Contribution ID: **171** Type: **Oral Presentation**

An extensive evaluation of the stochastic countdown

Wednesday 23 July 2025 18:15 (15 minutes)

Abstract

The countdown method (CM, Ben-Porath et al., 1989) and its stochastic extension (SC, Finkelman et al., 2012), have been shown to be very cheap but valuable additions to the field of variable-length classification testing, which is dominated by methods based on psychometric models (Thompson, 2007). In this simulation study CM and SC are extensively studied under a series of varying factors such as calibration sample size, number of items, distributional shape of sum scores, location of decision threshold, inter-item correlations and sum score reliability. Preliminary rules for minimal requirements are suggested.

References

Ben-Porath, Y. S., Slutske, W. S., & Butcher, J. N. (1989). A real-data simulation of computerized adaptive administration of the MMPI. Psychological Assessment: A Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1(1), 18.

Finkelman, M. D., Smits, N., Kim, W., & Riley, B. (2012). Curtailment and stochastic curtailment to shorten the CES-D. Applied Psychological Measurement, 36, 632–658.

Thompson, N. A. (2007). A practitioner's guide for variable-length computerized classification testing. Practical Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, 12(1), 1–12.

Primary author: SMITS, Niels (University of Amsterdam)

Presenter: SMITS, Niels (University of Amsterdam)

Session Classification: Session 17 : "Sampling and Responses in experience sampling studies"

Track Classification: Measurement: Measurement