



# Multilevel SEM part 2

Random effects models



# Intro

Today's goal:

Teach how to do multi-level SEM with random effects in Mplus (this stuff doesn't work in R)

Outline:

- Theory of random effects
- Multilevel SEM example in Mplus



# Theory

of random effects models



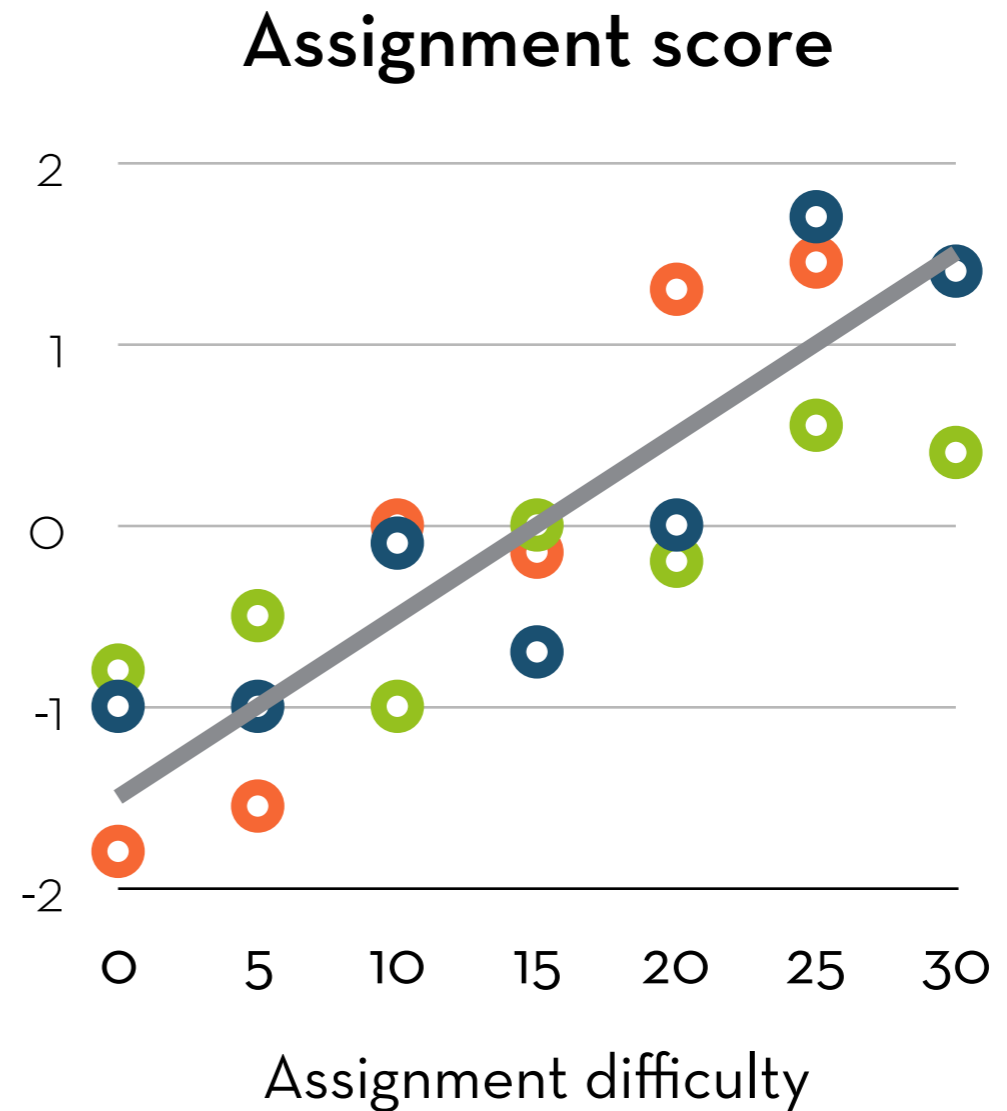
# Random effects

Data from three participants:

Adam, Brian, Chen

Fixed intercept + slope

$$Y_i = a + b_1 X_{diff} + e_i$$





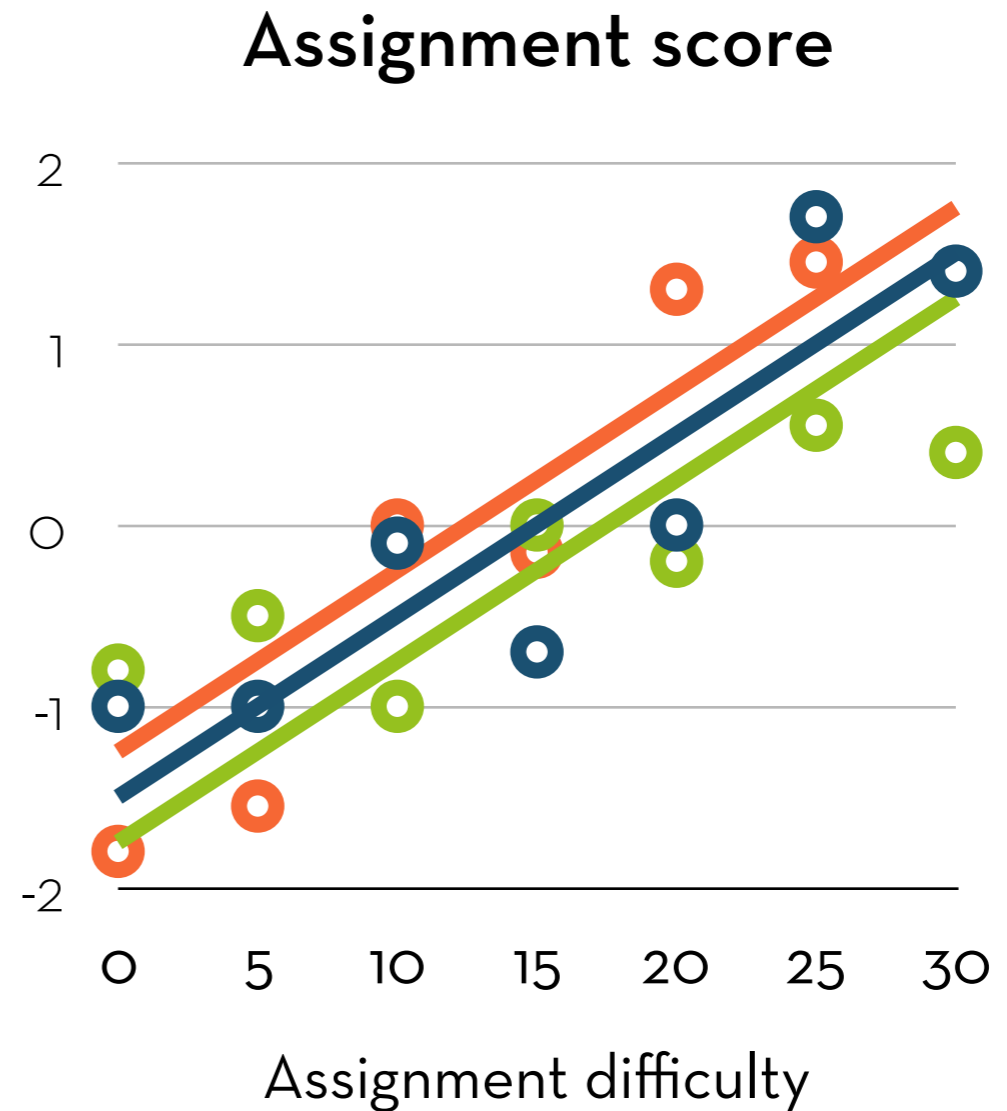
# Random effects

Data from three participants:

Adam, Brian, Chen

Different intercept + fixed slope

$$Y_i = a + b_1 X_{diff} + b_2 X_{brian} + b_3 X_{chen} + e_i$$





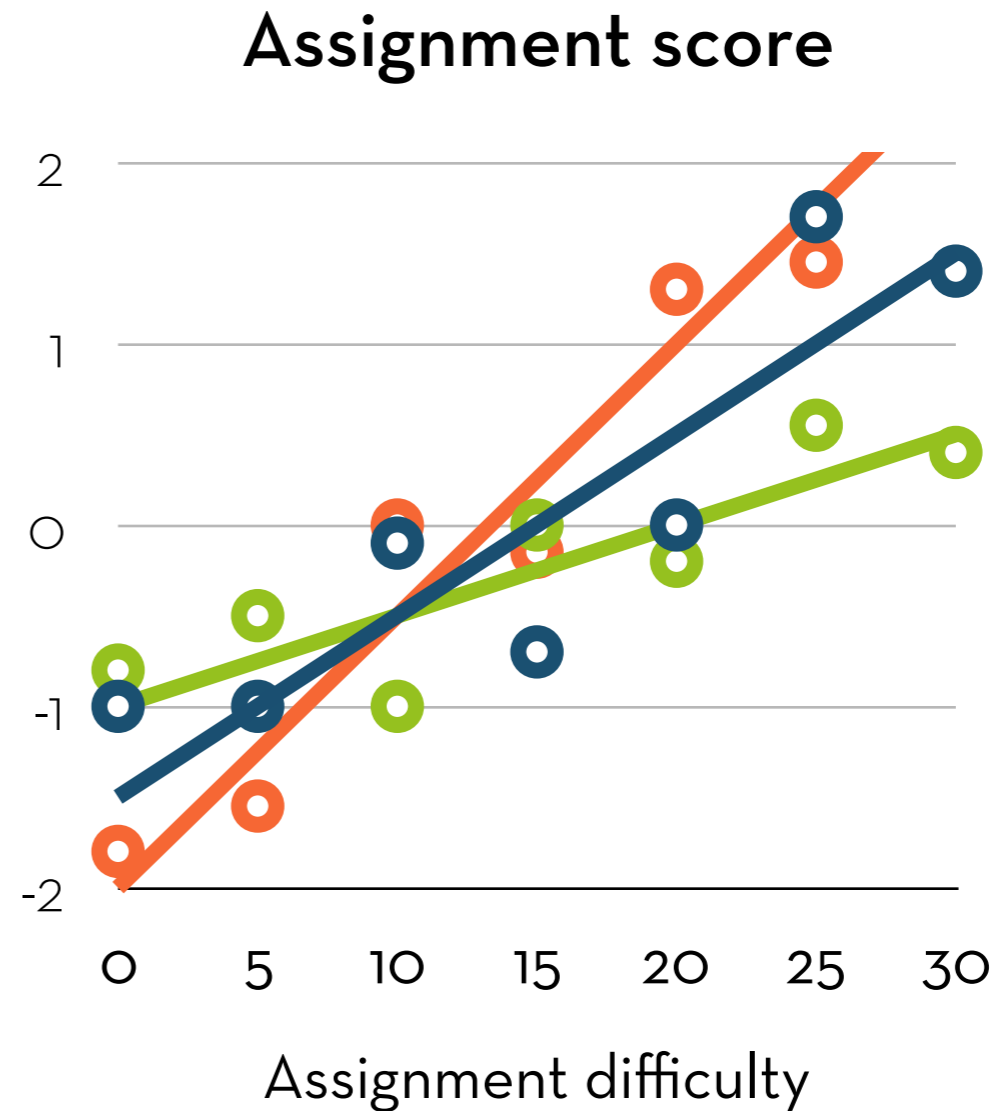
# Random effects

Data from three participants:

Adam, Brian, Chen

Different intercept +  
different slope

$$Y_i = a + b_1 X_{diff} + b_2 X_{brian} + b_3 X_{chen} + b_4 X_{diff} X_{brian} + b_5 X_{diff} X_{chen} + e_i$$





# Random effects

Data from **many** participants

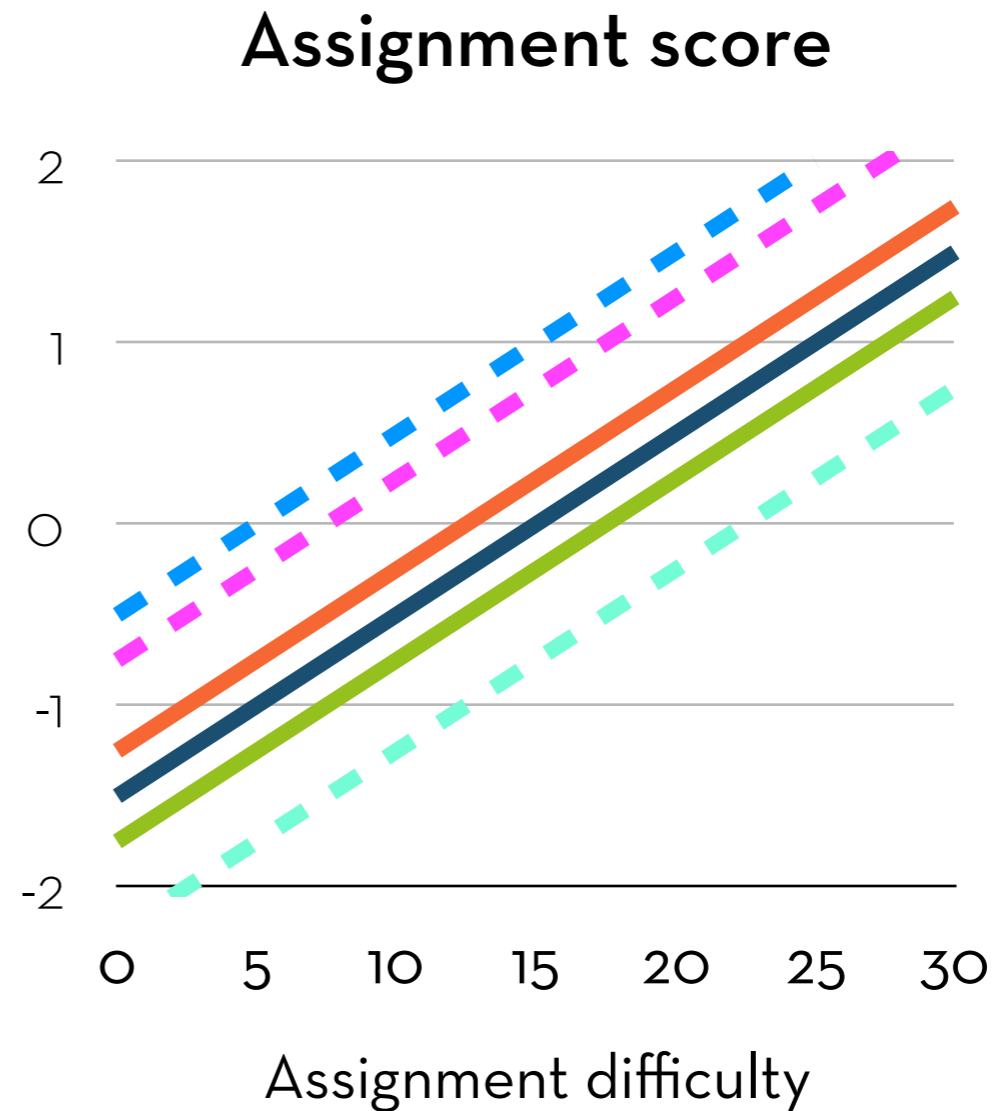
**Random** intercept + fixed slope

$$Y_{ip} = a_p + b_1 X_{diff} + e_{ip}$$

where  $a_p = a + u_p$

$u_p$  differs per participant!

we fit a single parameter for it (variance)





# Random effects

Data from **many** participants

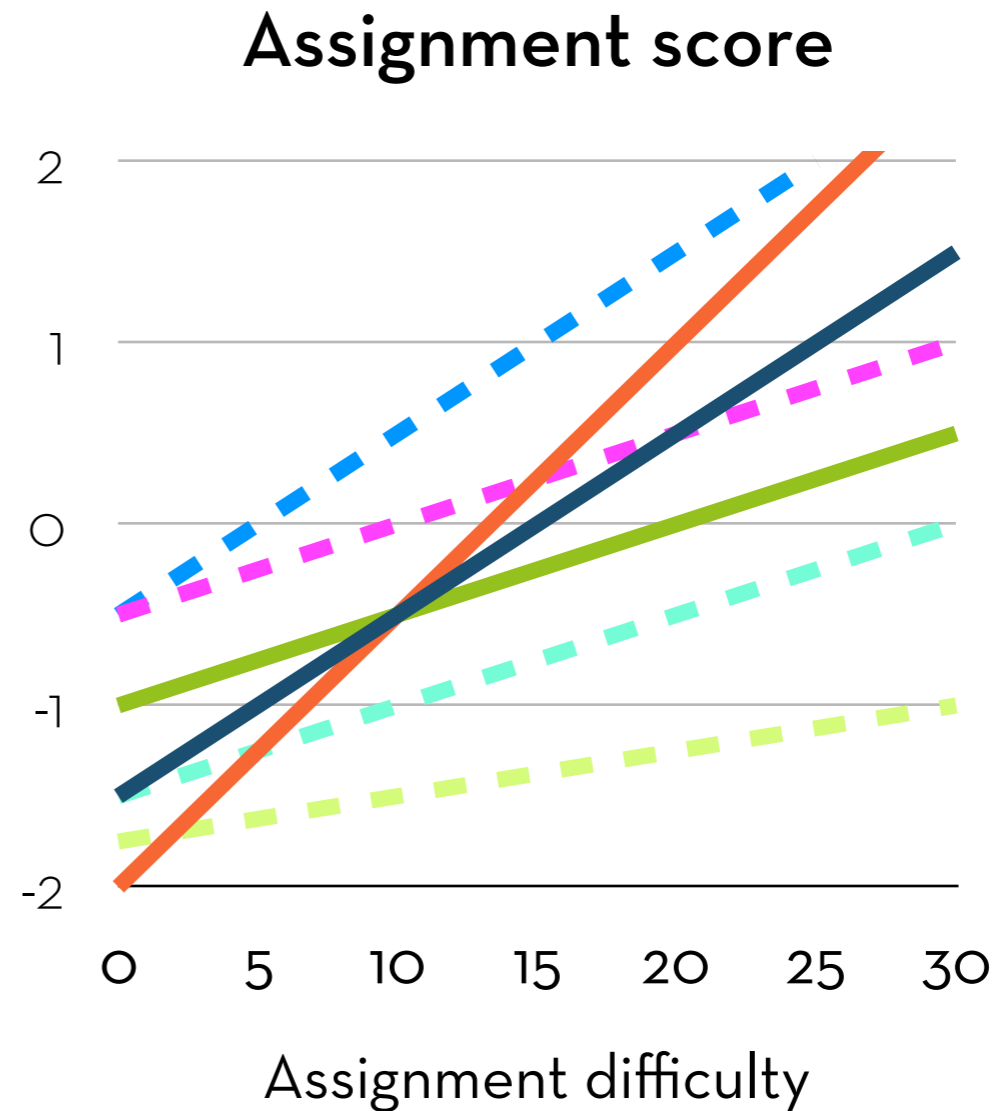
**Random** intercept +  
**random** slope

$$Y_{ip} = a_p + b_{1p}X_{diff} + e_{ip}$$

where  $a_p = a + u_p$

and  $b_{1p} = b_1 + v_p$

Both  $u_p$  and  $v_p$  differ per participant!







# Random effects in Mplus

Too complicated for lavaan



# Dataset

Dataset: f.dat

396 participants (level 2) each make disclosure decisions (binary) about 31 items (level 1)

Justifications (between subjects):

None

Useful-for-you

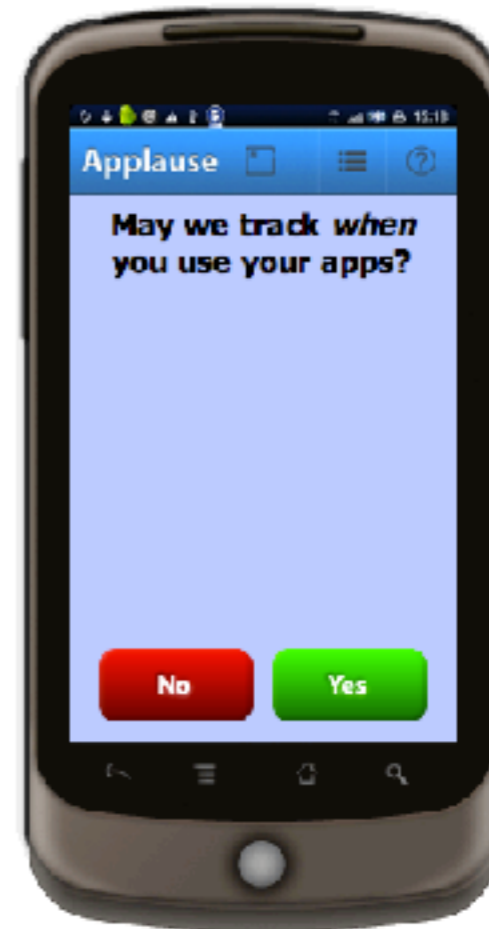
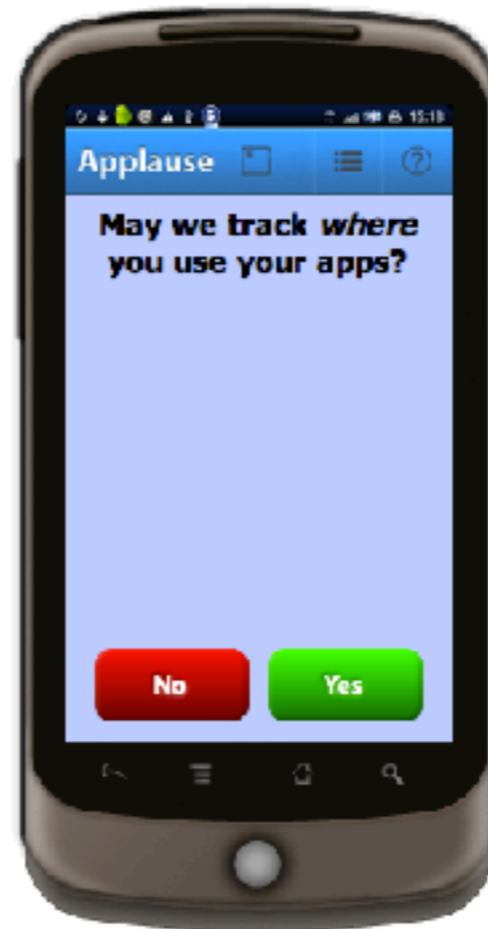
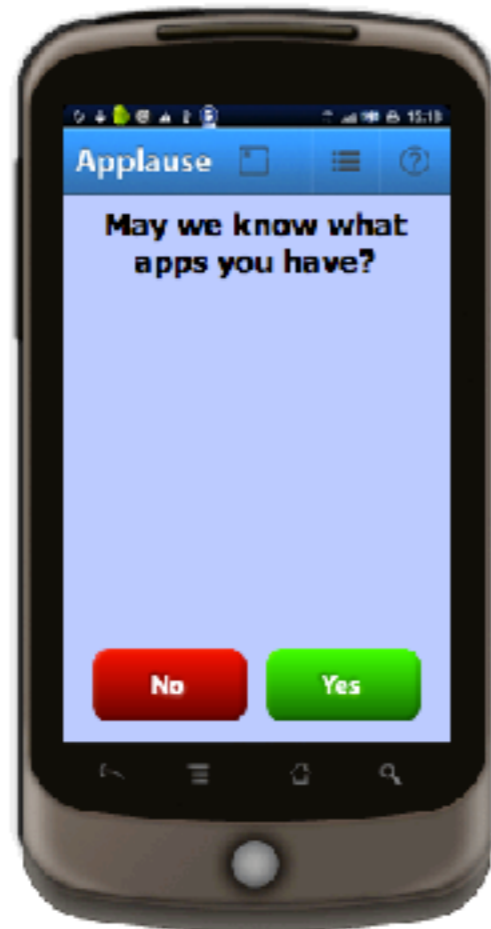
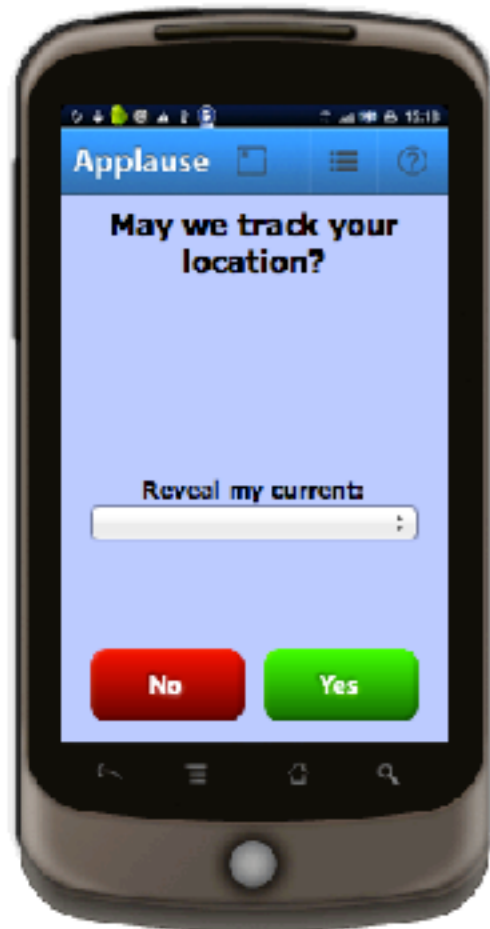
% of others

Useful for others

Explanation

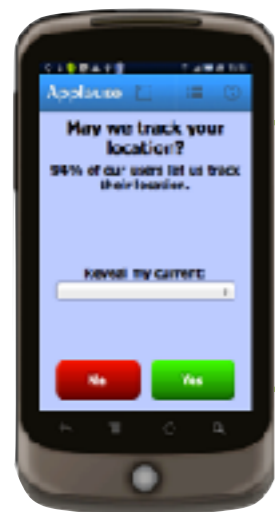


# Dataset





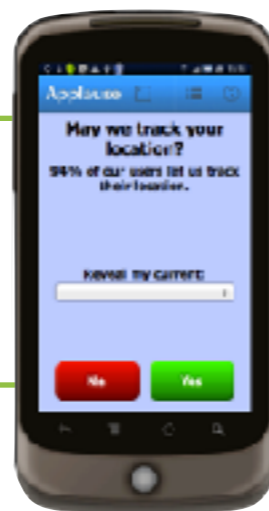
# Dataset



Location, etc.



Gender, etc.



Context data first



Gender, etc.



Location, etc.



Demographical data first



# Dataset

5 justification types

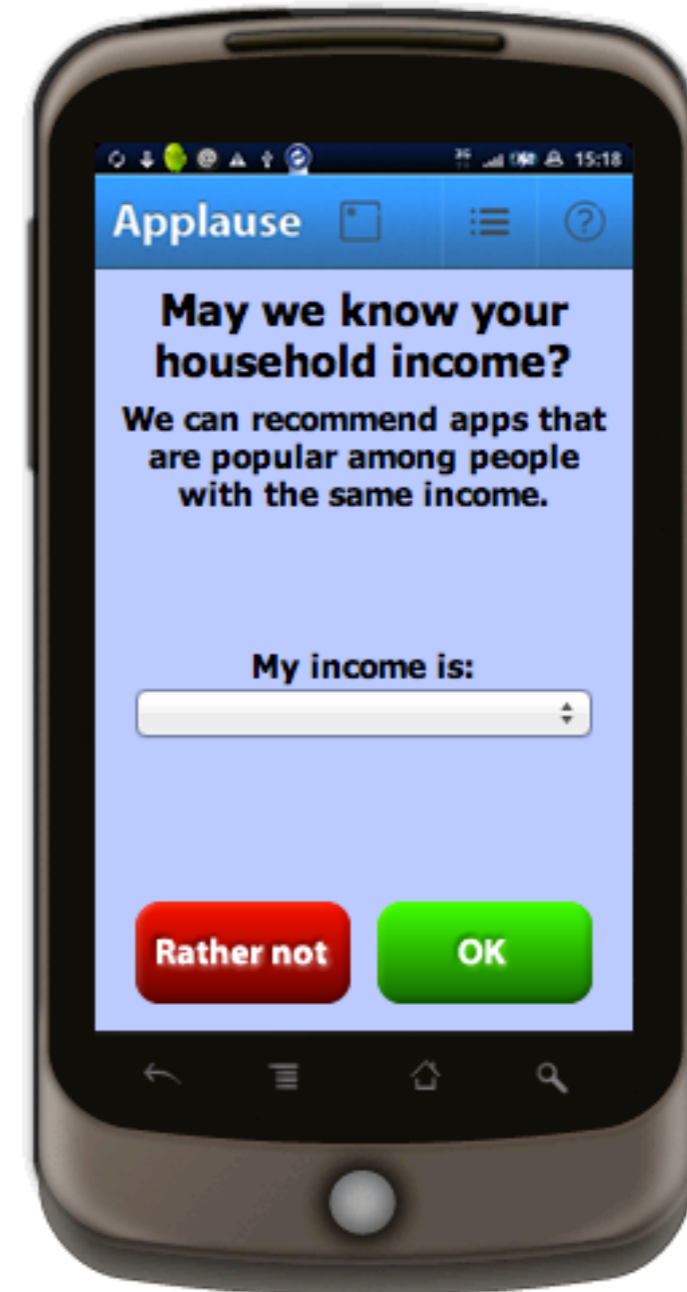
None

Useful for you

Number of others

Useful for others

Explanation





# Dataset

## Variables at level 1:

decision: whether the participant disclosed the item (1) or not (1)

qid: question ID

qcat: type of question (context or demographic)

pos: position of the question (semi-randomized)

perc: percentage used in the justification, centered around 50% (manipulated, only for types 2, 3 and 4)



# Dataset

Relevant variables at level 2:

id: participant id

message: the justification (manipulated)

gord: order in in which questions are asked (manipulated)

sat1–intent11: expected satisfaction with the system

clear12–15: perceived decision support

gipc16–21: privacy concerns



# Dataset

Relevant variables at level 2 (continued):

collct22–27: collection concerns

ctrl28–32: control concerns

compny33–40: trust in the company providing the system

threat41–46: perceived privacy threat

age

gender



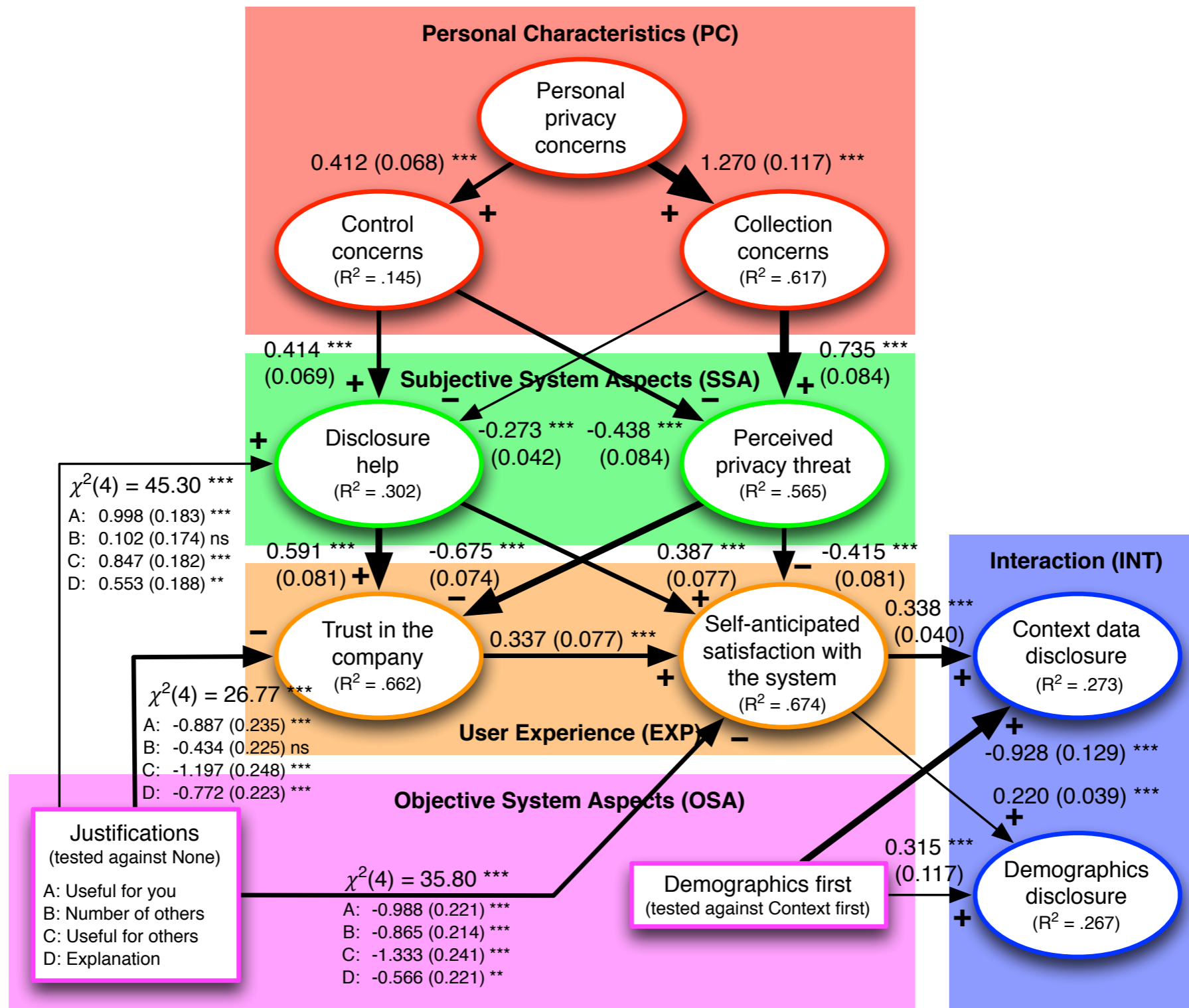


# Research question

**What is the effect of the justification types,  
and does the percentage displayed in the  
justification play any role?**



# 1. Initial model





# Research question

What is the effect of the justification types,  
and does the percentage displayed in the  
justification play any role?



## 2. Percentage

Add **decision on p cup csp ccp cwp**

Notes:

- Percentage is centered around 50 (to prevent multicollinearity), and divided by 45 (to reduce variance)
- Interaction effects with justification types
- Expectation: p and cap have no effect, cup csp and ccp will have a significant positive effect



# 3. Twolevel

Change **type = twolevel**

Add a **%between%** and **%within%** section in the model

Notes:

- Cannot use wlsmv! Items will have to be treated as ratio...
- No real improvement here; the actual benefit comes from being able to run the next couple of models...



# 4. Random slope

Remove the interaction effects (for now)

Add a random slope: **s** | **decision on p**

Notes:

- This takes a pretty long time to estimate
- Shows us whether there is variations between participants in the effect of percentage (There should be! Why?)



# 5. Predicted slope

Add: **s on useful csocial ccombi cwhy**

Notes:

- This reintroduces the interaction effect!
- Slope is now predicted between subjects by condition
- Expectation: s on csocial is going to be significant
- Residual variance of s may no longer be significant



# 6. More predictors

Add: **s on sat company threat clear control collect privacy**

Notes:

- Test whether the effect of percentage is also dependent on users' subjective perceptions (e.g. satisfaction, perceived threat, etc.)



**“It is the mark of a truly intelligent person  
to be moved by statistics.”**



**George Bernard Shaw**