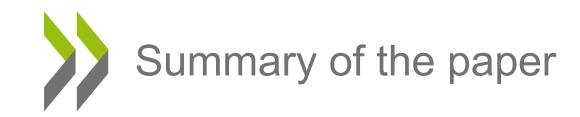
USING LOG FILES TO IDENTIFY SEQUENTIAL PATTERNS IN PIAAC PROBLEM SOLVING ENVIRONMENTS BY US ADULTS' EMPLOYMENT STATUS

DISCUSSION

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- Three empirical exercises:
 - Identify consistent action sequences in different subgroups
 - 2. Cluster respondents on the basis of action sequences
 - 3. Check consistency of action sequences across different items
- Three papers?
- Useful characterization in terms of background characteristics of groups of respondents undertaking similar strategies



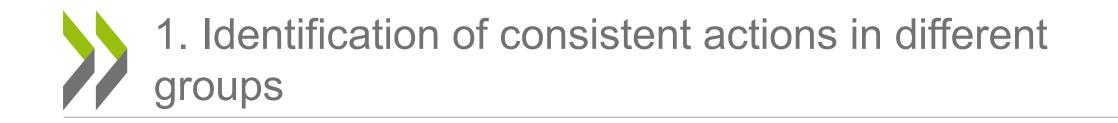


- Higher-performing groups more likely to use purposeful actions, lower-performing groups more likely to use redundant/useless actions. Peculiar behaviour of young adults
- 2. Three clusters, correlated with effort and rate of success
- About 2/3 of sample showed inconsistent behaviour. Very diverse group

1. Identification of consistent actions in different groups

- Wording: why "employment status"?
- Kitchen-sink approach: what's the logic?
 - Statistical significance vs. predictive power
- Categories not mutually exclusive

- Are they all policy-relevant?

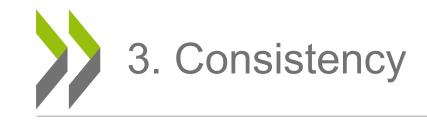


- Why don't simply group respondents according to PSTRE proficiency/success rate in Uo2?
- Good discussion of the link between actions and underlying cognitive processes. More of that would be even better

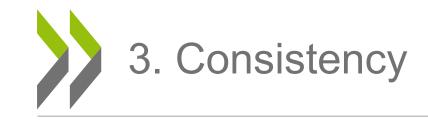


2. Identify and characterize clusters of respondents based on their actions

- Part of the paper I liked the most
- Careful how you interpret presence of skilled respondents in each cluster
 - Clustering algorithm is "blind"
 - Only unigrams are used
 - How order of actions is accounted for?



- Are the items really comparable?
 - Show first that actions are similarly related to outcomes. Actually, some evidence this is not the case
- First step should be to look at characteristics of same groups in the two items
 - You work directly with consistency groups



- What if you exclude No. actions and time from previous cluster analysis?
- Why four consistency groups and just one inconsistent group?

