*  
*PCC – Polychoric correlation coefficient*  
*G-C – G-coefficient*  
*Phi-C – Phi-coefficient*

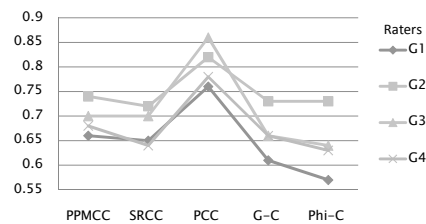
## SCAAP Visual Arts Task 2A Consistency --With Augmentation in Rating

Raters	N	R1		R2		Exact (%)	Adj (%)	PPMCC	SRCC	PCC	G-C	Phi-C
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD							
G1	495	1.99	0.68	2.22	1.01	27.88	47.07	0.67	0.66	0.71	0.63	0.59
G2	489	1.65	0.83	1.78	0.69	52.56	59.72	0.67	0.67	0.75	0.74	0.74
G3	491	1.88	0.76	1.94	0.79	30.75	56.62	0.70	0.68	0.74	0.68	0.67
G4	493	1.58	0.78	2.09	0.81	26.17	36.52	0.63	0.62	0.69	0.68	0.65

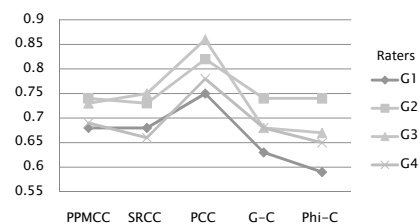
- ▶ *Note: Exact – Exact agreement*  
*Adj – Adjacent agreement*  
*PPMCC – Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient*  
*SRCC – Spearman's rank-order correlation coefficient*  
*PCC – Polychoric correlation coefficient*  
*G-C – G-coefficient*  
*Phi-C – Phi-coefficient*

### Task 1

#### Without Augmentation

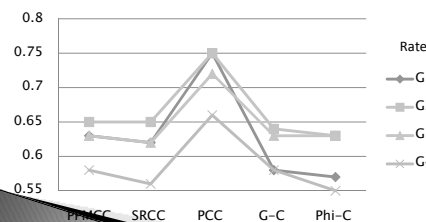


#### With Augmentation

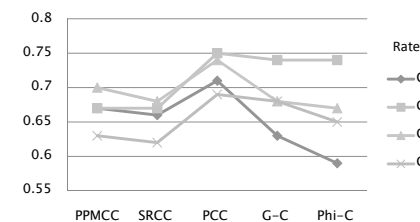


### Task 2A

#### Without Augmentation



#### With Augmentation



## Findings

- Consistent with previous studies, introducing augmentation scores does not result in large changes in mean scores, but increases some of the interrater reliability coefficient estimates (excluding polychoric correlation).
- As expected, phi-coefficients are slightly lower than G-coefficients in some instances, indicating the potential existence of a small rater effect.
- Polychoric correlations are always higher than other reliability estimates.
- In many cases, PPMCC, Spearman, and G-coefficients were very close.
- Such a pattern is quite consistent across the two tasks.

## What's Next...

- Which reliability coefficient is closer to the truth?
- What should we consider when choosing a coefficient in our report?
- A simulation study will tell us more.

# Which Measure Is Appropriate for Estimating Rater Consistency? A Simulation Study

Grant Morgan  
Robert Johnson  
Min Zhu  
Vasanthi Rao

University of South Carolina

Evaluation 2010  
American Evaluation Association – San Antonio, TX

## Presentation Overview

- ▶ Select estimates of rater consistency
- ▶ What does “appropriate” mean?
  - Ease of communication
  - Estimates & data alignment
  - Accuracy of inferences
- ▶ Conclusions

## Rater Consistency Estimates

	Applications	Assumptions
Pearson Product-Moment	Association between two continuous variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bivariate normality</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>
Spearman	Association between two ordinal variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Shape identity</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>
Polychoric	Association between two continuous latent variables grouped into ordered classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Latent bivariate normality</li> <li>✓ No measurement error</li> </ul>
G-coefficient	Partition systematic and unsystematic error variation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Randomly parallel tests sampled from the same population (i.e., universe)</li> </ul>

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## Which measure is “appropriate”?

### 1) Ease of communication

- Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient
  - Proportion of explained variance when squared

“**Pearson’s product-moment correlation** is the most commonly reported, even for those data for which it is superficially not a good match. Of course, the same is true of other familiar statistics, such as the mean and standard deviation” (Linacre, 2005, p.1028).

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## Which measure is “appropriate”?

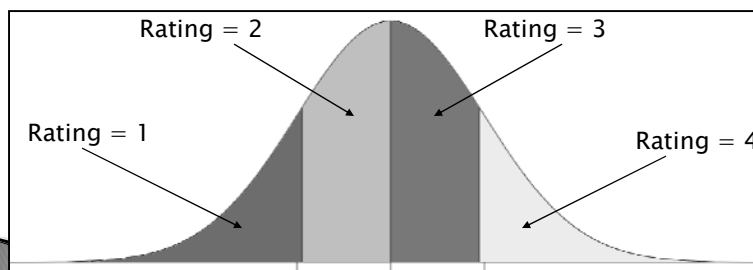
- 1) Ease of communication
  - Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient
- 2) Alignment between analysis and data
  - Polychoric correlation coefficient
    - *Recall: Correlation between two latent continuous distributions that have been chunked into ordinal scales*

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## Performance Assessment Data

- Features:
  - Ability is a normally-distributed latent variable
  - Ability distribution is chunked into an ordinal scale (rubric rating scale)



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## Previous Research

Problems with treating ordinal data as continuous

- No origins or units of measure (Joreskog, 1994)
- Increased likelihood of correlating error variances (Anderson & Gerbing, 1988)
- Standard error & chi-square tests are incorrect when using product-moment matrix with ordinal data (Bentler & Lee, 1983).

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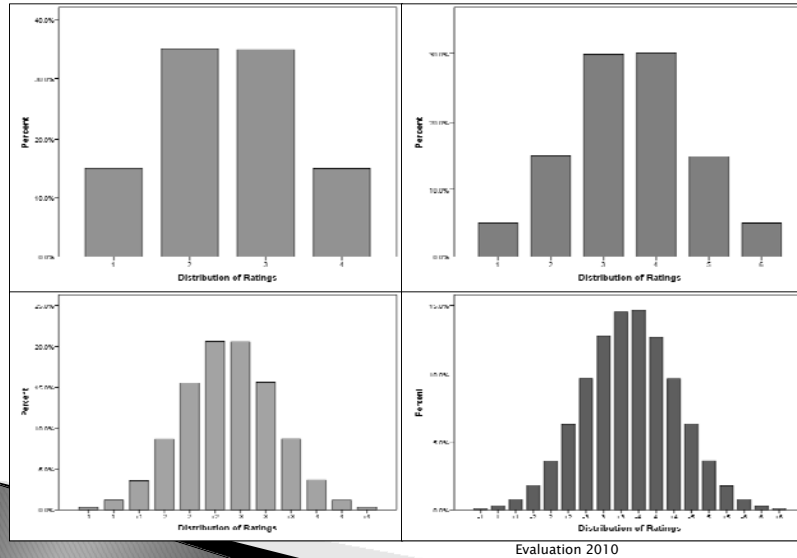
## Design Factors

- Levels of inter-rater reliability
  - .70, .75, .80, .85, .90, .95
- Number of tasks
  - 25, 100, 250, 500, 2000
- Number of rating scale categories
  - 4, 6, 4 with augmentation (12), 6 with augmentation (18)
- 1,000 replications of each condition

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## Distributions



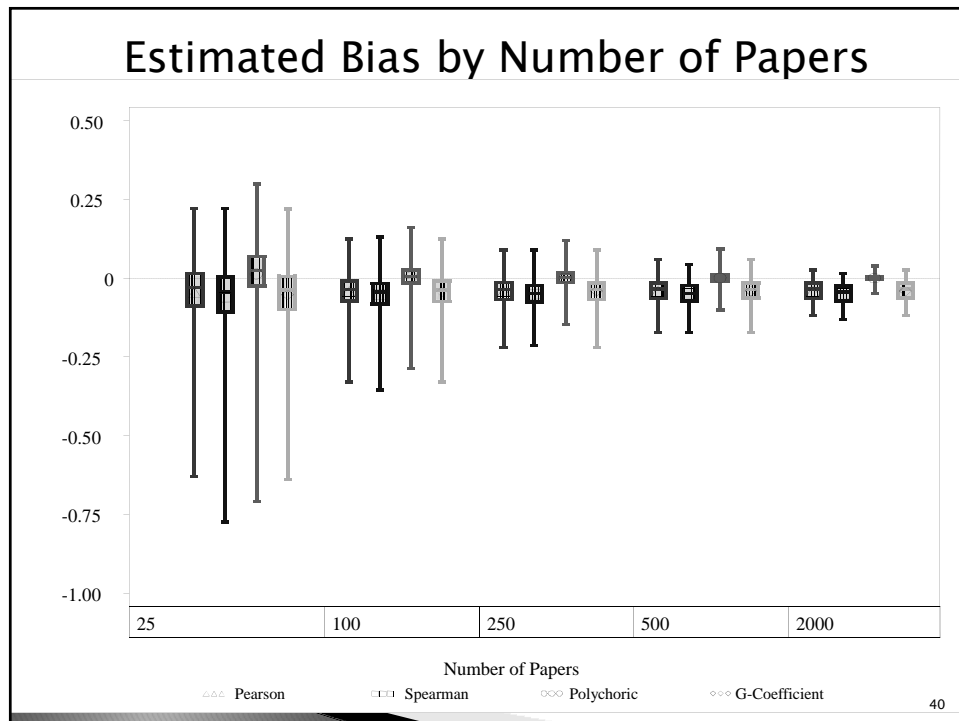
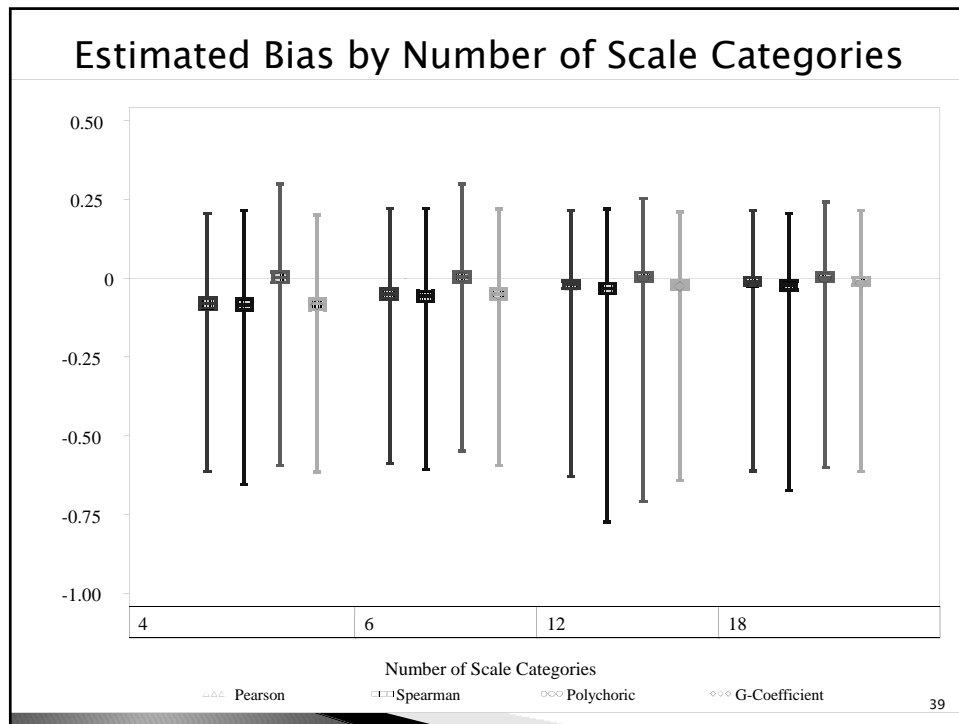
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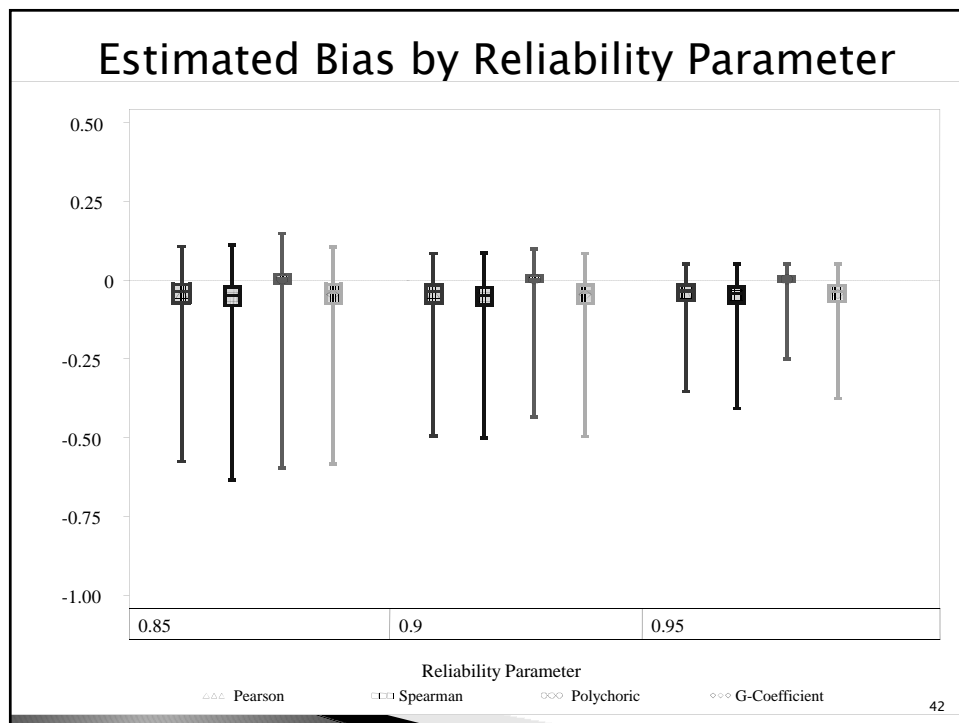
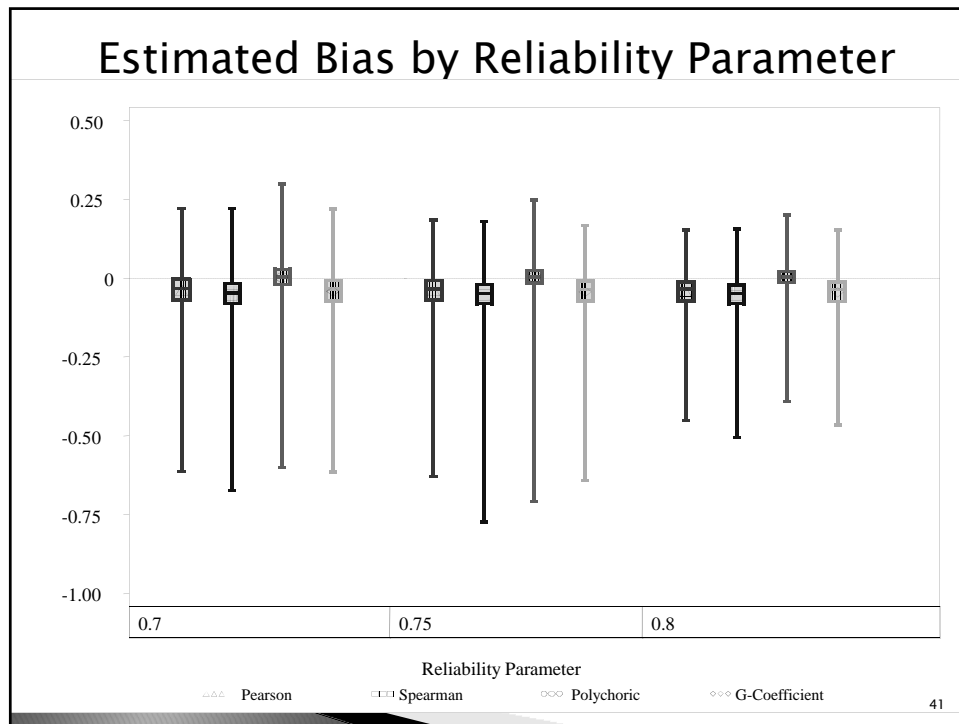
## Estimated Bias

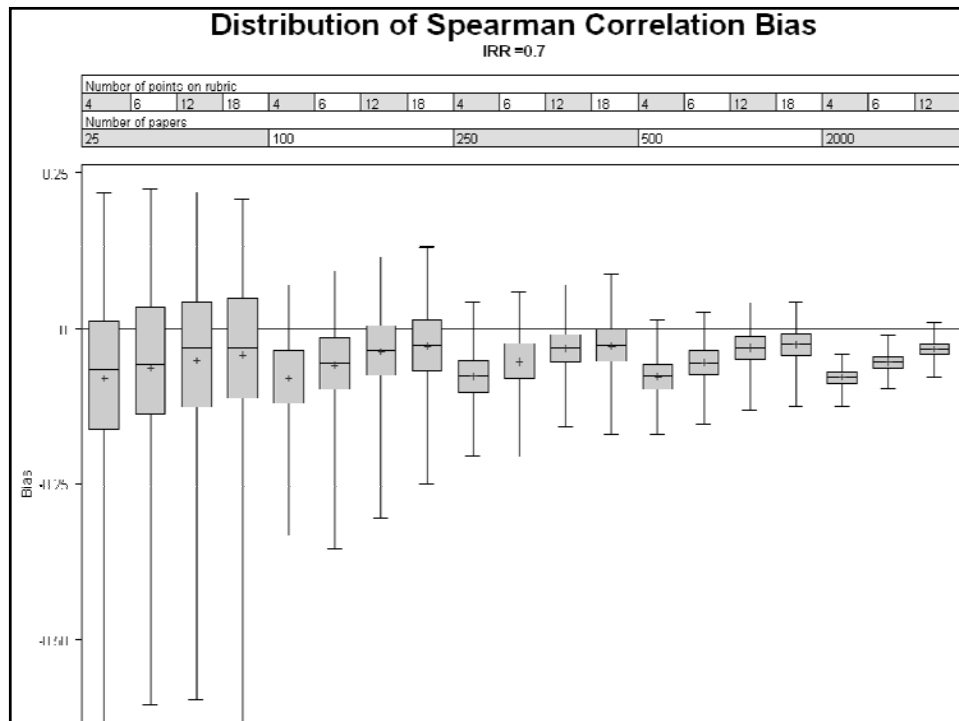
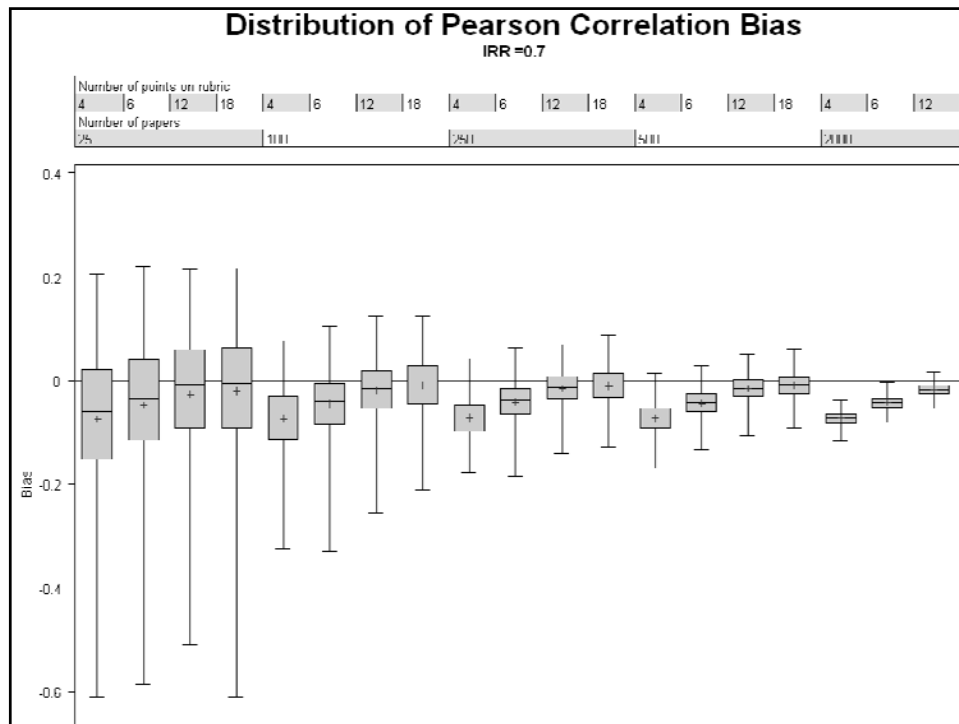
- Let simulated value of IRR =  $\rho$
- $E(\hat{\rho}) = \rho + \Delta$ , where  $\Delta$  = bias
- We're interested in  $\Delta$ !

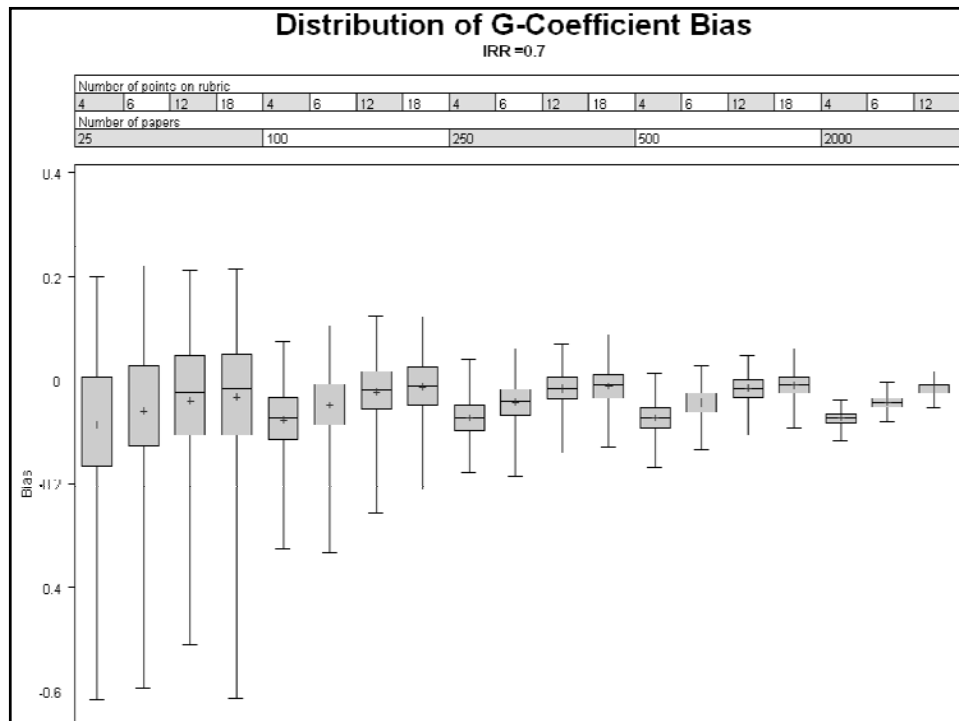
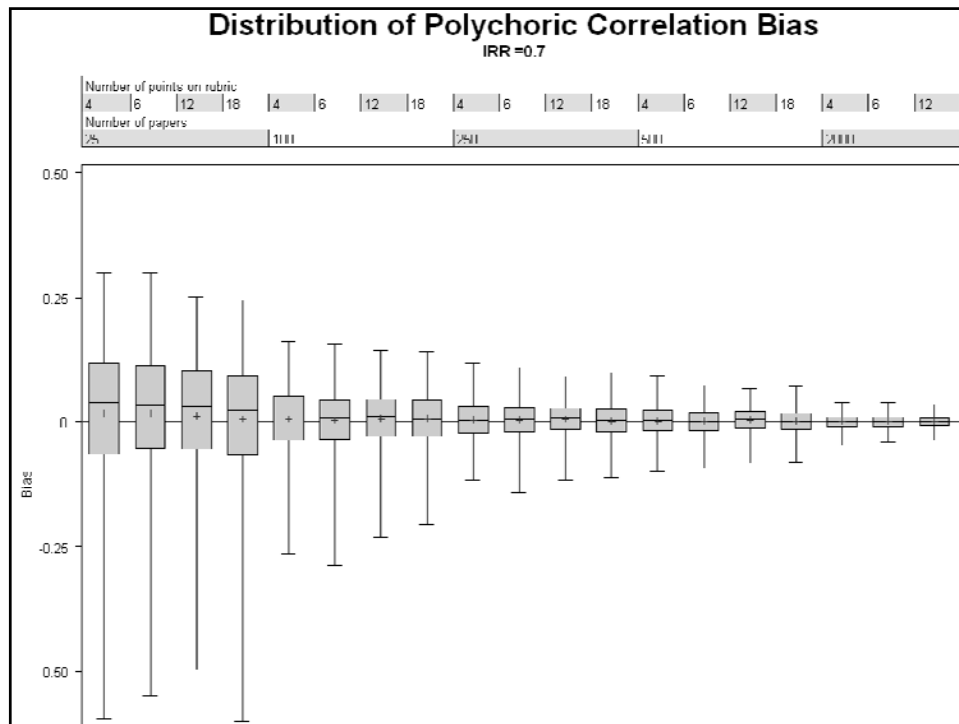
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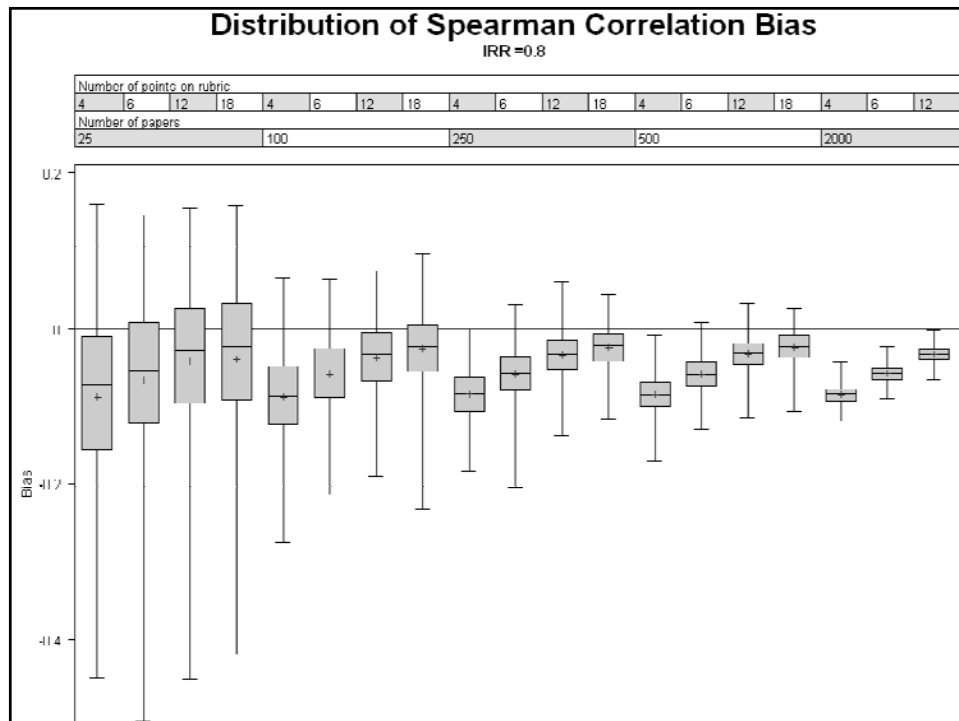
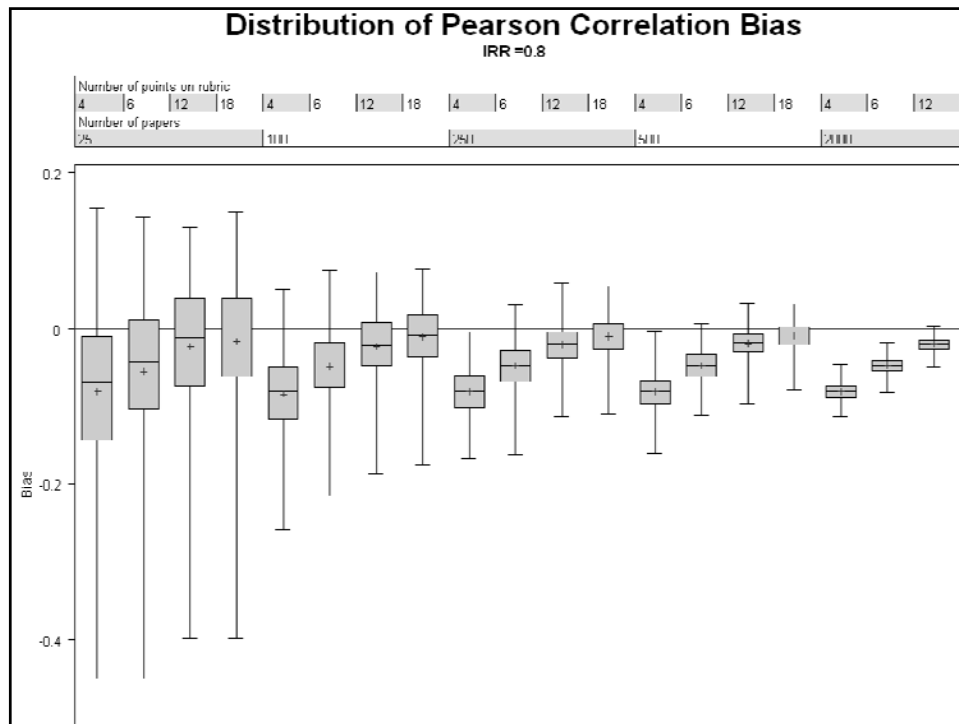
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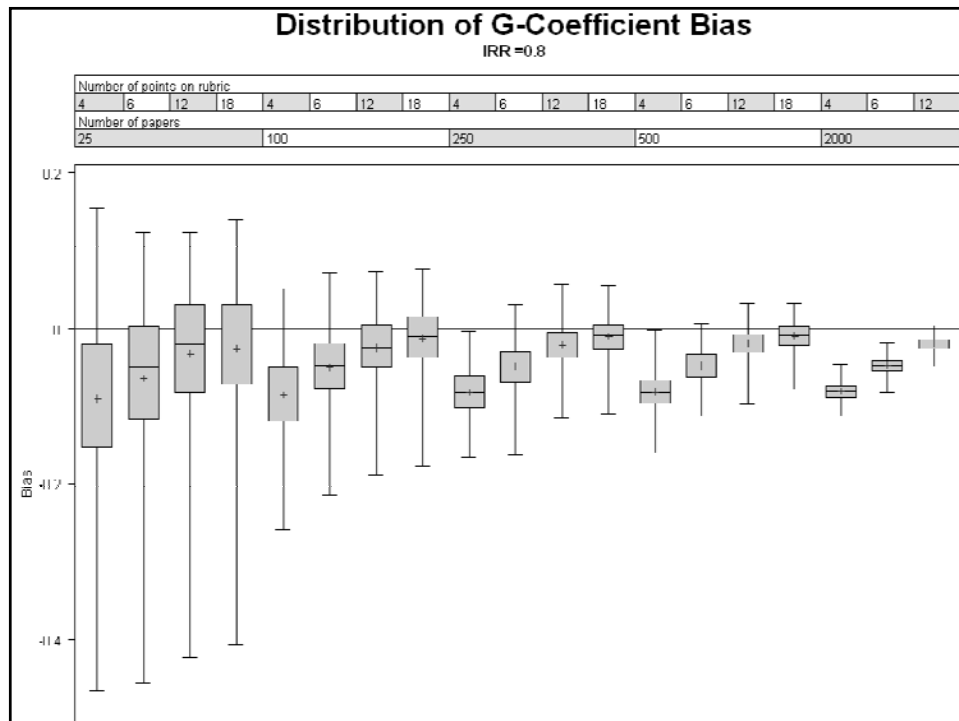
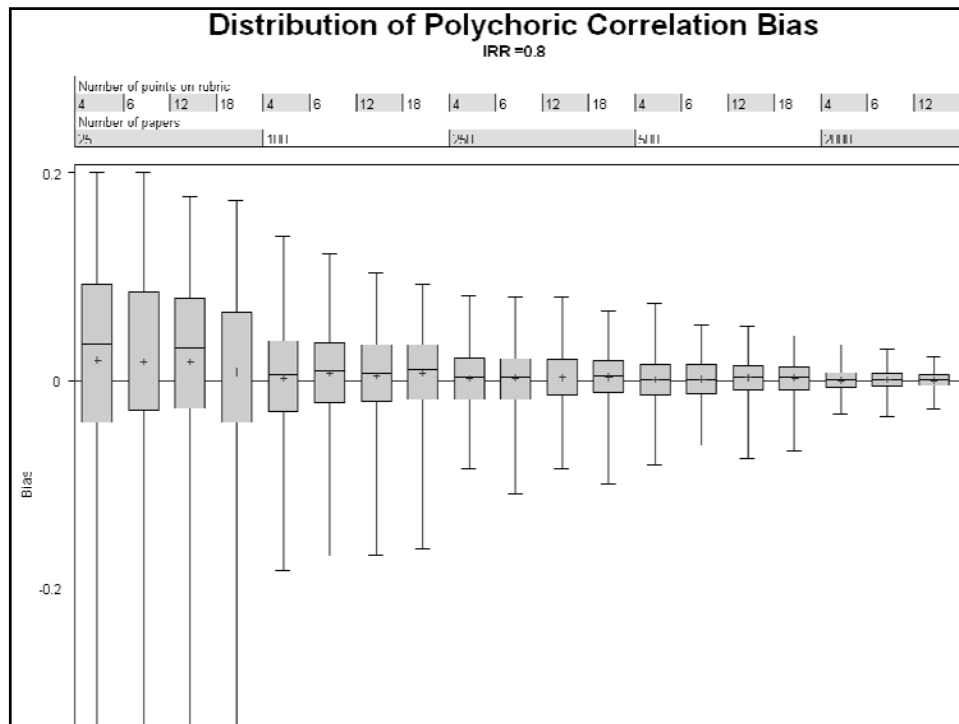


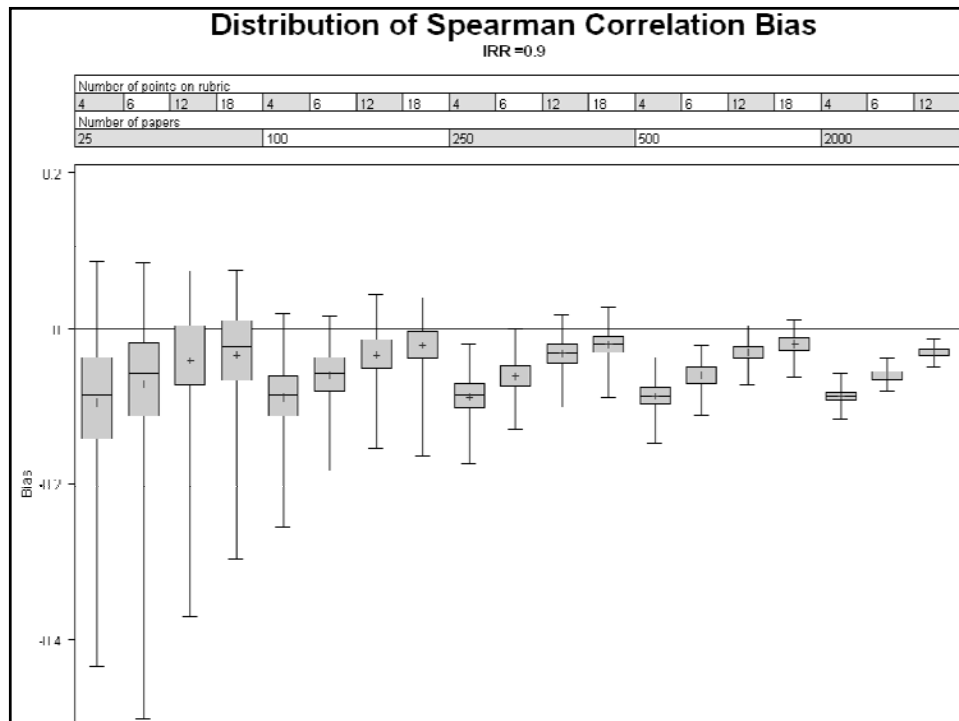
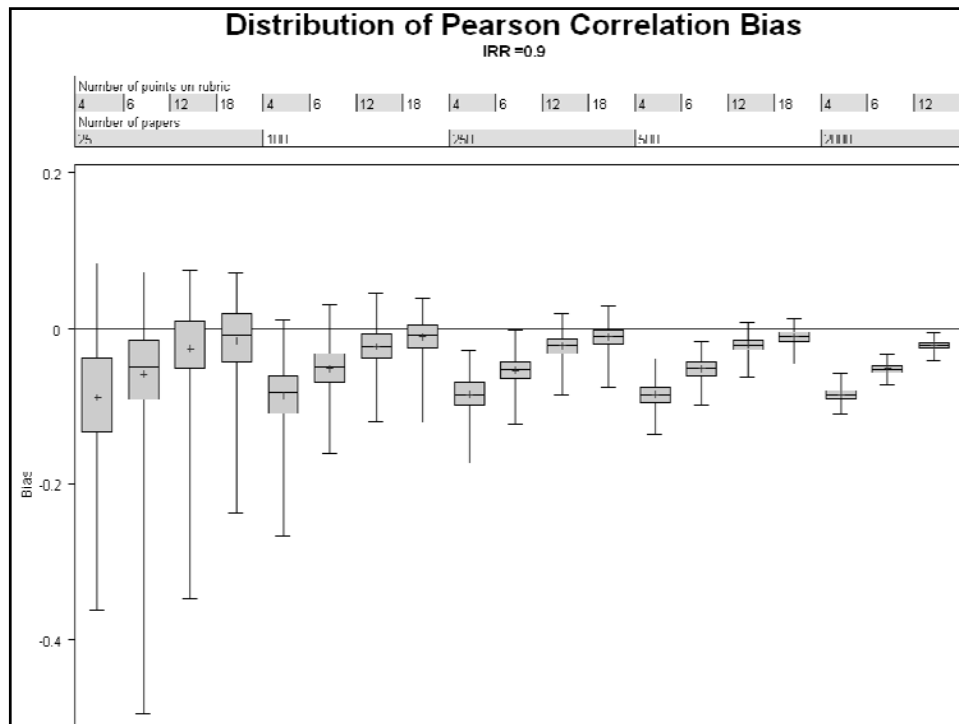


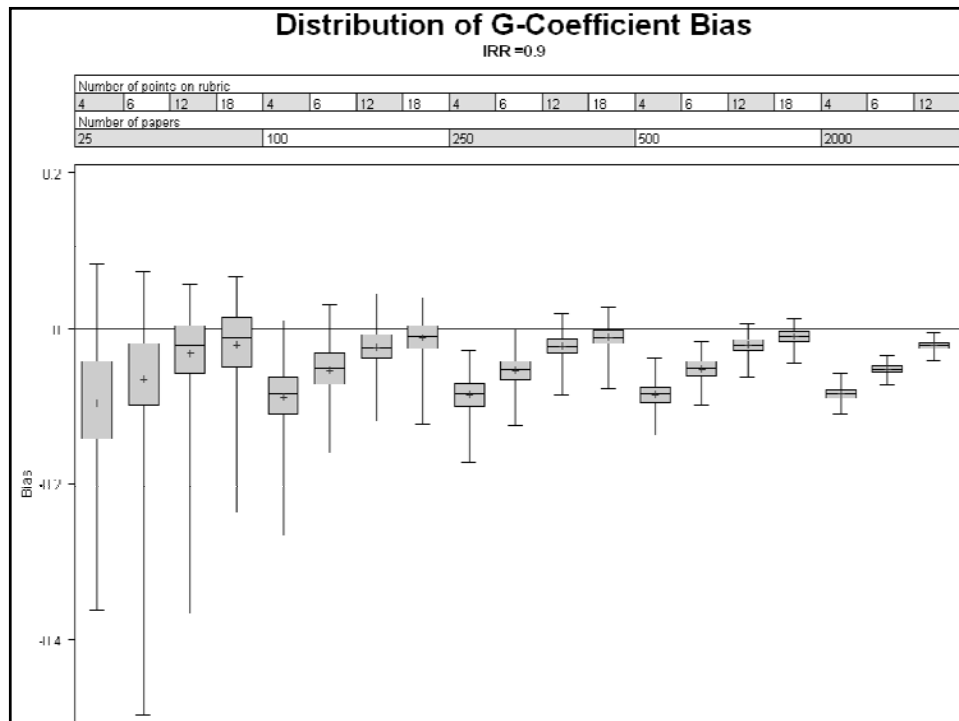
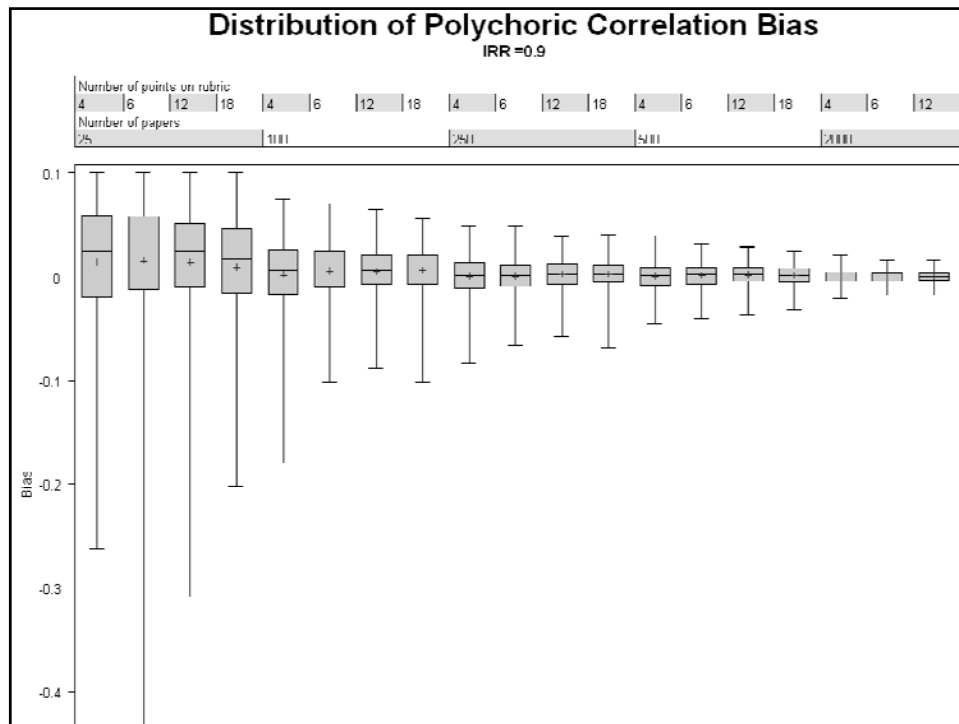












## Accuracy of Estimates

Estimate	Mean	SD	Median	Min	Max
Pearson	-.04	.05	-.03	-.63	.22
Spearman	-.05	.06	-.05	-.77	.22
Polychoric	.00	.05	.00	-.71	.30
G-Coeff.	-.04	.05	-.04	-.64	.22

On average, all estimates were very close to the simulated parameter

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## Which measure is “appropriate”?

- 1) Ease of communication
  - Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient
- 2) Alignment between analysis and data
  - Polychoric correlation coefficient
- 3) Accuracy of estimates
  - Polychoric correlation coefficient

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## Conclusions

- Estimates approach simulated parameter as the number of scale categories increase.
- Range of coefficients decreases only slightly as scale categories increase.
- All coefficients become more precise as numbers of papers increase.

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## Conclusions

- Pearson tended to underestimate reliability *across conditions*.
- Spearman tended to underestimate reliability *across conditions*.
- G-coefficient tended to underestimate reliability *across conditions*.
- Polychoric tended to overestimate reliability *when the number of papers is smaller*.

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## Two Questions Answered

### 1) Should I use scale augmentation?

*When feasible, yes. Scale augmentation provides estimates closer to the parameter although there is not a major benefit for polychoric correlation.*

### 2) How many papers (i.e., ratings) do I need to get good estimate of consistency?

*It depends on definition of "good" (i.e., one's desired level of confidence). Increasing the number of ratings increases precision. If one has a limited number of papers, polychoric correlation provides the least biased estimate on average.*

**NOTE:** These answers based on results of this simulation. Generalizations to other conditions are not possible.

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## To Calculate Reliability Coefficients

- ▶ Pearson, Spearman, and Polychoric correlation coefficients
  - This study used SAS PROC FREQ with the PLCORR option on the TABLE line.
  - Mplus, R, PRELIS, SPSS also provide these estimates.
- ▶ G-coefficients & Phi-coefficients
  - This study used SAS PROC GLM (VARCOMP is also available in SAS).
  - SPSS, MATLAB
  - Specialized software
    - GENOVA, EduG

## Using SAS PROC FREQ

- Set up data so each rater represents a column

	paper	rating1	rating2
1	1	3	2.67
2	2	3.67	3.67
3	3	3	3
4	4	2.67	2.33
5	5	2.67	3
6	6	3.33	3.33
7	7	3.33	3.33
8	8	3	2.67
9	9	4.67	4.33
10	10	4.33	4.33
11	11	4	4.67
12	12	3	3.67
13	13	3.33	3.33
14	14	4	4
15	15	1.67	2

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## Using SAS PROC FREQ

```

proc freq data=aeademo;
  table rating1*rating2 / plcorr;
run;

```

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## Using SAS PROC FREQ

The FREQ Procedure

Statistics for Table of rating1 by rating2

Statistic	Value	ASE
Gamma	0.9065	0.0313
Kendall's Tau-b	0.8121	0.0373
Stuart's Tau-c	0.7760	0.0451
Somers' D C R	0.8159	0.0389
Somers' D R C	0.8083	0.0376
Pearson Correlation	0.9187	0.0220
Spearman Correlation	0.9032	0.0303
Polychoric Correlation	0.9398	0.0201
Lambda Asymmetric C R	0.3500	0.0945
Lambda Asymmetric R C	0.3684	0.0783
Lambda Symmetric	0.3590	0.0766
Uncertainty Coefficient C R	0.5035	0.0447
Uncertainty Coefficient R C	0.5022	0.0439
Uncertainty Coefficient Symmetric	0.5028	0.0433

Sample Size = 50

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## Using PROC VARCOMP

- Set up data so every rating has its own row and is classified by paper and by rater

	paper	rater	rating
1	1	1	3
2	1	2	2.67
3	2	1	3.67
4	2	2	3.67
5	3	1	3
6	3	2	3
7	4	1	2.67
8	4	2	2.33
9	5	1	2.67
10	5	2	3

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## Using PROC VARCOMP

```
proc varcomp data=aeademo2;
  class paper rater;
  model rating=paper|rater;
run;
```

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## Using PROC VARCOMP

Variance Components Estimation Procedure			
Class Level Information			
Class	Levels	Values	
paper	50	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
rater	2	1 2	
Number of Observations Read			
Number of Observations Used			
100			
100			
MIVQUE(0) GSC Matrix			
Source			
	paper	rater	paper*rater
paper	196.00000	0	98.00000
rater	0	2500.0	50.00000
paper*rater	90.00000	50.00000	99.00000
Error	90.00000	50.00000	99.00000
MIVQUE(0) SSO Matrix			
Source	Error	rating	
paper	98.00000	1012.4	
rater	50.00000	0.50000	
paper*rater	99.00000	528.19000	
Error	99.00000	528.19000	
MIVQUE(0) Estimates			
Variance Component		rating	
Var(paper)		4.95102	
Var(rater)		-0.0085714	
Var(paper*rater)		0.43857	
Var(Error)		0	

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## Using PROC VARCOMP

- Using the estimates from previous slide to estimate the G coefficient for one rater:

$$G = \frac{\sigma_p^2}{\sigma_p^2 + \frac{\sigma_{p*r}^2}{k}} \quad G = \frac{4.95102}{4.95102 + \frac{0.43857}{2}} = .958$$

Using PROC GLM (and 37 lines of code):

The MEANS Procedure	
Analysis Variable : gencuef	
	Mean
	0.9575875

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## Future Research

- Need for more conditions
- Examinations of additional estimates
- Examine Winsorized distributions

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## For more information...

Grant Morgan – [morgang@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:morgang@mailbox.sc.edu)

Dr. Robert Johnson – [rjohnson@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:rjohnson@mailbox.sc.edu)

Min Zhu – [zhum@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:zhum@mailbox.sc.edu)

Vasanthi Rao – [raov@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:raov@mailbox.sc.edu)

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