



ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
PSYCHOLOGIE

Contribution ID: 226

Type: Posterpräsentation

An Extended Person-Item-Map for IRT Models

Monday, 5 September 2022 16:00 (1 hour)

Visualization is an important task in communicating the results of an IRT model. From the many available diagrams, the PImap (aka Wright-Map) is useful for many purposes: Utilizing the fact that in IRT item and person parameters share a common scale, it juxtaposes both parameter domains (top part: person parameter distribution; bottom part: item parameter localizations). Thus, it not only allows for identifying threshold disorders at a glimpse, it also shows how the two domains agree with respect to a given sample. The traditional form of the PImap (e.g., as provided by eRm or the WrightMap packages) uses points for item difficulty(RM)/threshold(PCM) parameters. The present contribution introduces an extended version of the PImap, drawing not only the parameter locations but adds many further useful information of each item. An R package will be provided, allowing for drawing the extended diagrams for all commonly used IRT packages of R.

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Session Classification: Postersession 1