

# Evaluating Multi-Item Scales

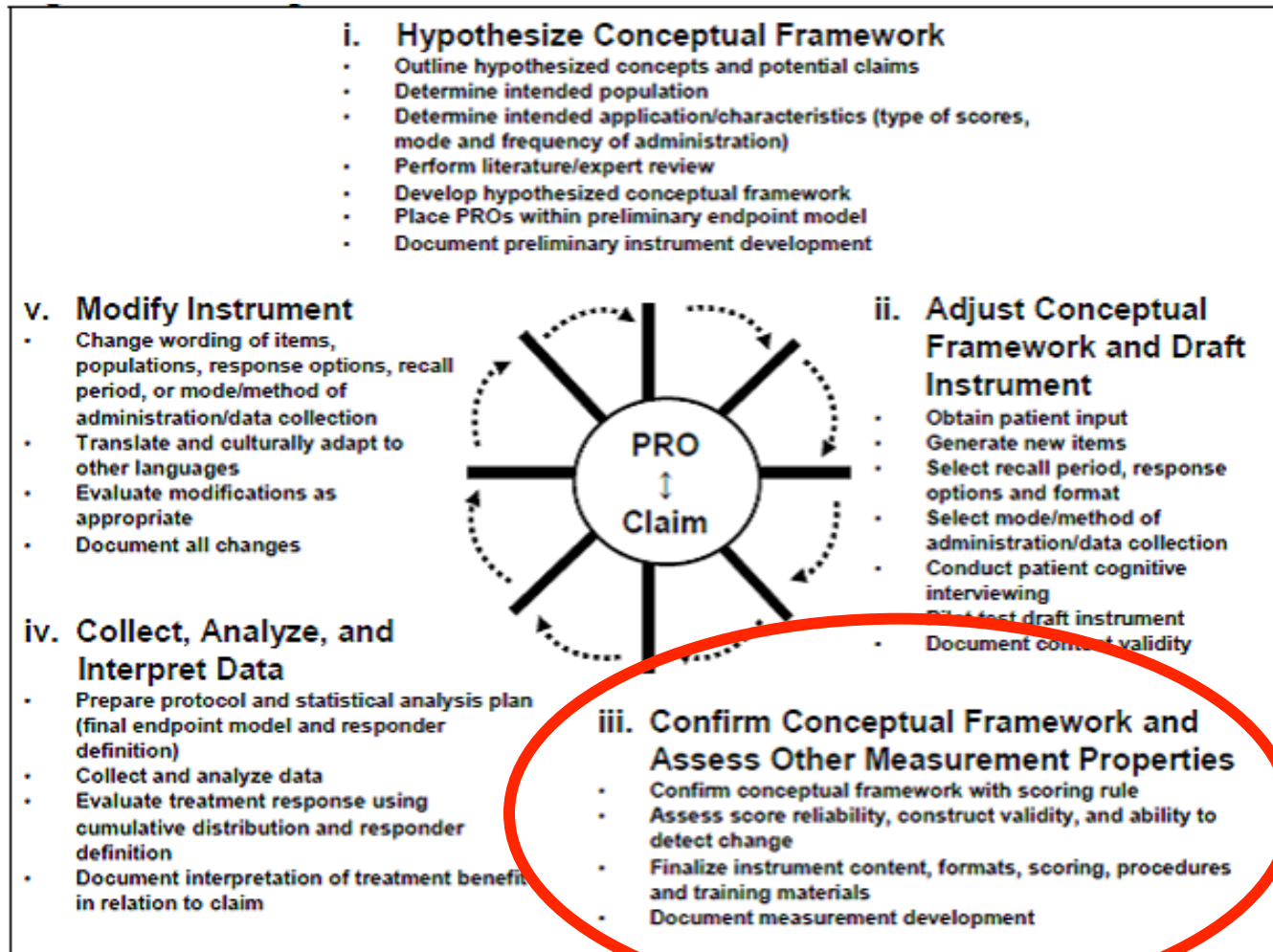


Health Services Research Design (HPM 225B)

January 25, 2016, 1:00-3:00pm

CHS 61-269

# Iterative Development



# Physical Functioning

- Ability to conduct a variety of activities ranging from self-care to running
- Predictor of
  - Hospitalizations, institutionalization, and mortality
- Six physical functioning items included in 2010 Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Medicare Survey

Because of a health or physical problem are you unable to do or have any difficulty doing the following activities?

- Walking?
  - Getting in or out of chairs?
  - Bathing?
  - Dressing?
  - Using the toilet?
  - Eating?
- 
- I am unable to do this activity (0)
  - Yes, I have difficulty (1)
  - No, I do not have difficulty (2)

# Medicare beneficiary sample (n = 366,701)

- 58% female
- 57% high school education or less
- 14% 18-64; 48% 65-74, 29% 75-84, 9% 85+



## **% of Medicare beneficiaries (n = 366,701) selecting each response option**

Item	Unable to do	Have difficulty	No difficulty
Walking	4	27	69
Chairs	3	19	78
Bathing	4	11	85
Dressing	3	9	88
Toileting	3	6	91
Eating	3	3	94

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# Item-Scale Correlations

Item	Item-Scale Correlations
Walking (0, 1, 2)	0.71
Chairs (0, 1, 2)	0.80
Bathing (0, 1, 2)	0.83
Dressing (0, 1, 2)	0.86
Toileting (0, 1, 2)	0.84
Eating (0, 1, 2)	0.75

Possible 6-item scale range: 0-12 (2% floor, 65% ceiling)



# Reliability

Degree to which the same score is obtained when the *target* or thing being measured (person, plant or whatever) has not changed.

- ✓ Internal consistency (items)
  - ✓ Need 2 or more items
- ✓ Test-retest (administrations) correlations
  - ✓ Need 2 or more time points

# Reliability

Model	Reliability	Intraclass Correlation
Two-way random	$\frac{N(MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS})}{NMS_{BMS} + MS_{JMS} - MS_{EMS}}$	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS} + (k - 1)MS_{EMS} + k(MS_{JMS} - MS_{EMS}) / N}$
Two-way mixed	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS}}$	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS} + (k - 1)MS_{EMS}}$
One-way	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{WMS}}{MS_{BMS}}$	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{WMS}}{MS_{BMS} + (k - 1)MS_{WMS}}$

BMS = Between Ratee Mean Square

WMS = Within Mean Square

JMS = Item or Rater Mean Square

EMS = Ratee x Item (Rater) Mean Square

N = n of ratees

k = n of items or raters

Alpha

# Reliability Formulas

Model	Reliability	Intraclass Correlation
Two-way random	$\frac{N(MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS})}{NMS_{BMS} + MS_{JMS} - MS_{EMS}}$	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS} + (k-1)MS_{EMS} + k(MS_{JMS} - MS_{EMS}) / N}$
Two-way mixed	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS}}$	$\frac{MS_{BMS} - MS_{EMS}}{MS_{BMS} + (k-1)MS_{EMS}}$
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BMS = Between Ratee Mean Square

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JMS = Item or Rater Mean Square

EMS = Ratee x Item (Rater) Mean Square

N = n of ratees

k = n of items or raters

# Internal Consistency Reliability (Coefficient Alpha)

- Coefficient alpha = 0.92

$$(MS_{bms} - MS_{ems})/MS_{bms}$$

- Ordinal alpha = 0.98

[http://support.sas.com/resources/papers/  
proceedings14/2042-2014.pdf](http://support.sas.com/resources/papers/proceedings14/2042-2014.pdf)

<http://gim.med.ucla.edu/FacultyPages/Hays/utils/>

# Item-scale correlation matrix ("Multi-trait Scaling")

	<u>Mobility</u>	<u>Basic</u>
<b>Walk</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Chairs</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Toilet</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Bathing</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.80*</b>
<b>Dress</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.80*</b>
<b>Eating</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.80*</b>



**\*Item-scale correlation, corrected for overlap.**

# Item-scale correlation matrix ("Multi-trait Scaling")

	<u>Mobility</u>	<u>Basic</u>
<b>Walk</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Chairs</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Toilet</b>	<b>0.80*</b>	<b>0.80</b>
<b>Bathing</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80*</b>
<b>Dress</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80*</b>
<b>Eating</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.80*</b>



**\*Item-scale correlation, corrected for overlap.**

# Item-scale correlation matrix ("Multi-trait Scaling")

	<u>Mobility</u>	<u>Basic</u>
Walk	0.74*	0.66
Chairs	0.81*	0.74
Toilet	0.69*	0.85
Bathing	0.78	0.82*
Dress	0.79	0.87*
Eating	0.70	0.74*



**\*Item-scale correlation, corrected for overlap.**

# Item Response Theory (IRT)

IRT models the relationship between a person's response  $Y_i$  to the question (i) and his or her level of the latent construct ( $\theta$ ) being measured by positing

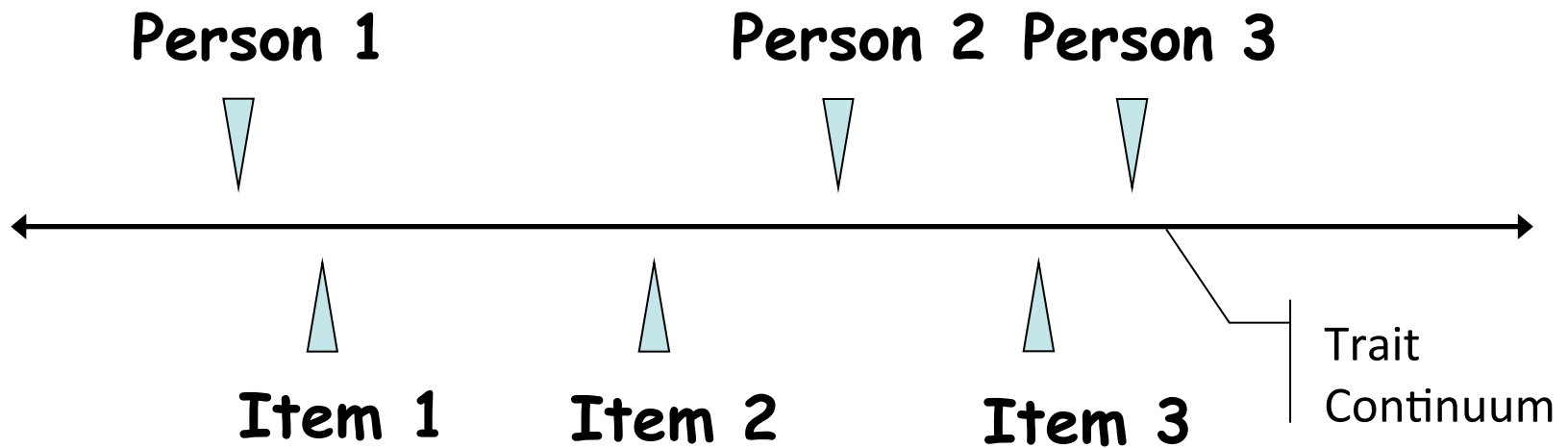
$$\Pr(Y_i \geq k) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-a_i \theta + b_{ik})}$$

$b_{ik}$  estimates how difficult it is to have a score of k or more on item (i).

$a_i$  estimates the discriminatory power of the item.

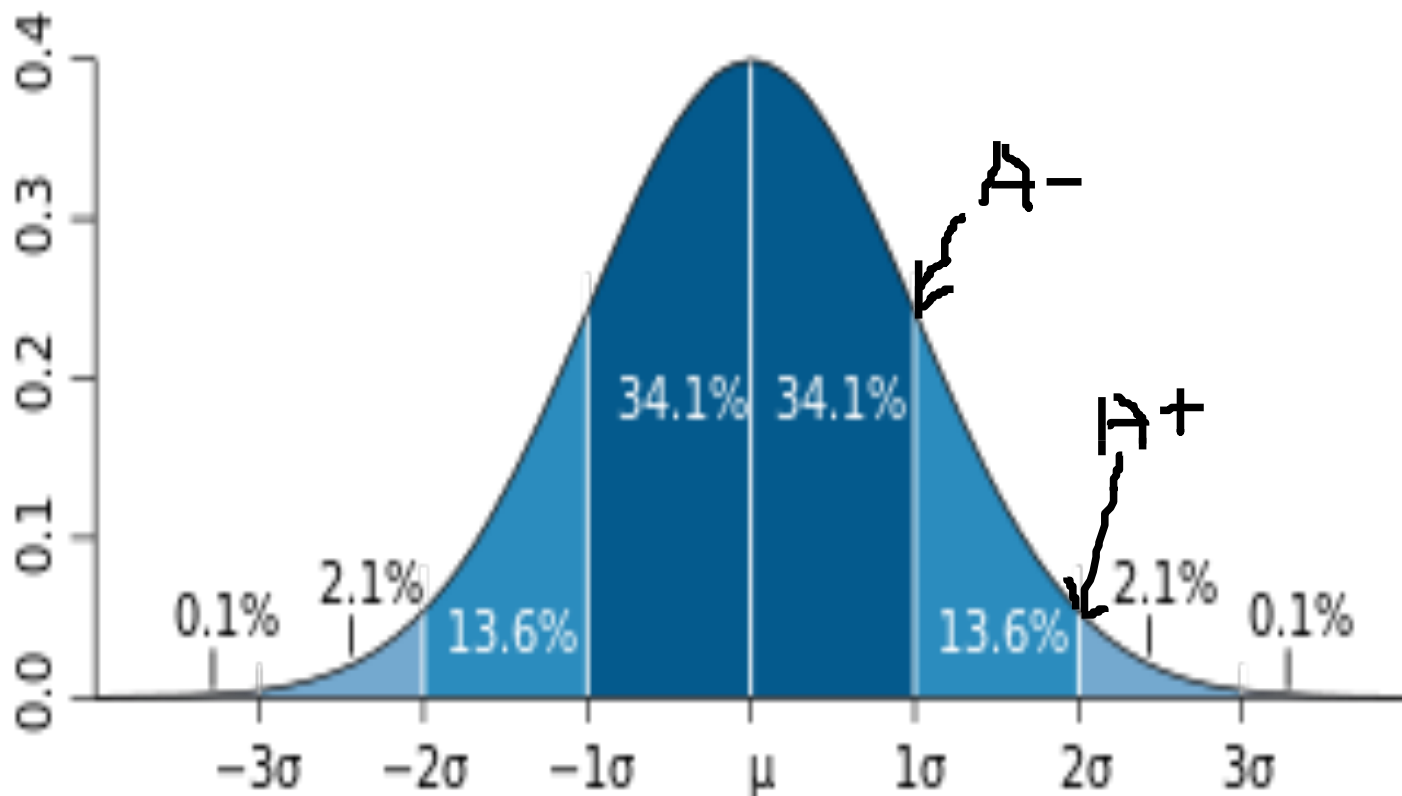


# Item Responses and Trait Levels



# Normal Curve (bell-shaped)

$z = -1$  to  $1$  (68.2%);  $z = -2$  to  $2$  (95.4%);  $z = -3$  to  $3$  (99.6%)



## % of Medicare beneficiaries (n = 366,701) selecting each response option

Item	Unable to do 0	Have difficulty 1	No difficulty 2
Walking	4	27	69
Chairs	3	19	78
Bathing	4	11	85
Dressing	3	9	88
Toileting	3	6	91
Eating	3	3	94

## First Threshold

Item	Unable to do	Have difficulty	No difficulty
Walking	4	27	69
Chairs	3	19	78
Bathing	4	11	85
Dressing	3	9	88
Toileting	3	6	91
Eating	3	3	94

## Second Threshold

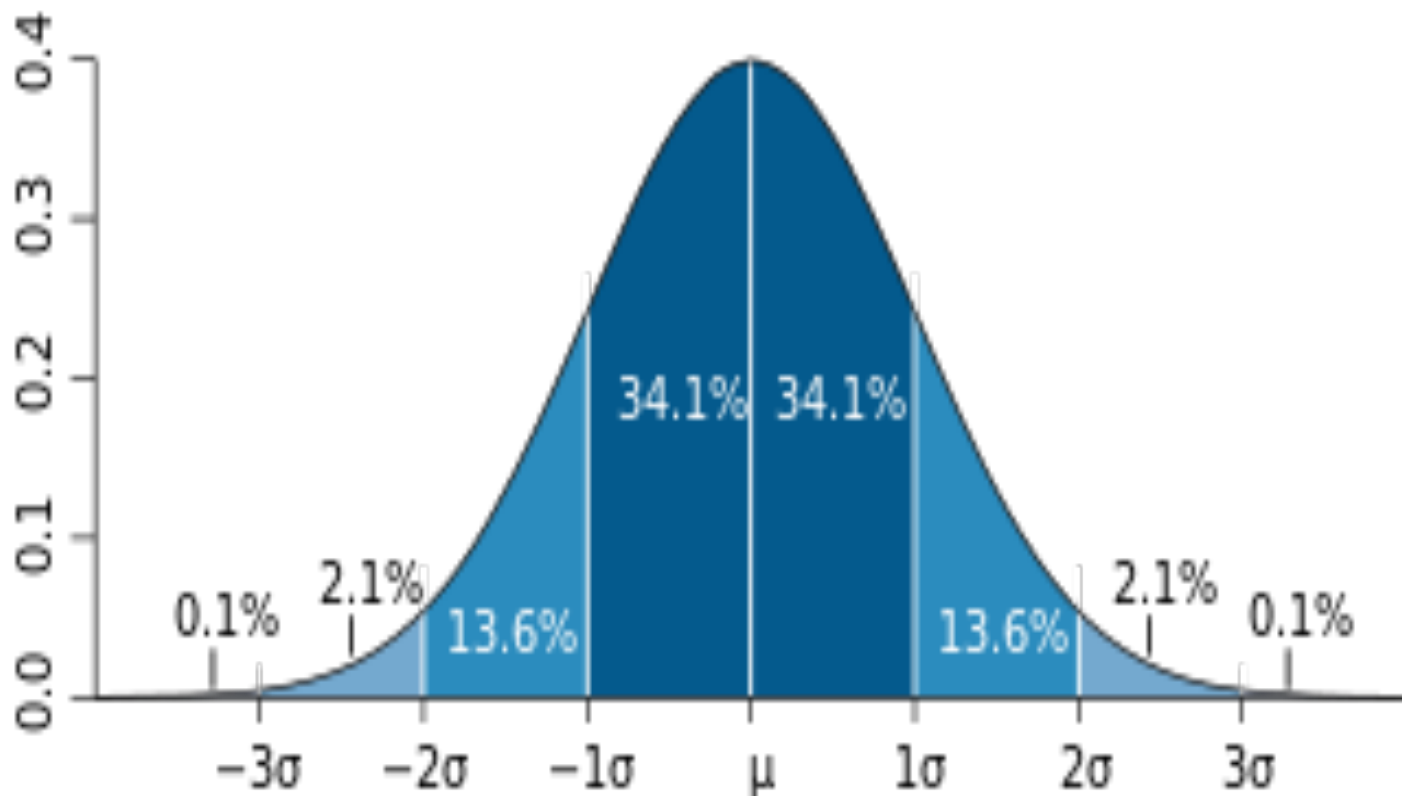
Item	Unable to do	Have difficulty	No difficulty
Walking	4	27	69
Chairs	3	19	78
Bathing	4	11	85
Dressing	3	9	88
Toileting	3	6	91
Eating	3	3	94

# Threshold #1 Parameter (Graded Response Model)

Physical Functioning	1 <sup>st</sup> Threshold <i>Unable to do</i>
Walking	-1.86
Chairs	-1.91
Bathing	-1.72
Dressing	-1.78
Toileting	-1.87
Eating	-1.98

# Normal Curve (bell-shaped)

*$z = -1$  to  $1$  (68.2%);  $z = -2$  to  $2$  (95.4%);  $z = -3$  to  $3$  (99.6%)*



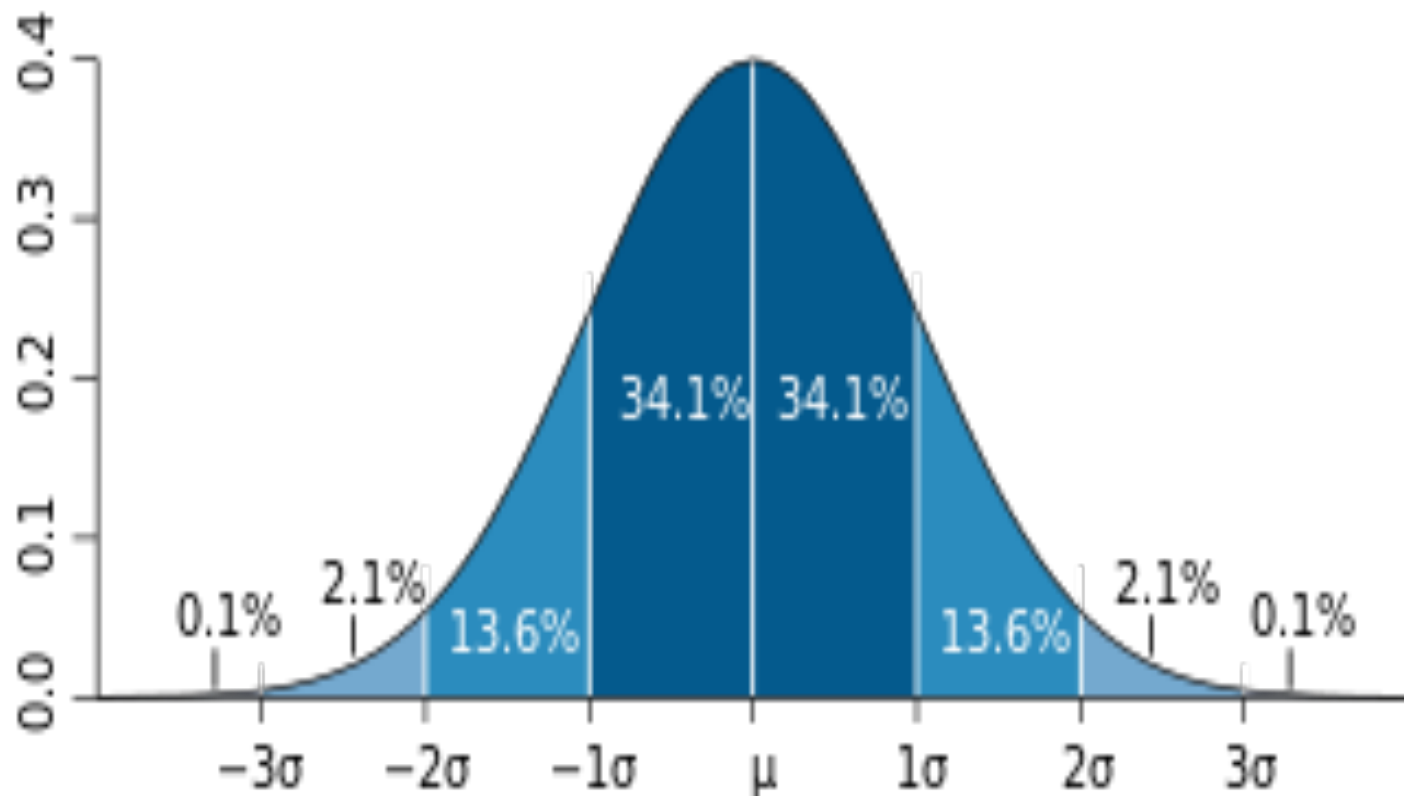
# Threshold #2 Parameter (Graded Response Model)

Physical Functioning		2 <sup>nd</sup> Threshold <i>Unable to do or have difficulty</i>
Walking		-0.55
Chairs		-0.81
Bathing		-1.02
Dressing		-1.10
Toileting		-1.27
Eating		-1.53



# Normal Curve (bell-shaped)

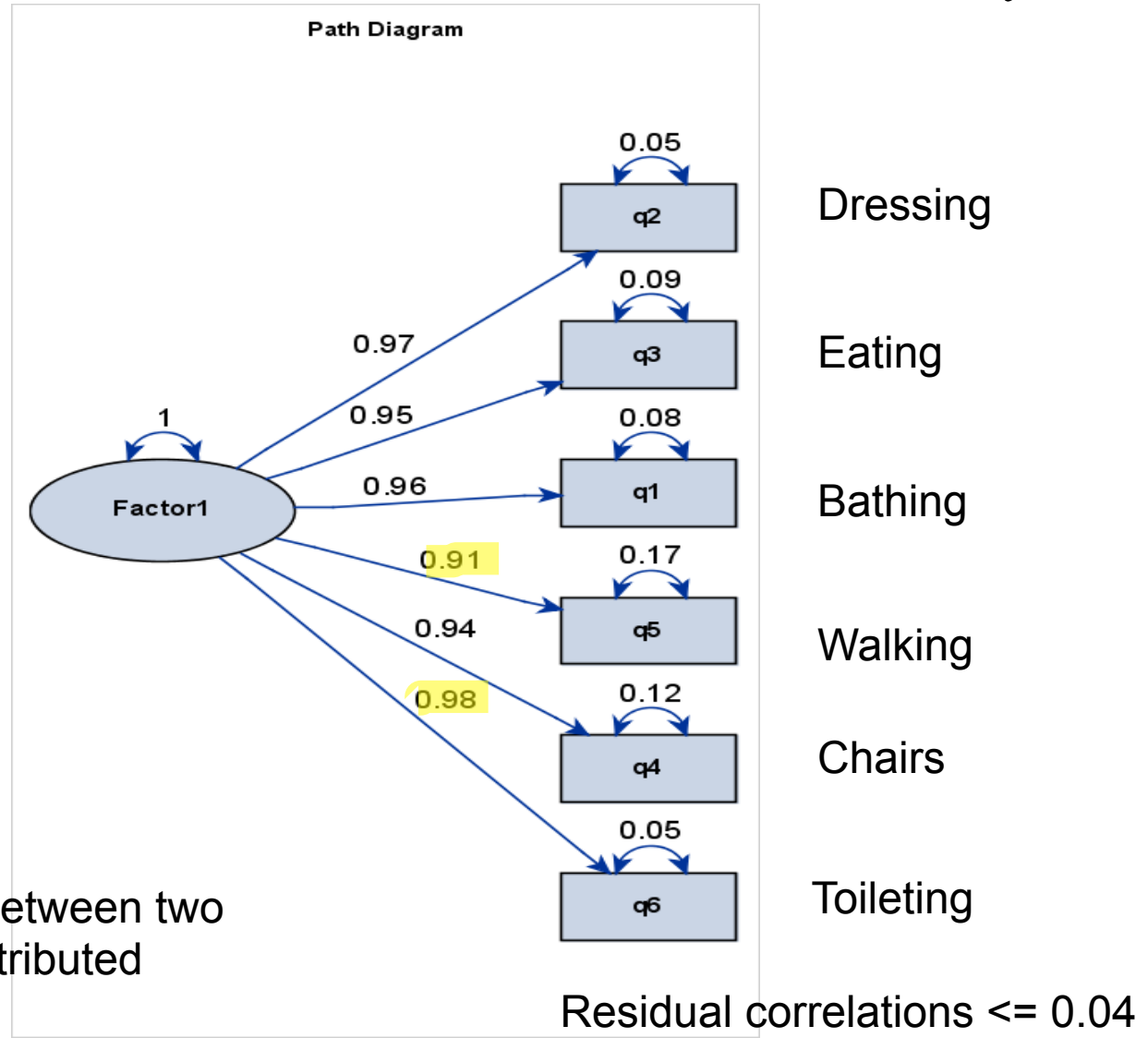
*$z = -1$  to  $1$  (68.2%);  $z = -2$  to  $2$  (95.4%);  $z = -3$  to  $3$  (99.6%)*



# Item Parameters (Graded Response Model)

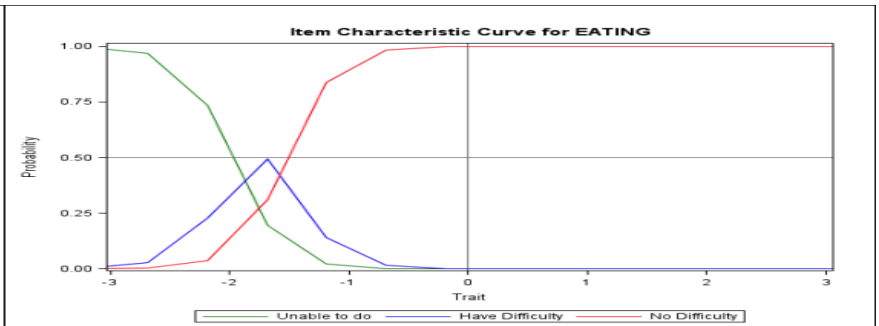
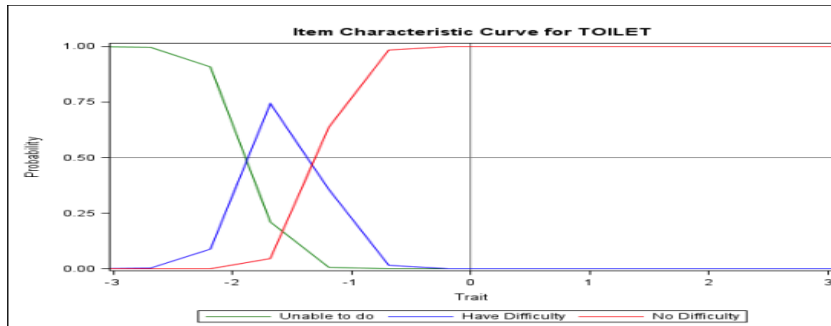
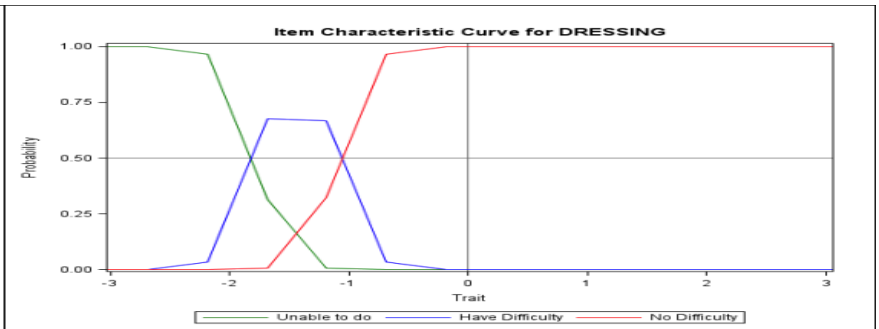
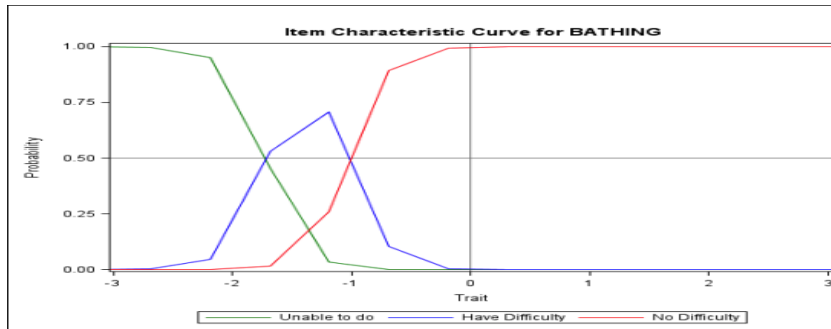
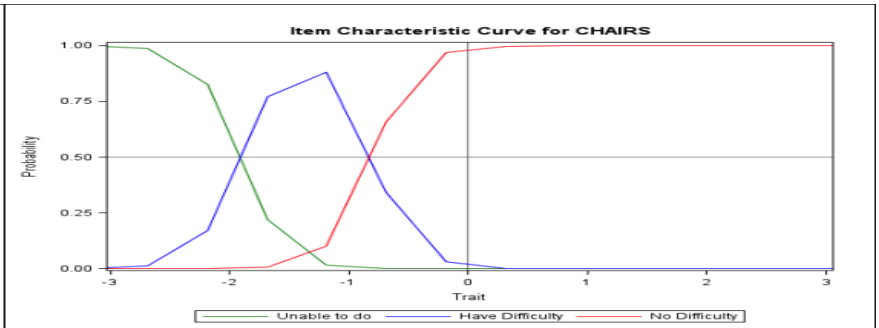
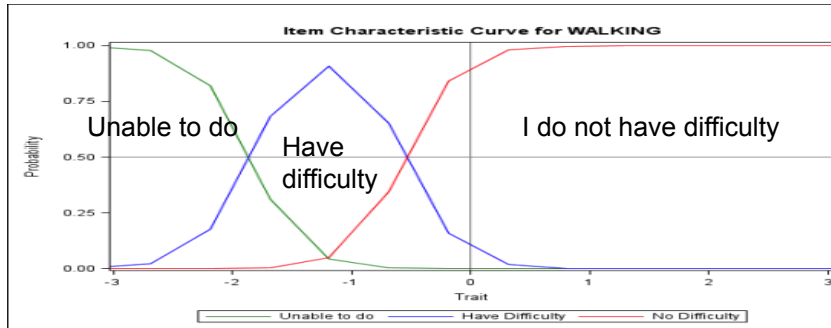
Physical Functioning	1 <sup>st</sup> Threshold <i>Unable to do</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Threshold <i>Have difficulty</i>	Slope (Discrimination)
Walking	-1.86	-0.55	4.63
Chairs	-1.91	-0.81	5.65
Bathing	-1.72	-1.02	6.34
Dressing	-1.78	-1.10	8.23
Toileting	-1.87	-1.27	7.23
Eating	-1.98	-1.53	4.87

# Confirmatory Factor Analysis (Polychoric\* Correlations)

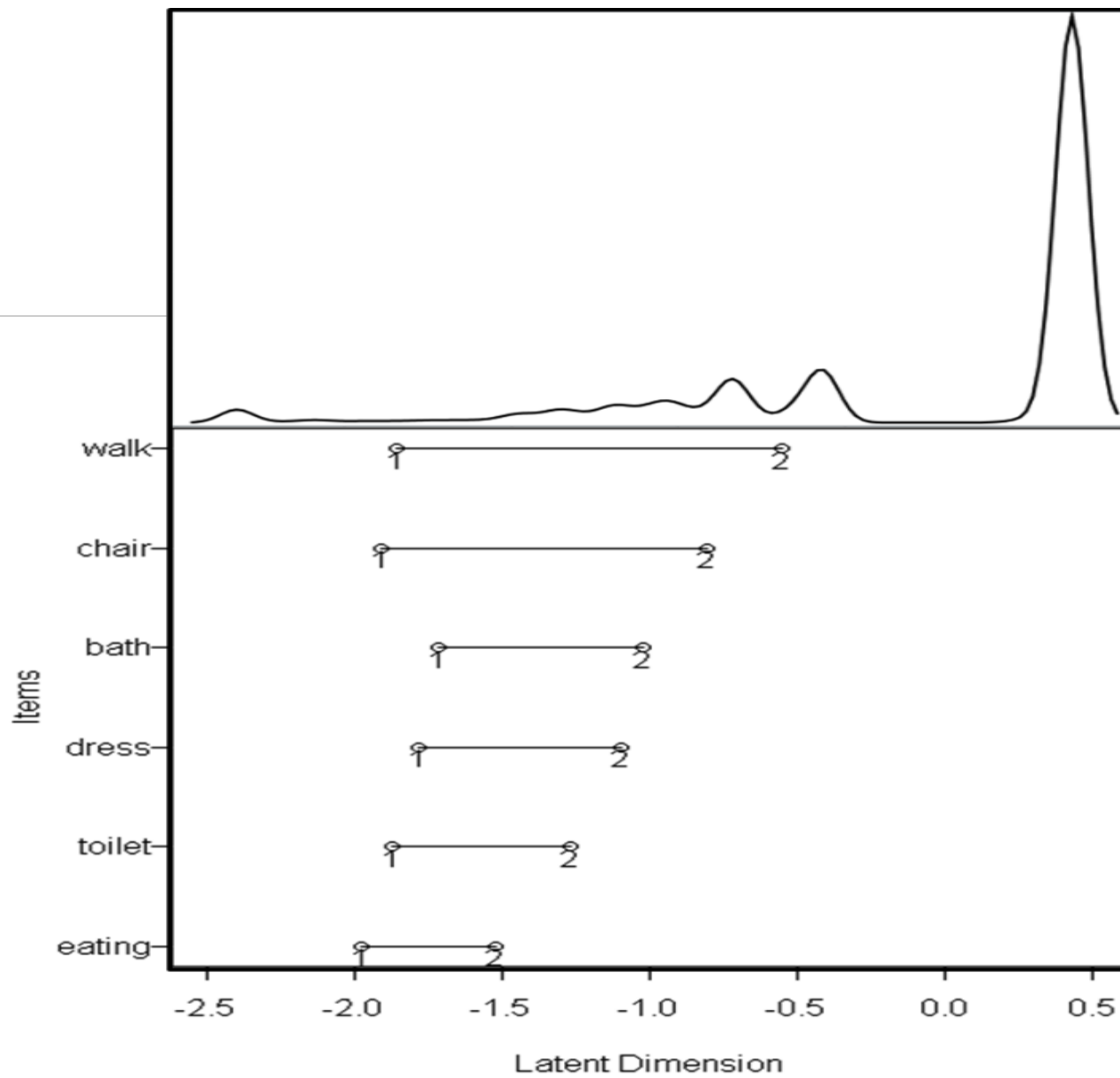


\* Estimated correlation between two underlying normally distributed continuous variables

# Item Characteristic Curves

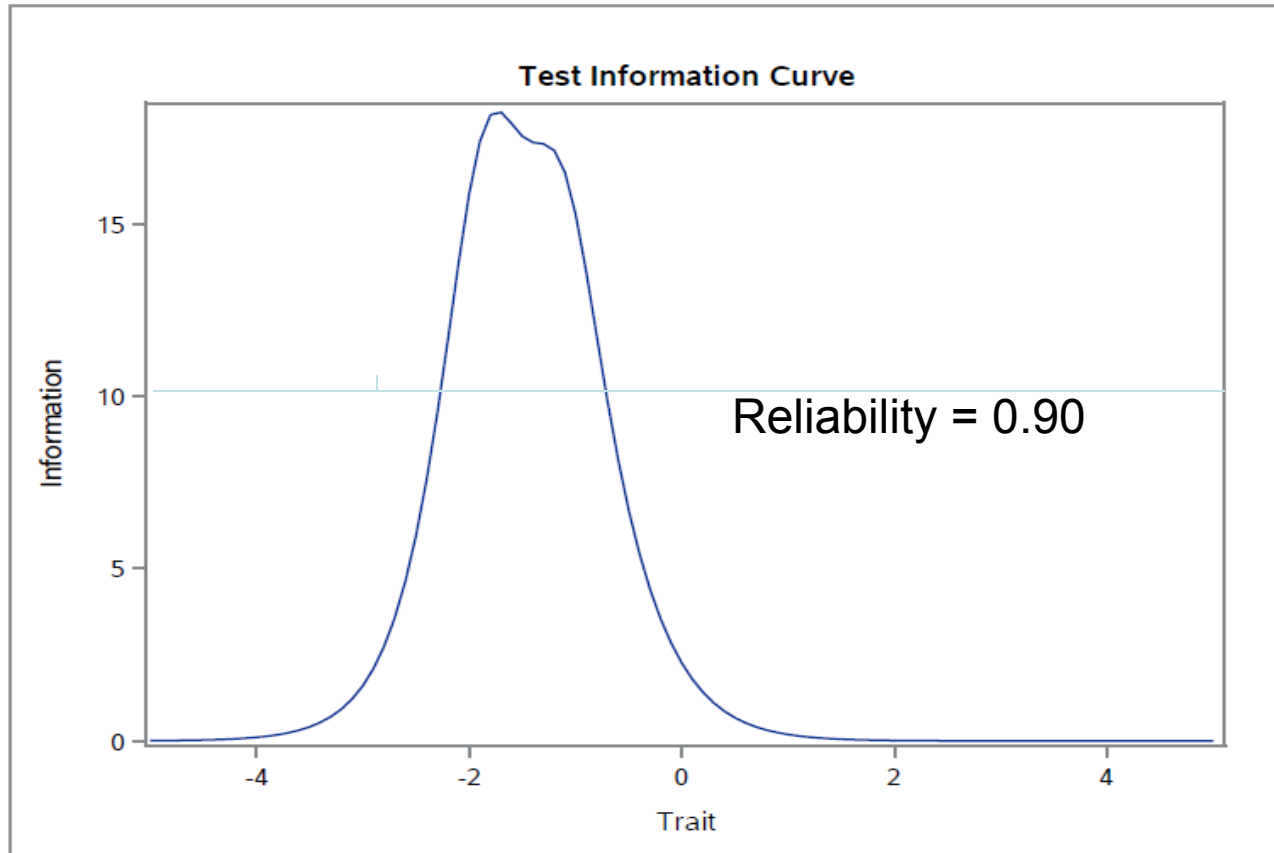


**Figure 2. Person-Item Map**



$$\text{Reliability} = (\text{Info} - 1) / \text{Info}$$

The IRT Procedure



# Validity

- Content validity: Does measure “appear” to reflect what it is intended to (expert judges or patient judgments)?
  - Do items operationalize concept?
  - Do items cover all aspects of concept?
  - Does scale name represent item content?
- Construct validity
  - Are the associations of the measure with other variables consistent with hypotheses?

# Physical Function Scale Correlations

$r = 0.39$  (self-rated general health)

$r = -0.23$  (number of chronic conditions)

Cohen's rule of thumb for correlations that correspond to effect size rules of 0.20 SD, 0.50 SD and 0.80 SD are as follows:

0.100 is small correlation

0.243 is medium correlation

0.371 is large correlation

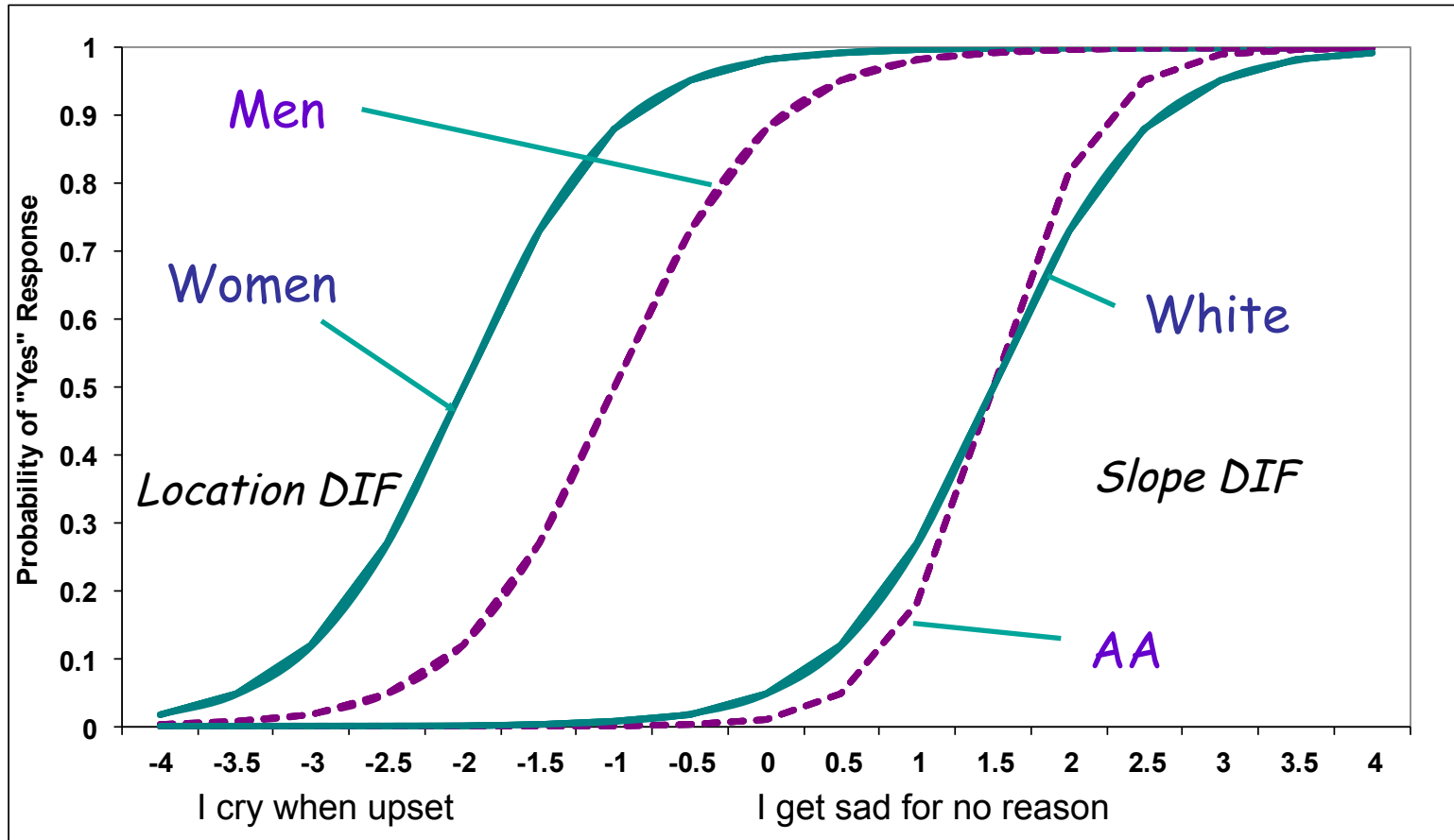
(r's of 0.10, 0.30 and 0.50 are often cited as small, medium and large, respectively).



# Differential Item Functioning (DIF)

- Probability of choosing each response category should be the same for those who have the same estimated scale score, regardless of other characteristics
- Evaluation of DIF by subgroups

# DIF (2-parameter model)



Higher Score = More Depressive Symptoms

# Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)



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of State Boards of Nursing, Inc.**



# Reliability Target for Use of Measures with Individuals

- Reliability ranges from 0-1
  - 0.90 or above is goal
- $SE = SD (1 - \text{reliability})^{1/2}$
- $\text{Reliability} = 1 - (SE/10)^2$ 
  - Reliability = 0.90 when SE = 3.2
  - 95% CI = true score +/- 1.96 x SE

# In the past 7 days ...

I was grouchy [1<sup>st</sup> question]

- |             |      |
|-------------|------|
| - Never     | [39] |
| - Rarely    | [48] |
| - Sometimes | [56] |
| - Often     | [64] |
| - Always    | [72] |

Estimated Anger = 56.1

SE = 5.7 (rel. = 0.68)

# In the past 7 days ...

I felt like I was ready to explode

[2<sup>nd</sup> question]

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Estimated Anger = 51.9

SE = 4.8 (rel. = 0.77)

# In the past 7 days ...

I felt angry [3<sup>rd</sup> question]

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Estimated Anger = 50.5

SE = 3.9 (rel. = 0.85)

# In the past 7 days ...

I felt angrier than I thought I should

[4<sup>th</sup> question]

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Estimated Anger = 48.8

SE = 3.6 (rel. = 0.87)



# In the past 7 days ...

I felt annoyed [5<sup>th</sup> question]

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Estimated Anger = 50.1

SE = 3.2 (rel. = 0.90)

# In the past 7 days ...

I made myself angry about something just by thinking about it. [6<sup>th</sup> question]

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

Estimated Anger = 50.2

SE = 2.8 (rel = 0.92) (95% CI: 44.7-55.7)

# Recommended Reading

- Cappelleri, J. C., Lundy, J.J., & Hays, R. D. (2014). Overview of classical test theory and item response theory for quantitative assessment of items in developing patient-reported outcome measures. Clinical Therapeutics, 36 (5), 648-662

# Thank You!



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