

### Research Is Needed To Bridge CHC Theories and Intelligence Testing Practices in Education

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We need cognitiveachievement causal/explanatory models

The WHY & HOW

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*Fact:* Psychometric or statistical *g* is the **most robust replicated finding in (most?) all of psychology (over 100+ years of research)** 



*Fact:* Psychometric or statistical *g* is the **most** *single* **powerful predictor of educational and other life outcomes in all of psychology** 



# The **conflation of psychometric and theoretical** *g* demonstrates the **circular reasoning fallacy**



That is, a strong psychometric *g* factor is extracted from the positive definite correlation matrix among subtests in an IQ test battery...therefore, by inference, it represents (without question) some variant of Spearman's original theoretical *g* construct of mental energy...thus, proving the preeminent importance of the extracted *g*-factor reported in the IQ test structural research study



Most all SP structural intelligence testing research and practice (to date) has a huge elephant in the room





The **conflation of psychometric and theoretical** *g* is endemic in SP IQ test structural research

- Recent WISC-V structural publications by both prominent *g*-centric and mixed-*g* SP research groups found liberal mention of some type of general intelligence (*g*) entity (typically between 31 and 58 times) in the respective publications
- One of these WISC-V pubs referenced some variant of *g* over 170 times!
- Frequently a myriad of g terms is used with the reader left to infer, from the surrounding context or reference citations, if the authors are referring to theoretical or psychological g or psychometric or statistical g—or perhaps both.
  - I have also committed the same error in much of my past research





















## **Neurocognitive** - evidence of relations to indicators of physiological and neurological functioning



anatomical brain properties measured in 838 individuals enrolled in the WU-Minn Young Adult Human Connectome Project. Functional networks were adapted from seven Resting State Networks

We then analyzed the results of **15 cognitive tasks and estimated five latent abilities:** fluid reasoning **(Gf)**, crystallized intelligence **(Gc)**, memory **(Mem)**, executive functions **(EF)**, and processing speed **(Gs)**.

































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"What we call general intelligence [g] is a by-product of the operation of a complex system. General intelligence [psychometric g] is an *index* of the efficiency of the brain in carrying out cognitive processing" (Detterman et al., 2016; p. 203).















### Process Overlap Theory: A Unified Account of the General Factor of Intelligence

Kristof Kovacs S & Andrew R. A. Conway Pages 151-177 | Published online: 02 Aug 2016

- POT explains positive manifold or *psychometric* g but dismisses *psychological* g.
- Process Overlap Theory (POT) postulates that domain-general executive processes, located primarily in the prefrontal cortex and partly in the parietal cortex, are the main reason for the emergence of positive manifold or g (Kovacs & Conway, 2016).
- POT proposes that domain-general executive processes overlap with domainspecific cognitive processes more than the domain-specific cognitive processes overlap with one another and that any cognitive task requires a number of domain-general and domain-specific cognitive processes.

(slide borrowed from Dr. Dawn Flanagan)









### Brief description of study **sample** and **measures**

• **Sample** – WJ IV norm subjects ages 9-19 (*n* = 3,258)

- Measures Selected the "best" CHC measures (test or subtests) from WJ IV and ECAD (full-age range norm versions) based on review of CFA findings across WJ-R, WJ III and WJ IV
  - Goal use the best qualitatively different narrow ability measures for each CHC domain
    - Example After Oral Vocabulary (VL) and General Information (K0) were selected, OL Picture Vocabulary (VL) not selected as it would be too similar to Oral Vocabulary (VL). Therefore, OL Oral Comprehension (LS) was selected instead

	WJ IV Measure	Abbreviation	CHC broad domain	
	Analysis-Synthesis Concept Formation	ANLSYN CONFRM	Gf Gf	
	Verbal Analogies	VRBANL	Gc/Gf	
	General Information	GENINF	Gc	
	Oral Vocabulary	ORLVOC	GC	
Visualization subtests { Phonological Processing subtests	Block Rotation	VZBLKR	Gv	What measures or broad CHC domains would you predict to be most <b>central</b> to a CHC intelligence network?
	Spatial Relations	VZSPRL	Gv	
	Phon. Proc Word Access	PPACC	Ga	
	Phon. Proc Substition	PPSUB	Ga	
	Segmentation	SEGMNT	Ga	
	Sound Blending	SNDBLN	Ga	
	Phon. Proc Word Fluency	PPFLU	Gr	
	Retreival Fluency	RETFLU	Gr	
	Object-Number Sequencing	OBJNUM	Gwm	
	Memory for Words	MEMWRD	Gwm	
	Verbal Attention	VRBATN	Gwm	
	Letter-Pattern Matching	LETPAT	Gs	L
	Number-Pattern Matching	NUMPAT	Gs	
	Pair Cancellation	PAIRCN	Gs	
	Number Series	NUMSER	Gq	
	Applied Problems	APPROB	Gq	
	Calculation	CALC	Gq	















Secondary "boundary specification" 23 variable CHC PNA model (included *Gq* measures)

#### Implications for WJ IV test & cluster interpretations

- Number Series has noticeable connection with Gq (mixed Gf-RQ Gq-KM issue raised).
- Gf cluster might be impacted (low) for kids lacking in foundational math achievement skills?
- If low, follow-up with **Analysis-Synthesis**







The **complexity of listening comprehension** tasks is captured well by Osada (2004, p. 63):

The process of listening comprehension is highly complex. The knowledge and skills necessary for listening comprehension must be all utilized simultaneously. However, our processing space is limited. Before we can sort out what has we just heard, the speech disappears. What is worse, we cannot get the speech repeated. We must comprehend the text as we listen to it, retain the information in memory, integrate it with what follows, and continually adjust our understanding of what we hear in the light of prior knowledge and incoming information. Given this heavy processing load, listeners may lose concentration quickly and sometimes give up listening all together.

(McGrew et al., 2023)













# Of interest is the central role **Gwm and AC-related constructs** play in other areas of **brain network research**...



and Spanoudis 2020; Unsworth et al. 2021a, 2021b). The Gwm and AC-related constructs have also demonstrated a central role in other areas of brain network research, such as mind wandering (Bressler and Menon 2010; Kane and McVay 2012; McVay and Kane 2012; Smallwood 2010) and focused attention meditation (Lutz et al. 2008; SedImeier et al. 2012). These conceptually-related lines of research have demonstrated a link between measures and constructs of cognitive processing efficiency (particularly Gwm, AC, and Gs) and brain network-based models of neural efficiency (Bressler and Menon 2010). This link is also featured in the dynamic mutualism and wired intelligence models of intelligence that suggests working memory capacity may be a "central" cognitive variable or process underlying intelligence. The process overlap theory of intelligence also features multiple domain–general executive functioning, AC and Gwm-related cognitive processes in the positing of a central executive bottleneck processing explanation of psychometric g as an emergent property (Conway et al. 2021; Conway and Kovacs 2015). Engle and colleagues' (Burgoyne et al. 2022) AC explanation of the positive manifold is also consistent with the importance of the Gwm-AC complex.







































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#### **Final Thought** Research Is Needed To Bridge CHC Theories and Intelligence Testing Practices in Education

We believe Haslbeck et al.'s (2021) proposed framework for advancing theory construction in psychopathology could be adapted for intelligence research. In this framework, formal theory construction will likely require a division of labor between researchers steeped in intelligence test measurement, psychometrics, and psychometric-derived intelligence descriptive taxonomies (e.g., CHC theory) and intelligence or cognitive science theoretical researchers who can focus more on the generation, evaluation, and refinement of formal theories of intelligence and cognitive functioning. Clearly, the lengthy historical chasm between proposed intelligence testing score diagnostic and interpretation systems and evidence-based interventions will likely persist until a genuine rapprochement occurs between these two general categories of intelligence researchers. We hope the current paper



105



Use a proposed **rapprochement bifurcated** *g* model of intelligence test interpretation model



Use psychometric g (full scale IQ score) for **pragmatic/administrative** decision-making ...only if you MUST

Recognize that the best available evidence and research, based on over 100+ years of research, suggests **removing the psychometric** *g* (statistical **abstraction**) *constraint* will allow us to **benefit from what we do know (and don't know) regarding broad CHC ability constructs and their measures** 

Its ok to interpret <u>valid</u> CHC broad ability scores as they represent known human cognitive abilities

Such a model **has equity/diversity implications** for intelligence testing in SP (Holden & Hart, 2023)





