Laboratory 06

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1 Quick reply on the feedback of Lab 5

I just realized how *sh*t* I actually knew about regression before (as Figure 1 shows). I'll be revising my work next week since I got caught up with multiple deadlines from my advisor[1].

I'm dying.

1.1 About the `web doc`

I've open-sourced all the labs, including questions and solutions, on my GitHub repository. Unlike PDFs, the web version can be updated at any time — even after it's published. The flexibility of HTML may reflects the evolving way we produce knowledge in academia.

[1] So did you finally have lunch with him?.

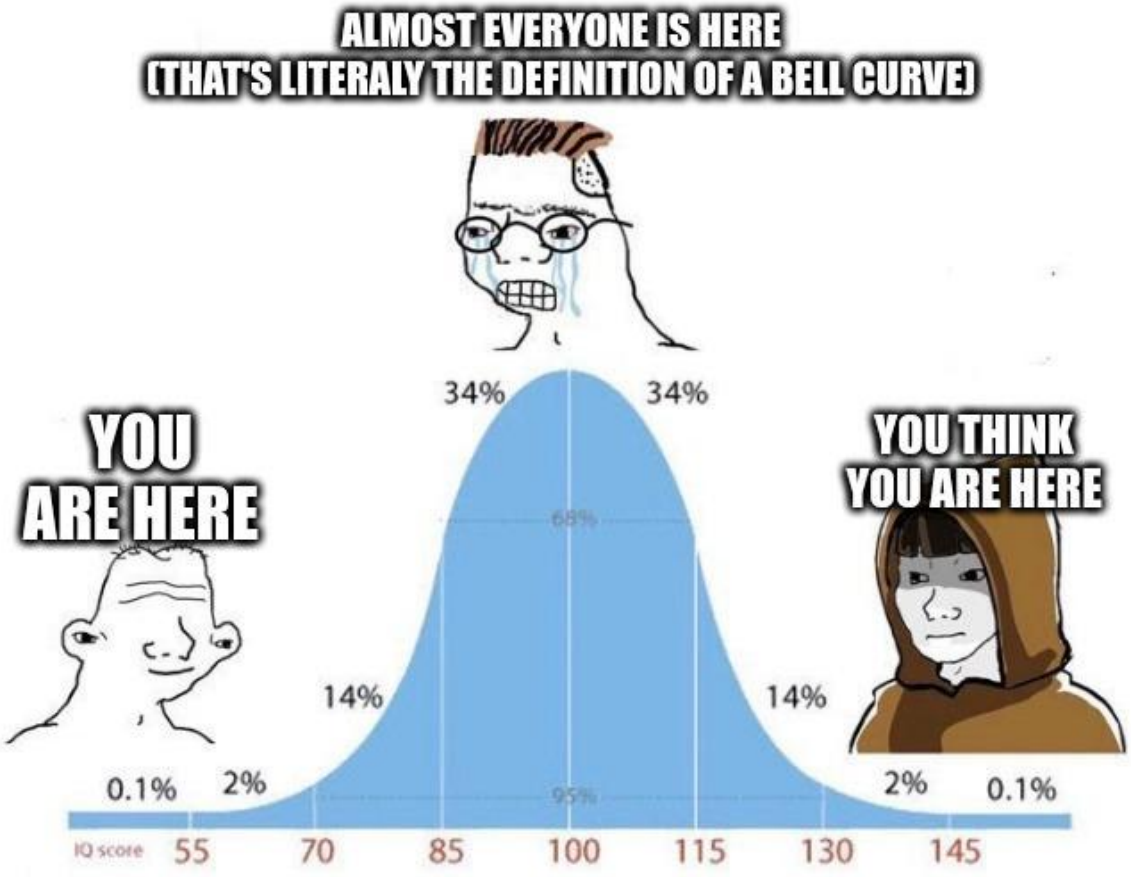

Figure 1: I think I was here.

2 Context

An instructor of EDUC8009 noticed that a lot of students became very stressed about this course, so he designed a questionnaire to measure their fear of statistics. Each item was a statement followed by a five-point Likert scale:

1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree.

Note that only item 2 is reverse-scored. The data are saved in `fear.sav`.

3 Objectives

1. Compute Cronbach's alpha of all the items but item 2. Is the reliability high?
2. If you can delete an item to improve the scale, which item will you delete? Why?
3. To compute Cronbach's alpha of all the items, we need recode item 2 first. Describe the distribution of the new variable you just generated.
4. Compute Cronbach's alpha of all the items in the scale.

4 Solutions

4.1 Talk is cheap. Let's face the `fear`.

```
import pandas as pd
import pyreadstat

fear_df = pd.read_spss('./datasets/fear.sav', convert_categoricals=False)
fear_questions = pyreadstat.read_sav('./datasets/fear.sav')[1].column_labels
```

```
# List all questions asked.
def list_questions():
    n=1
    for question in fear_questions:
        print(f'Q{n}: {question}')
        n += 1

list_questions()
```

```
Q1: Statistics makes me cry
Q2: Standard deviations excite me
Q3: I dream that Pearson is attacking me with correlation coefficients
Q4: I don't understand statistics
Q5: People try to tell you that SPSS makes statistics easier to understand but it doesn't
Q6: I weep openly at the mention of central tendency
Q7: I can't sleep for thoughts of effect sizes
Q8: I wake up under my duvet thinking that I am trapped under a normal distribution
```

```

# Shape of the 'fear'
print(f'Rows vs Columns: ', fear_df.shape)

# Columns include in this dataset
print(f'Name of columns: ', fear_df.columns)

# Describe it!
print(f'Description: \n', fear_df.describe())
```

```
Rows vs Columns:  (2571, 8)
Name of columns:  Index(['Q1', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4', 'Q5', 'Q6', 'Q7', 'Q8'], dtype='object')
```

```
Description:
                Q1           Q2           Q3           Q4           Q5  \
count  2571.000000  2571.000000  2571.000000  2571.000000  2571.000000
mean      3.483469     3.481136     3.471023     3.465189     3.494360
std       0.986297     0.990585     0.994262     1.000707     0.981674
min       1.000000     1.000000     1.000000     1.000000     1.000000
25%       3.000000     3.000000     3.000000     3.000000     3.000000
50%       4.000000     4.000000     3.000000     3.000000     4.000000
75%       4.000000     4.000000     4.000000     4.000000     4.000000
max       5.000000     5.000000     5.000000     5.000000     5.000000

                Q6           Q7           Q8
count  2571.000000  2571.000000  2571.000000
mean      3.473357     3.498639     3.475690
std       0.982913     0.998588     0.978212
min       1.000000     1.000000     1.000000
25%       3.000000     3.000000     3.000000
50%       3.000000     4.000000     4.000000
75%       4.000000     4.000000     4.000000
max       5.000000     5.000000     5.000000
```

Wait, $N = 2571$? The entire FED doesn't even have this many students!

I then plotted the Likert-scale (see Figure 2) to see the distribution of everyone's fear:

```
# Better to visualize the data:

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import plot_likert

fear_scales = range(1,6)
fear_scales_labels = ['Strongly Disagree', 'Disagree', 'Neither', 'Agree', 'Strongly
↪  agree']
fear_plot = plot_likert.plot_likert(fear_df, fear_scales, plot_percentage=True)
handles, labels = fear_plot.get_legend_handles_labels()
fear_plot.legend(handles, fear_scales_labels, bbox_to_anchor=(1.0, 1.0))
plt.show()
```

```
/home/rshen/miniconda3/envs/educ8009/lib/python3.10/site-packages/plot_likert/plot_likert.py:257: Fu
  df.applymap(validate)
/home/rshen/miniconda3/envs/educ8009/lib/python3.10/site-packages/plot_likert/plot_likert.py:310: Fu
  responses_to_first_question = responses_per_question[0]
```

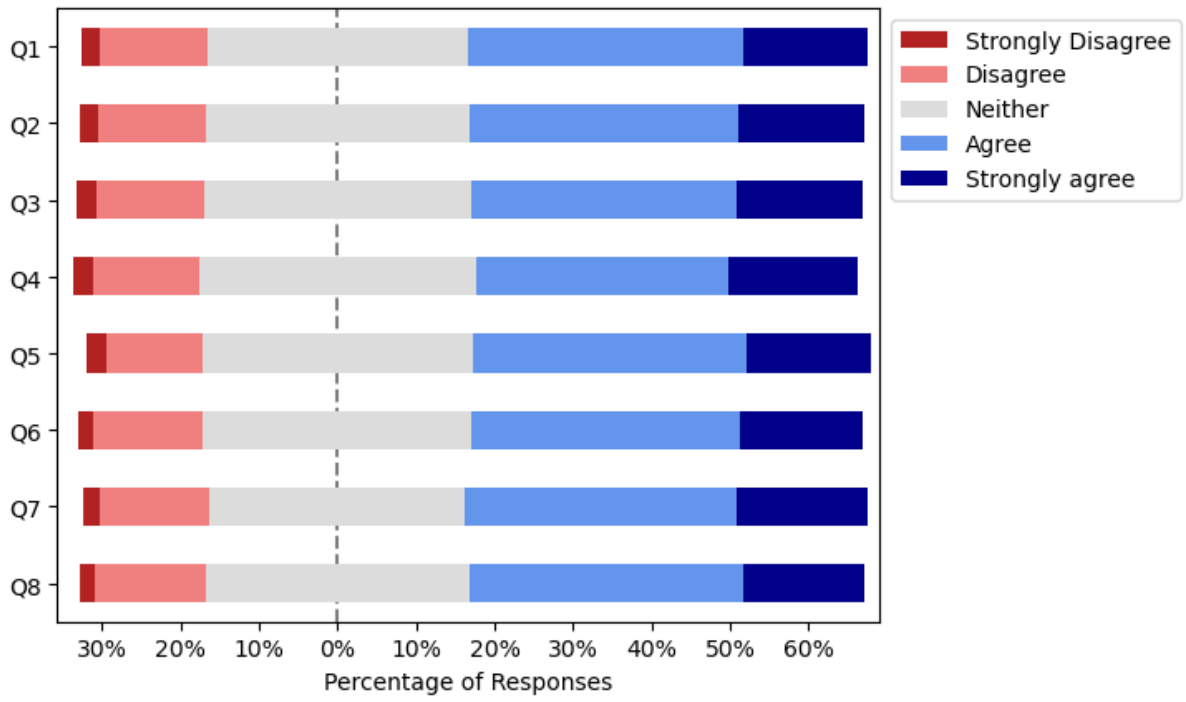

Figure 2: A visualized Likert-scale result on all questions.

4.2 Q1: Cronbach's α for all items (except item 2)

Answer

For $Q_1 + Q_3 + ... + Q_7 + Q_8$, the $\alpha \approx 0.6873$.

Solution

```
import pingouin as pg

fear_df_item2_excluded = fear_df.drop('Q2', axis=1)

# Calculate cronbach's alpha within a dataframe:
def print_cronbach_alpha(df):
    alpha = pg.cronbach_alpha(data=df)[0]
    print(f'Cronbach\'s Alpha:',alpha)

print_cronbach_alpha(fear_df_item2_excluded)
print('for the original Q2 deleted.')
```

```
Cronbach's Alpha: 0.6873382583349454
for the original Q2 deleted.
```

4.3 Q2: Drop item to improve the scale

Answer

I would like to drop Question 5, "People try to tell you that SPSS makes statistics easier to understand but it doesn't", for following reason:

1. The lowest inter-item correlation: see Table 1, which was generated from SPSS (sorry about that).
2. The lowest corrected item-total correlation: 0.2593
3. Cronbach's alpha increases when this item is deleted: from $\alpha \approx 0.6873$ to $\alpha \approx 0.6888$.[2]

[2] What a fortune number for we Asian people.

Table 1: Inter-Item Correlation Matrix

	Q1	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Q1	1.000	.217	.223	.150	.176	.207	.227
Q3	.217	1.000	.319	.196	.271	.284	.320
Q4	.223	.319	1.000	.187	.240	.341	.371
Q5	.150	.196	.187	1.000	.153	.123	.164
Q6	.176	.271	.240	.153	1.000	.232	.264
Q7	.207	.284	.341	.123	.232	1.000	.349
Q8	.227	.320	.371	.164	.264	.349	1.000

Solution

```
# Calculate item-total correlations
def item_total_correlation(df):
    total_score = df.sum(axis=1)
    correlations = {}
    for question in df.columns:
        total_excluding_item = total_score - df[question]
        correlation = df[question].corr(total_excluding_item)
        correlations[question] = correlation
    return correlations

# Calculate the Cronbach's alpha after deleting each item
def cronbach_alpha_if_deleted(df):
    alphas = {}
    for question in df.columns:
        df_without_item = df.drop(question, axis=1)
        alpha = pg.cronbach_alpha(df_without_item)[0]
        alphas[question] = alpha
    return alphas

# Calculate item-total correlation
item_correlations = item_total_correlation(fear_df_item2_excluded)
print(f'Item-total Correlations:')
for item in item_correlations:
    print(item, 'to total', item_correlations[item])
print(f'======================')
alphas_if_deleted = cronbach_alpha_if_deleted(fear_df_item2_excluded)
print(f'Cronbach\'s Alpha if an item deleted:')
for item in alphas_if_deleted:
    print(f'If {item} is deleted: ', alphas_if_deleted[item])

# Present the result
print(f'======================')
best_item_to_delete_corr = min(item_correlations, key=item_correlations.get)
print(f'Item that has lowest item-total correlation coefficient: ',
 ↪  best_item_to_delete_corr)
best_item_to_delete_alpha = max(alphas_if_deleted, key=alphas_if_deleted.get)
print(f'Item that would improve Cronbach\'s alpha the most if deleted:
 ↪  {best_item_to_delete_alpha}')
```

```
Item-total Correlations:
Q1 to total 0.32493144386994777
Q3 to total 0.44890601739301994
Q4 to total 0.4726060003637261
Q5 to total 0.2592530237967403
```

```
Q6 to total 0.36566649644104937
Q7 to total 0.4267725068168662
Q8 to total 0.47718130451492624
======================
Cronbach's Alpha if an item deleted:
If Q1 is deleted:  0.672004161791457
If Q3 is deleted:  0.6384165554243204
If Q4 is deleted:  0.6315956086496489
If Q5 is deleted:  0.6887820469122623
If Q6 is deleted:  0.6611984636617284
If Q7 is deleted:  0.6445525162609321
If Q8 is deleted:  0.6308404954800185
======================
Item that has lowest item-total correlation coefficient:  Q5
Item that would improve Cronbach's alpha the most if deleted: Q5
```

4.4 Q3: Recode, then describe the distribution of Q2

Answer

The distribution of the reverse-worded Question 2, after recoding, shows a mean score of $M = 2.52$, suggesting moderate agreement with standard deviations excites the participants. The standard deviation is $SD = 0.99$, indicates moderate variability among responses. The distribution, as shown in Figure 3, is slightly right-skewed, with a peak at 2 (that is *Disagree*), indicating that a majority of students (also see in Figure 4) reported that they disagree on the statement that standard deviations *excites* them.

Solution

```python
# Recoding the reverse-worded item, this part works the same as SPSS:
fear_df_rev = fear_df
fear_df_rev['Q2'] = 6 - fear_df_rev['Q2']
```

```python
# Describe the
fear_df_rev['Q2'].describe()
```

```
count    2571.000000
mean        2.518864
std         0.990585
min         1.000000
25%         2.000000
50%         2.000000
75%         3.000000
max         5.000000
Name: Q2, dtype: float64
```

```python
import seaborn as sns

q2_rev_hist = sns.histplot(fear_df_rev['Q2'], bins=5)
q2_rev_hist.set_xticks(fear_scales)
q2_rev_hist.set_title(fear_questions[1])
plt.show()
```

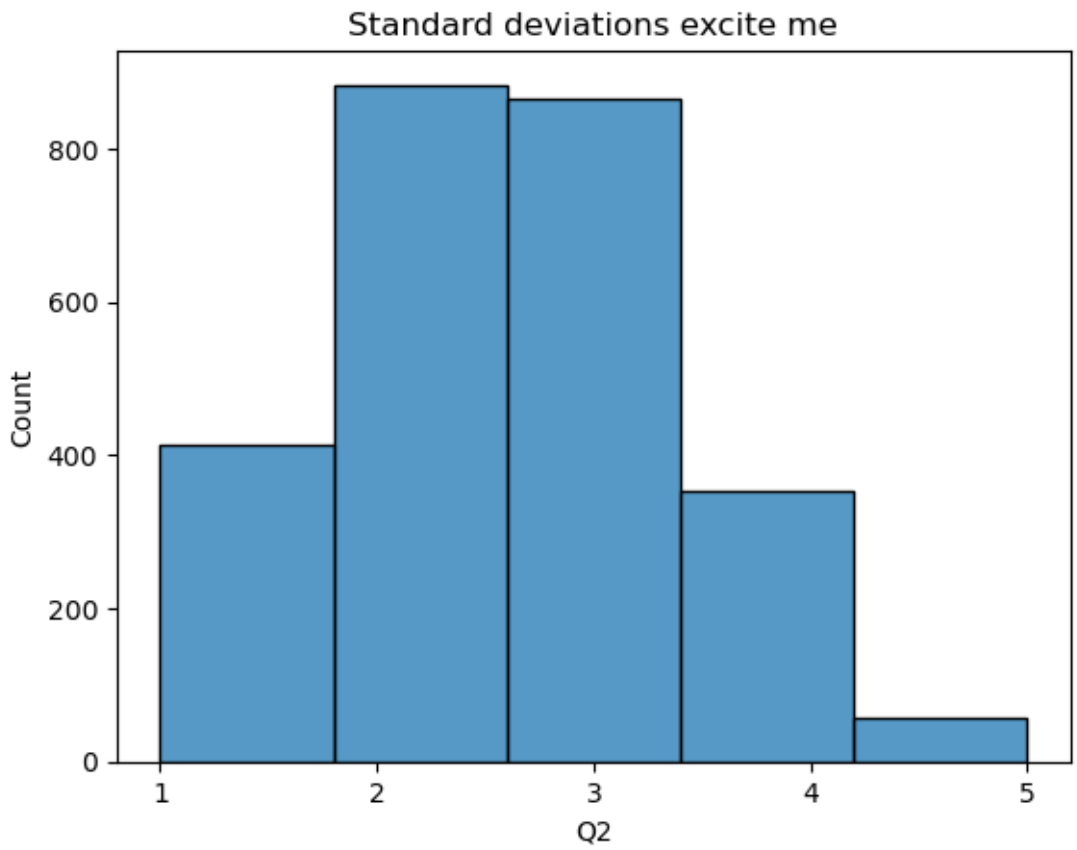

Figure 3

```
q2_rev_plot = plot_likert.plot_likert(fear_df_rev['Q2'], fear_scales,
 ↪  plot_percentage=True)
q2_rev_plot.legend(handles, fear_scales_labels, bbox_to_anchor=(1.0, 1.0))
q2_rev_plot.set_title(fear_questions[1])
plt.show()
```

```
/home/rshen/miniconda3/envs/educ8009/lib/python3.10/site-packages/plot_likert/plot_likert.py:257: Fu
  df.applymap(validate)
/home/rshen/miniconda3/envs/educ8009/lib/python3.10/site-packages/plot_likert/plot_likert.py:310: Fu
  responses_to_first_question = responses_per_question[0]
```

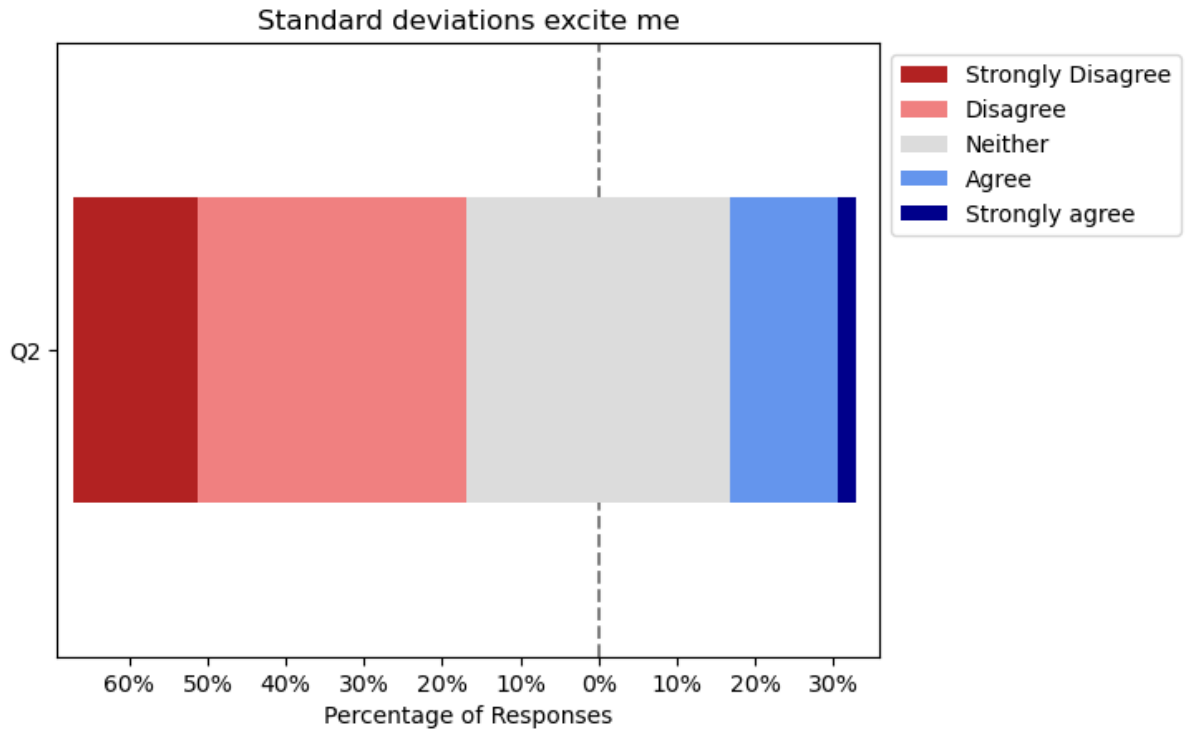

Figure 4: The result of Question 2 (recoded)

4.5 Q4: Cronbach's alpha of all the items

Answer

For $Q_1 + Q_{2rev} + ... + Q_7 + Q_8$, the Cronbach's $\alpha \approx 0.7071$

Solution

```
print_cronbach_alpha(fear_df_rev)
print('with recoded Q2_rev')
```

```
Cronbach's Alpha: 0.7071483372463728
with recoded Q2_rev
```