## Analyses of sex differences in general intelligence g

"The best method for determining the sex difference in psychometric g is to represent the sex difference on each of the subtests of a battery in terms of a point-biserial correlation and include these correlations with the full matrix of subtest intercorrelations for factor analysis. The result of the analysis will reveal the factor loading of sex on each of the factors that emerge from the analysis, including g." ... "This method is preferable to the use of g factor scores ... because g factor scores are not a pure measure of the g factor of the test battery from which is was extracted." (Jensen, 1998, p. 538).

Using this method Nyborg (2003) found no sex difference in general intelligence g before age 16, but after this age the point-biserial correlation suggested that sex loads 0.272 on g (one-tailed p = .026).

#### **Errors**

However, there are errors in the above analysis. The results were accordingly withdrawn, as mentioned on the homepage for the Nyborg 2003 book: A reanalysis revealed errors in the treatment of data presented in chapter 10: "Sex differences in g" by Helmuth Nyborg. This means that the numbers and graphics in chapter 10 should be disregarded. However, new analyses (to be presented in "Personality and Individual Differences", accepted for publication, pending minor revisions) of more complete data confirm, that the predicted sex difference in g is statistically significant (now at p = 0.014, one-sided, rather than the p = 0.026, one-sided, previously reported in chapter 10).

The link to the homepage for the book is:

http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws home/672741/description

## Re-analyses

The new analyses provide the following results.

#### Children

First, in contrast to previous findings, sex is now found to load significantly on g in children ( $r_{pbs} = 0.231$ ; p (one-sided) = 0.006, N =119, see table 1.)

Table 1. Hierarchical Schmid-Leiman *g* loadings for 119 unselected school children (Boys N = 59, age mean 11,1 year, girls N = 60, age mean 11,0 year)

Tests	g
RFT Frame dependence (signed error, inv.)	0.54
RFT Response variability (error inv.)	0.29
RFT Field dependence (unsigned error inv.)	0.58
Embedded-Figures test (sec/fig inv.)	0.53
Money left-right discrimination test (Inv.)	0.39
Mental Rotation (Figures found. corrected f. guessing)	0.59
Tapping (Left hand)	0.32
Tapping (Right hand)	0.27
Oral fluency	0.28
WISC Information	0.53
WISC Comprehension	0.48
WISC Arithmetic	0.42
WISC Similarities	0.47
WISC Vocabulary	0.48
WISC Digit Span	0.35
WISC Picture Completion	0.45
WISC Picture Arrangement	0.38
WISC Block Design	0.68
WISC Object Assembly	0.56
WISC Coding	0.25
WISC Mazes	0.38
Co-factorized point-biserial correlation rpbs	0.231

<sup>\*</sup>p (one-sided) = 0.006.

Male-female factor structure congruence coefficient  $r_c = 0.90$ .

The high congruence coefficient suggests practical identity in the factor structure for girls and boys.

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	17 18	0,20 0,33	0,00 0,17	0,12 0,38	0,11 0,51	0,06	0,22 0,47	0,19 0,23	0,12 0,17	0,00	0,36 0,44	0,29 0,40	0,25 0,38	0,33 0,36	0,42 0,44	0,04	0,25 0,30	1,00 0,36	0,36 1,00	0,34 0,46	0,10 0,21	0,13 0,34	0,20 0,23	12,12 14,37	3,19 2,97
	15 16	0,20	-0'0 <u>-</u>	60 0	0,26	0,23	0,20	60'0	0,07	0,15	0.24	0,30	0.39	0,33	9,34	8,	80 0	0,0	0,30	0,23	0,27	0,14	8 0 9	10,13	2,68
	5	0,23	90,0	0,23	0,32	0.17	0.41	0,20	0.13	0.27	0.65	0,63	0.31	8	99'0	0.33	0,18	0.33	0,36	0,24 0,34	0,0	0,25	0,16	12,34	3,42
45	£	0,24	0,18	0,30	0,37	0.21	0,43	030	0.26	0.33	0.55	8	0.33	0.63	0.61	0,30	0,21	0.29	0.40		0,10	0,17	0,18	10,84	9, 9
ons inserted	တ	0,15	0 %	0,29	0,59	0.40	98	0.41	0.55	8	0,31	0.33	0.22	0.27	0.18	0,15	0	000	0,22	5 0,03 0,36	0,32	8	0,0	02'6 0	4,55
erial correlation	7 8	0,18	0,43	0.38	0.59	0.45	4	00	0.67	, C	0.24	000	9	200	0,20	60	600	0,10	, c	0,04	0,27	9	0.20	3 232,54 268	9 51,76 54,
with point-bis	ις (Ο	0,26	0,24	0.34	0.59	5	0.53	0,45	44	. O	, c	2 C	1,0	7.	6 6	200	200		2 0	0.03 0,28		0.02	0.08	S	
elation matrix	6 4	0,72 0,27	0,57 0,44			0.34 0.50	, C	) () ()	5 6	1 C	200	0.00	5 C	2 6	9 0	2 G	0 0 0 0			98.0		0.07		5	5,46
Child subsample correlation matrix with point-biserial corre	is 1	1.00 0.13	_	0.72 0.57	0.27 0.44	200		0.18 0.43		0,45		24.0		200						0.39 0.07		0,10 0,07			5,00 s 119
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### From Jensen (1998):

9. The point-biserial correlation  $(r_{\rm pbs})$  is simply a Pearson product-moment correlation that expresses the relationship between a metric variable (e.g., test scores) and a dichotomous variable (in this case sex, quantitized as male = 1, female = 0). As the value of  $r_{\rm pbs}$  is reduced by the amount of inequality in the sample sizes of males and females, it was corrected for this inequality where such an inequality in Ns exists. Also, as  $r_{\rm pbs}$  is reduced by an inequality of male and female standard deviations in test scores, the  $r_{\rm pbs}$  was adjusted accordingly. Adjustments for the inequality of Ns and SDs are accomplished simultaneously by use of the following formula for  $r_{\rm pbs}$ :

$$r_{\rm phs} = d/2\sqrt{(d^2/4) + 1},$$

where d is the mean difference (males – females) divided by the averaged male and female standard deviations  $(\overline{\sigma})$ , calculated as  $\overline{\sigma} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\rm m}^2 + \sigma_{\rm f}^2}/2$ .

12. The g loading (or any point-biserial correlation,  $r_{\text{pbs}}$ , with equal  $N_s$  and equal  $SD_s$  of the dichotomous groups on the metric variable) is converted to d by the formula:

$$d = \sqrt{4/[(1/r_{\rm pbs}^2) - 1]}.$$

8. The congruence coefficient  $(r_c)$  is an index of factor similarity. Like the Pearson correlation coefficient (r), it is scaled to range from -1 to 0 to +1. A value of  $r_c$  of +.90 is considered a high degree of factor similarity: a value greater than +.95 is generally interpreted as practical identity of the factors. The  $r_c$  is preferred to the Pearson r for comparing factors, because the  $r_c$  estimates the correlation between the factors themselves, whereas the Pearson r gives only the correlation between the two column vectors of factor loadings.

Congruence coefficient  $r_c = \sum XY / \sqrt{\sum X^2 \sum Y^2}$ .

#### **Adults**

Table 1. Type of test,  $\underline{d}$  effects, point-biserial correlations, and g loadings for 20 variables with eigenvalues > 1. Point-biserial correlations (adjusted for unequal SDs) were factored in to reflect the loading of sex on the g-dimension. N = 31 males (mean age 17.4 SD 1.8) and 31 females (mean age 17.3 SD 1.9).

	Effect	Point- biserial correlation	g Loading Secondary
Tests	<u>d</u>	<sup>r</sup> pbs	factor
RFT Frame dependence (signed error, inv.)	0.40	0.20	0.37
RFT Response variability (error, inv.)	0.40	0.21	0.47
RFT Field dependence (unsigned error inv.)	0.36	0.19	0.41
Embedded-Figures test (Sec/fig inv.)	0.21	0.10	0.53
Money left-right discrimination test (error inverted)	0.53	0.28	0.61
Mental Rotation (Figures found, corrected for guessing)	0.41	0.21	0.46
Tapping (Left hand)	0.60	0.31	0.31
Tapping (Right hand)	0.30	0.15	0.35
Oral fluency	0.08	-0.04	0.23
WAIS Information	0.43	0.22	0.55
WAIS Comprehension	-0.22	-0.11	0.39
WAIS Arithmetic	0.13	0.06	0.47
WAIS Similarities	0.34	0.18	0.46
WAIS Digit Span	0.16	0.08	0.23
WAIS Vocabulary	0.35	0.18	0.47
WAIS Digit Symbol	-0.56	-0.29	0.00
WAIS Picture Completion	0.43	0.22	0.40
WAIS Block Design	0.08	0.04	0.60
WAIS Picture Arrangement	0.04	0.02	0.35
WAIS Object Assembly	-0.06	-0.03	0.46
Point-biserial factor loading of sex		-	0.280*
Average Effect Size	0.21		
Average IQ equivalent	3.19		
Average factor loading			0.40

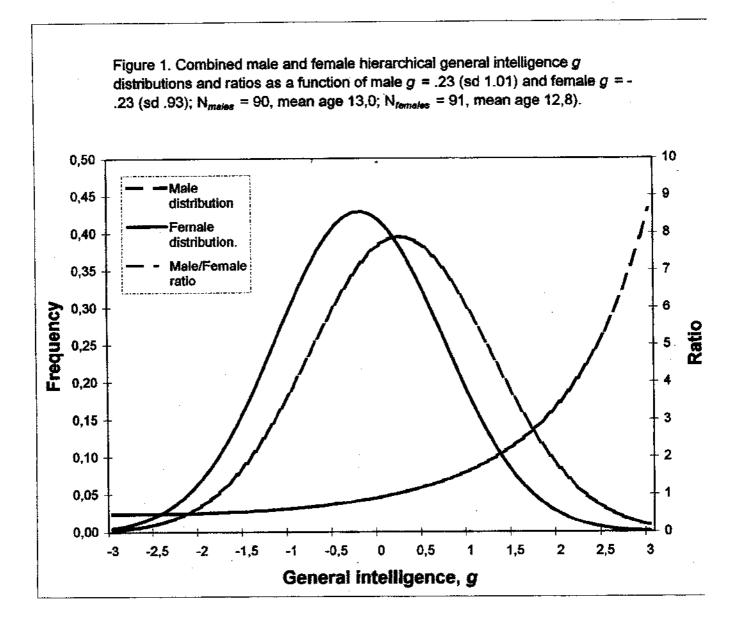
#### Notes:

<sup>\*</sup> Significant at p (one-sided) = .014.

Adult subsample correlation matrix with point-biserial correlations inserted	beampk	S COTTE	atton n	natrix w	₽	tbise	tal corre	slations	inserte	73					
Variables	<b>~</b>	~	ო	4	ß	ဖ	7	ω	o,	5	=	5	5	4	15
_	9,0	0,54	90,0	0,12	0,30	0,31	0,02	70 <sup>'</sup> 0	0,03	0,15	0,03	60'0	0,16	0,20	0,11
7	0,54	8	0,62	0,24	0,51	0,3 <u>4</u>	0,23	0,20	80,0	0,23	0,05	0,10	80,0	0,31	0,07
ო	0,94	0,62	<u>,</u>	0,12	0,37	0,28	90,0	9	90,0	0,27	90,0	90,0	0,22	0,18	5.
4	0,12	0,24	0,12	8,	0,48	0,26	-0,27	0,30	0,21	0,28	0,32	0,32	0,19	0,12	0,29
ιO.	0,30	0,51	0,37	0,46	<u>,</u>	66,0	0,34	0,29	8 0 0	0,33	0.22	0,39	0,13	0,09	0,22
ဖ	0,31	0 8	0,28	0,26	0,39	8	0,16	0,15	8	0,30	0,0	0,15	0,38	0.08	0,48
-	0,02	0,23	90,0	0,27	0 8	0,16	9,0	0,47	0,14	0,30	0,13	0,11	0,28	0,05	0,13
80	9	0,20	9,0	0,30	0,29	0,15	0,47	8	0,28	0,29	90,0	0,15	0,19	0,05	0,12
0	0,03	90,0	90'0	0,21	60'0-	90,0	0,14	0,28	8	0,41	0,27	0,16	0,37	0,12	0,23
<del>•</del>	0,15	0,23	0,27	0,28	0,33	0,30	0,30	0,29	0,41	8	0,41	0°,30	0,64	0,03	0,63
=	0,03	0,05	90,0	0,32	0,22	9,0	0,13	90,0	0,27	0,41	9	0,45	0,48	0,20	98
4	60'0	0,10	0 <sup>'</sup> 08	0,32	0,39	0,15	о Т	0,15	0,16	0,39	0,45	6,0	0,28	0,25	0,37
<del>1</del> 3	0,16	90'0	0,22	0,19	0,13	0,38	0,28	0,19	0,37	0,64	0,48	0,28	<b>6</b> ,	0,18	0,61
4	0,20	0,31	0,18	0,12	60 0	90'0	9	0,05	0,12	0,03	0,20	0,25	0,18	9,	9
4	0,11	0,07	0,11	0,29	0,22	0,48	0,13	0,12	0,23	0,63	0,36	0,37	0,61	0,0	<del>,</del> 8
9	-0, 11	0 0 0	8 9 9	0,0 80,0	8 9	90 9	, 1,	0,19	0,19	0,07	0,22	ල අ	0 9	<del>0</del> ,19	0
17	0,31	0,18	0,31	0,24	0,33	0,29	0,28	0,24	0,18	0,17	0,15	0,14	0,31	0,17	0,14
18	0,39	0,46	0,41	0,43	0,49	0,34	90,0	o, 10	0,19	0,40	9,34	0,48	,0,27	90 0	0,38
<del></del>	0,18	0,10	0,25	0,19	0,30	9,34	60'0	60'0	9	0,39	0,15	60,0	0,32	<b>6</b> 0 <b>9</b>	0,20
8	0,37	0,40	66,0	0,41	98,0	0,23	9	0,22	0,23	0,21	0,22	0,18	0,14	0,10	0,24
21 rpbs	0,20	0,21	0,19	0,10	0,28	0,21	0,31	0,15	9,	0,22	6,11	90,0	0,18	90,0	0,18
Means	-2,19	-1,67	-3,02 -	-37,29	-2,42	6,71	301,15	347,52	14,42	10,45	10,40	10,98	12,71	9,74	11,2
Std.Dev.	2,84	1,14	2,60	29,79	3,98	3,00	42,05	41,03	4,83	2,15	2,78	2,29	2,82	2,42	20,
No.Cases	82			,											
Matrix	τ-														

# Combined child-adult hierarchical Schmid-Leiman g factor scores

Third, as can be seen from tables 1 and 2, the male-female congruence coefficients are very high in both the child and adult sample. Moreover, the combined young-adult sample congruence coefficient amounts to .96. This similarity in factor structures over sex and age permits pooling the Schmid-Leiman general intelligence factor score g for the young and the adult sub-samples into a total sample of g factor scores. Figure 1 presents graphically the g factor scores for this total sample in terms of normal distribution frequencies and sex ratios (see figure 1 below).



Males become increasingly over-represented from average g and up, so that at g = 3.0 SD (IQ 145) there will be more than 8 males for each female.

A complete report of results has been accepted for publication in *Personality and Individual Differences (PAID)*, pending minor revisions. A link to the article will be established from this homepage (and from the Nyborg. 2003 book homepage), at the time of publication.

#### References

Jensen, R. A. (1998) The g factor: The science of mental ability. Westport.CT:

Nyborg. H. (2003) Sex differences in g. Chapter 10 in H. Nyborg (ed.) The scientific study of general intelligence: Tribute to Arthur R. Jensen (pp. 187-222). Oxford: Pergamon.

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