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### Admissible statistics from a latent variable perspective

Zand Scholten, A.

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## Acknowledgments

Don Mellenbergh once identified several types of PhD students: The indecisive, the eager, the pragmatic and the perfectionist type. Not every advisor can handle every type of student. Since I have been all of these types at some time or other during different stages of my project, one can imagine I presented my advisors with somewhat of a challenge. During the first stage I refused to stop reading because I wanted to find direction, which I of course failed to discover until I started writing something down. In the second stage, I just wanted to get the writing over with so I could start a new paper, which ended up prolonging the first. In the third stage I was happy to be working with data again, only to find in the fourth stage that I had a hard time giving up tweaking my simulations in favour of deciding on a format and, again, actually writing things down. Somehow I feel I ended up where I started.

Fortunately I had three great advisors to help me through each of these stages. Denny, I daresay you *can* handle every type of student. You gave me the freedom to pursue whatever held my interest and bombarded me with ideas, but you also encouraged me to put something down on paper, even if I didn't yet know what it was I wanted to say. I wish I had been a little less stubborn and had taken that advice sooner. I am very honored to be your first PhD student! Han, thanks for your insightful comments on my work and thank you for presenting me with some interesting paradoxes and practical problems to solve. Even with your incredibly busy schedule you were always available for a quick word and an efficient and pragmatic

solution. Pieter, thank you for your confidence that all would be well. Of course my thanks also goes out to the committee members, Paul de Boeck, Klaats Sijtsma, Henk Kelderman, Gunter Maris and Eric-Jan Wagenmakers –and Conor Dolan, filling in for EJ on the big day– for taking the time to read this thesis and taking part in the opposition. I am back where I started, but this time well prepared and eager to start the cycle anew (see, I already skipped a stage!).

Being a PhD student can be a pretty thankless job, especially when you are still months away from finishing a manuscript or when your papers are being rejected left and right. Why not abort the whole enterprise and get a real job? I have to say, the thought crossed my mind once or twice, but there are some fringe benefits to working as a PhD student: The people you get to work with.

Michiel, Jelte and Sophie, my roommates during the first few years of my project, thanks for all the laughs and all your help. Jelte (my phone is off!) your zeal, determination and crazy obsessiveness with doing the research right is sometimes overwhelming but always inspiring. I hope we get to realize our collaborative research plans once Pelle is out of his diapers. Han: give this guy a raise already.

Ruud, Gilles and Dora, it was a great pleasure to spend the last few years of my project having you as roommates. I already really miss kidding around with you. I don't know why, I've tried, but your fart jokes with homo-erotic subtext just don't go over very well with most people in my new building. Ruud, Gilles, EJ and Don, I had so much fun organizing MP2010 with you. I think we did a killer job, right down to the bright orange... life rafts? We worked hard but we also played hard (even though it was mostly in the Roeter) and it was great to get to know you all a bit better under both these circumstances. Gilles, you're just the weirdest person ever, but also the straightest (not in a non-homo-erotic way). Thanks for all our alcoholically – and more recently– non-alcoholically-infused talks. Thanks for sharing your Icelandic ponies, sewing machine and cactus stories with me, as well as more serious stuff. Ruud, you really are a rock; You work like an ox, you keep your cool and you get things done, all the while exchanging deadpan insults with the rest of us. Thanks for making me laugh each day for the last few years, guys. I hope we get to become closer friends, now that I no longer have to actively ignore you half of the time in order to get some work done!

EJ (aka Mausbärchen) you really are awe-inspiring. Writing papers during your vacation under an umbrella at the beach at Curaçao, all the while complaining about the sand that is ruining your laptop, that's work ethos for you! Thanks for getting me involved with the MathPsych crowd and advising me on all things Irvine, it really helped me a lot.

Speaking of Irvine, I would like to extend a big thank you to Geoffrey Iverson and Michael Lee. Geoff, thanks for having me and putting up with me and being so kind and caring during what was a rough time. I know item response theory is not exactly your cup of tea, and I repeatedly did a miserable job of explaining why I wanted to link it to representational measurement theory anyway. So thank you most of all for bearing with me and keeping an open mind. Matthew (Boston), Shunan (taking a nap on my keyboard), James (Bobby D DJ from hell) and Tim (crackin' the backin'), thanks for giving me such a warm welcome. You really made me feel part of the gang with the barbeque, Monday-night football tacos and frozen yoghurt runs. Michael, thanks for looking out for me in Irvine and involving me in the Society. I really enjoy being a part of the MathPsych community. I also want to thank Trish for reeling me in to do the website. It was a lot of fun setting it up with you. Thanks for doing all the truly hard work of keeping the site updated and monitored ("What are those bees doing there?").

I would like to thank my fellow UvAPro members, Joris Muris ("Show me the money"), Jacobien Kieffer, Marjolein Cremer, Robert Huis in 't Veld, Cassandra Dixon -Steer, Rudolf Strijkers en Anniek de Ruijter. Rebuilding UvAPro was a lot of work but also a lot of fun. Power to the PhD student!

Of course I can't leave out the regulars of the vrijdagmiddagborrel who have contributed to many a useless Saturday spent in bed with paracetamol and a cold rag over my head: Renee ("zeker geen ..."), Martijn, Ilja, Romke, Hilde, Marthe, Yair, Anouk, Sennai, Andries, Lucia, Birte, Jasper, Thomas, Marcus, Sarah, Richard and of course my colleagues who frequently represented psych methods at Kriterion or the Roeter: Rogier, Mariska, Marjan, Dylan, Kees-Jan and Verena. Raoul, thanks for all the intense discussions on measurement, representation and admissibility, you really helped shape my thoughts on these issues.

Maarten en Ron, I'm so glad you decided to take an obscure programming course on PHP. I can't believe you two both ended up getting your PhD

before me! Well actually I can; You are both so talented, such hard workers and so much fun. I count myself lucky to call you my friends. Ron, you better get your behind back from Columbia asap. Maarten, I hope we will still be eating sushi and frequenting Paradiso long past our sell-by dates! Christine, Bas, Esther, Pieter, Jeroen, Cara, Sander and Doris, thanks for adopting me into the Amstelveen-gang. You are great people. Daphne, thanks for the L&B marathons. Let's make loads of sushi together!

Steven and Annermarie, thanks for all the vrijdagmiddag good times, for listening to my rants and for asking me to perform your wedding ceremony. Steven, thanks for showing a true interest in my life and work and for keeping such a good eye on not just me but all your friends and colleagues. Annemarie, thanks for being a wonderful paranymp! I knew you were a gem right from our first encounter during the OnderzoeksPracticum. Erik, thanks for your hands-on didactical support.

Harrie, you are probably the reason I ended up at psychological methods. You were an inspiration during my OP, you kept thinking up new jobs for me, you pushed me to teach the internet course, you introduced me to university politics and you encouraged me every step of the way. You also throw a mean party. Sorry I wasn't there for my going-away presents and speech. You, and Ineke of course, really are the heart of PML. I am very proud that you agreed to be my paranymp.

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Annemarie