NlsyLinks: An R Package Facilitating BG Research with the NLSY  
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The NLSY has provided behavioral genetic research with a nationally representative sample since the first sibling links were released in the early 1990s. Today we discuss the newest version of the links that incorporate new survey items into our improved algorithm. The substantive presentations in this symposium demonstrate how the new links provide (a) increased precision, (b) higher power and (c) access to spatially-inspired techniques. This presentation focuses on the mechanical aspects of the links. The algorithm is discussed for the first few minutes, and the remainder introduces the R package that accompanies the links.

The NlsyLinks package assumes many manual and error-prone tasks required in BG research, such as data manipulation and biometrical modeling. Entire univariate ACE analyses can be completed with fewer than ten lines of code. The package’s documentation initially showcases basic analyses; this should lower the barriers of entry facing those new to the NLSY or BG research. The example analyses progressively grow in complexity to latent models; this should help experienced research be more efficient with their existing analyses. As a result, a wide range of behavior genetic researchers are relieved of many mechanical details and can dedicate more time to their substantive efforts.

Development versions are available at <http://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/nlsylinks/> and stable released are periodically uploaded to <http://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/nlsylinks/>.