

- Rush MAP study
 - Began in 1997, rolling enrollment
 - Northeastern Illinois, residents of continuous care communities
 - Up to 17 waves of data, few people actually have this number
 - Decision about how many waves to include

Participants

| Follow up year | | |
|----------------|-------|-----|
| | Women | Men |
| 0 | 961 | 336 |
| 1 | 850 | 280 |
| 2 | 724 | 234 |
| 3 | 598 | 196 |
| 4 | 486 | 166 |
| 5 | 386 | 126 |
| 6 | 338 | 109 |
| 7 | 283 | 88 |
| 8 | 233 | 77 |
| 9 | 180 | 54 |
| 10 | 121 | 39 |
| 11 | 63 | 19 |
| 12 | 32 | 5 |
| 13 | 23 | 2 |
| 14 | 17 | 2 |
| 15 | 13 | 2 |
| 16 | 1 | 0 |

Question

- Do the number of waves included in the growth model impact the conclusions?
- Examine cognitive and physical outcomes with increasing numbers of waves included

Plots

- KB_profiles
(<https://goo.gl/photos/yRLCNLmwJcmGGKrj8>)
- Left column: Intercepts (baseline)
- Right column: Slope (rate of change)
- Vertical facet: Gender
- Horizontal facet: Outcome measures
- X-axis: Numerical value
- Y-axis: Waves included in analysis
- Labels: Estimate | S.E. | Est./S.E. | P-Value

Intercepts

- Intercepts show little change over the number of waves used in the analysis.
- Across all outcome pairs this remains true
- Intercepts are the baseline levels of the outcome measure
- Fluctuations over the number of waves might indicate model misspecification

Grip-Category Fluency

- Slope column, physical facet
- Regardless of the number of waves analyzed we see a steady decline in grip strength for both sexes.
- Women: The straight vertical purple line suggests a consistent rate of decline regardless of waves count included.
- Men: The curvature of the line between wave count 4 and 8 hints at an accelerated rate of decline between those time points.

Grip-Category Fluency

- Slope column, significance row, cognitive facet
- Slopes become significant once at least 9-10 waves are included
- If we analyze fewer than 9 waves of data we fail to detect a significant decline in category fluency test performance.
- Men require fewer waves (9) of data in the analysis to detect a significant decline than women (10).

Grip-Number Comparison

- Kb_fans
(<https://goo.gl/photos/vYX4k8K4bb3nUTmf6>)
- Slope column, significance, cognitive facet
- Men: We can detect a significant decline in number comparison task performance once at least 7 waves are included.
- Women: Both positive (wave 5) and negative slopes (wave 9+) reached significance.

Grip-Number Comparison

- Zoom on top right cell, slope column, point estimate row.
- Facets: cognitive, women.
- Changing signs of the slope suggests non-linearity in the observed data.
- We explore the observed and modeled data in the next series of dynamic plots.

Kb Fans: grip-NUMBERCOMP

- Red lines: trajectories of individuals across time.
- Y-axis: performance on the number comparison task
- X-axis: time metric
- Top row: time in study*
- Bottom row: biological age
- Blue lines: smooth average

Kb Fans: grip-NUMBERCOMP

- Left column: observed trajectories
- Middle column: predicted trajectories reconstructed from the fixed effects (.out files) estimated by Mplus.
- Right column: trajectories reconstructed from factor scores (gh5. file) created during model estimation in Mplus.

Kb Fans: grip-NUMBERCOMP

- Left, age
- The curvilinear shape of the trajectory is evident
- Supports our hypothesis from Kb profile graph
- Small increase in performance between ages and 60 and 65 likely represent practice effects
- Decline begins ~67 yrs
- Accelerates ~82 yrs

Kb Fans: grip-NUMBERCOMP

- Middle, age
- The blue line (smoothed average) becomes steeper as more waves are included in the analysis.
- It appears that women show a practice effect but decline sooner (~67)
- Men do not show a practice effect but decline later (~80)
- There are fewer men than women

Kb Fans: grip-NUMBERCOMP

- Right
- Trajectories reconstructed from the estimated factor scores (Mplus .gh5 file)

Questions/Discussion

Q1: What exactly do factor scores reconstruct?

Q2: At what wave count do trajectories become unreliable?