# Computer-Aided Text Analysis, or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Computer

Aaron F. McKenny



## Why I love the computer

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 29, 2004

Registration No. 333-

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM S-1 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

The Securities Act of 1933

#### GOOGLE INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

7375 (Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number) 77-0493581 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

#### 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway

Mountain View, CA 94043

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)



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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

## Why I love the computer

Table 2 N for Small, Medium, and Large ES at Power = .80 for  $\alpha$  = .01, .05, and .10

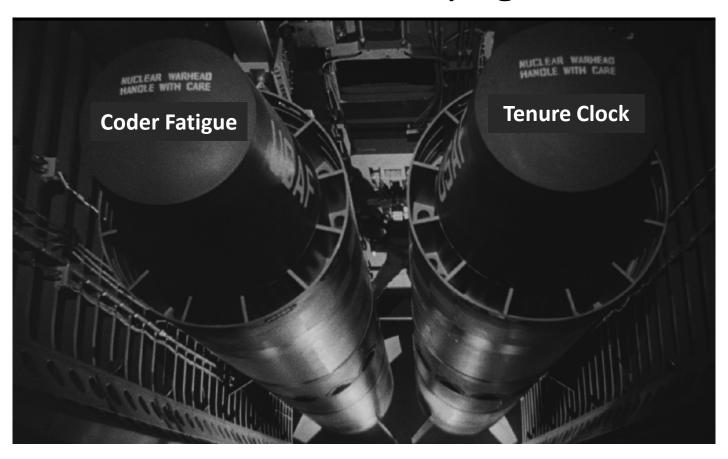
		α								
		.01			.05			.10		
Test	Sm	Med	Lg	Sm	Med	Lg	Sm	Med	Lg	
1. Mean dif	586	95	38	393	64	26	310	50	20	
2. Sig <i>r</i>	1,163	125	41	783	85	28	617	68	22	
3. <i>r</i> dif	2,339	263	96	1,573	177	66	1,240	140	52	
4. $P = .5$	1,165	127	44	783	85	30	616	67	23	
5. $P \text{ dif } 6. \chi^2$	584	93	36	392	63	25	309	49	19	
1 <i>df</i>	1,168	130	38	785	87	26	618	69	25	
2ďf	1,388	154	56	964	107	39	771	86	31	
3 <i>df</i>	1,546	172	62	1,090	121	44	880	98	35	
4df	1,675	186	67	1,194	133	48	968	108	39	
$ \begin{array}{c} 5df \\ df \\ 7 \\ 2g^a \end{array} $		- <u>J</u>	26	1,293 1,3 0	143	CU				
$3g^a$	464	76	30	322	52	21	258	41	17	
4g <sup>a</sup> 5g <sup>a</sup>	388	63	25	274	45	18	221	36	15	
5g <sup>a</sup>	336	55	22	240	39	16	193	32	13	
$6g^a$	299	49	20	215	35	14	174	28	12	
$7g^a$	271	44	18	195	32	13	159	26	11	
8. Mult <i>R</i>										
$2k^b$	698	97	45	481	67	30				
$3k^b$	780	108	50	547	76	34				
$4k^b$	841	118	55	599	84	38				
$5k^b$	901	126	59	645	91	42				
$6k^b$	953	134	63	686	97	45				
$7k^b$	998	141	66	726	102	48				
$8k^b$	1,039	147	69	757	107	50				

Note. ES = population effect size, Sm = small, Med = medium, Lg = large, diff = difference, ANOVA = analysis of variance. Tests numbered as in Table 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Number of groups. <sup>b</sup> Number of independent variables.

## Manual Coding...

25,000-35,000 pages!



# Computer-Aided Text Analysis





Organizational Ambidexterity

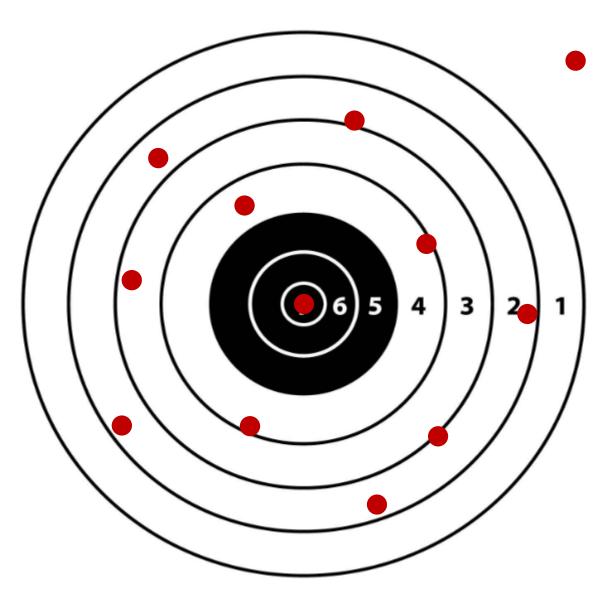
## How it works

- Sample Dictionary: *Innovativeness* 
  - "Innovative" "Innovation" "Innovate" "Research" "Inventions" "Inventive" "Creative" "Creativity"

- Sample narrative to analyze:
  - "The creativity of our research and development team make this organization one of the most innovative in the industry, with patents on over 2,300 inventions."

# Innovativeness: 4

## What worried me



## Origins of my recommendations

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#### Construct Validation Using Computer-Aided Text Analysis (CATA)

#### An Illustration Using Entrepreneurial Orientation

Jeremy C. Short Texas Tech University J. Christian Broberg Wichita State University Claudia C. Cogliser Keith H. Brigham Texas Tech University

Construct validity continues to pose challenges in the organizational sciences. To capture difficult-to-measure constructs of interest, researchers have often relied on content analysis. One content analysis technique, computer-aided text analysis (CATA), is particularly attractive because of the ability to process large samples with high speeds and reliabilities. Unfortunately, inconsistent guidance exists to guide researchers through the use of this tool in a manner compatible with accepted methods used to validate constructs in a rigorous manner. The authors review research using content analysis to examine the extent to which such studies integrate methods for assessing content, external, discriminant, and predictive validity. To provide direction for organizational researchers interested in using CATA to measure theoretically based constructs relevant to the management field, they suggest a number of possible procedures to enhance construct validity. They illustrate these procedures using the construct of entrepreneurial orientation.

**Keywords:** computer-aided text analysis; construct validation; content analysis; DICTION; entrepreneurial orientation

V alidity refers to evaluating inferences drawn from measures of concepts of interest and considers the extent to which a measure accurately represents that focal concept (Cronbach, 1971). The importance of rigor in construct measurement cannot be minimized. Kerlinger and Lee (2000) argued that the ability to demonstrate appropriate measures of theoretical notions of interest through construct validity "is one of the most significant advances of modern measurement theory and practice" (p. 670).

Despite advancements in the organizational sciences vis-à-vis construct validation, reviews of construct validity in the management field have yielded generally bleak conclusions about

Authors' Note: The authors would like to thank Tyge Payne for his thoughtful comments on previous drafts of this manuscript. Please address correspondence to Jeremy C. Short, Area of Management, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79408; e-mail: jermy, short/githu.du.

Article

#### Using Computer-Aided Text Analysis to Elevate Constructs: An Illustration Using Psychological Capital

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Aaron F. McKenny<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy C. Short<sup>1</sup>, and G. Tyge Payne<sup>2</sup>

#### Abstract

Applying individual-level constructs to higher levels of analysis can be a fruitful practice in organizational research. Although this practice is beneficial in developing and testing theory, there are measurement and validation concerns that, if improperly addressed, may threaten the validity and utility of the research. This article illustrates how computer-aided text analysis might be utilized to facilitate construct elevation while ensuring proper validation. Specifically, we apply a framework to develop organizational-level operationalizations of individual-level constructs using the psychological capital construct as an example.

#### Keywords

content analysis, level of analysis, multilevel, psychological capital, construct measurement, computer-aided text analysis

Macro organizational research often "borrows" constructs and associated theories from micro disciplines to investigate how they might apply at higher levels of analysis (Whetten, Felin, & King, 2009). There seems to be good reason for this practice as several micro-level theories and constructs have helped explain phenomena occurring at higher levels (Staw, 1991). For example, the concept of "learning," once reserved for individuals (e.g., Gagné, 1965), has been expanded by organizational theorists to apply to teams (e.g., Brooks, 1994), organizations (e.g., Huber, 1991), networks (e.g., Knight, 2002), and even institutions (e.g., Siebenhüner & Suplie, 2005).

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#### What Doesn't Get Measured Does Exist: Improving the Accuracy of Computer-Aided Text Analysis

Aaron F. McKenny University of Central Florida Herman Aguinis George Washington University Jeremy C. Short Aaron H. Anglin University of Oldahoma

Computer-aided text analysis (CATA) is a form of content analysis that enables the measurement of constructs by processing text into quantitative data based on the frequency of words. CATA has been proposed as a useful measurement approach with the potential to lead to important theoretical advancements. Ironically, while CATA has been offered to overcome some of the known deficiencies in existing measurement approaches, we have lagged behind in regard to assessing the technique's measurement rigor. Our article addresses this knowledge gap and describes important implications for past as well as future research using CATA. First, we describe three sources of measurement error variance that are particularly relevant to studies using CATA transient error, specific factor error, and algorithm error. Second, we describe and demonstrate

Acknowledgments: We thank Fred Oxwald, two Journal of Management anonymous reviewers, and Regan Stevenson for providing highly constructive and useful feedback that allowed us to improve our manuscript substantially. Also, we thank the following three author teams for sharing texts used in their studies: (a) Moss, T. W., Payne, G. T., & Moore, C. B. 2014. Strategic consistency of exploration and exploitation in family businesses. Family Business Review, 27: 51-71; (b) Short, J. C., Bort, J. C., Cogliere, C. C., & Brigham, K. H. 2010. Construct validation using computer-aided text analysis (CATA): An illustration using entrepreneurial orientation. Organizational Research Methods, 13: 320-347; and (c) Zachary, M. A., McKemy, A. F., Short, J. C., & Payne, G. T. 2011. Family business and market orientation: Construct validation and comparative analysis. Family Business Review, 24: 233-251.

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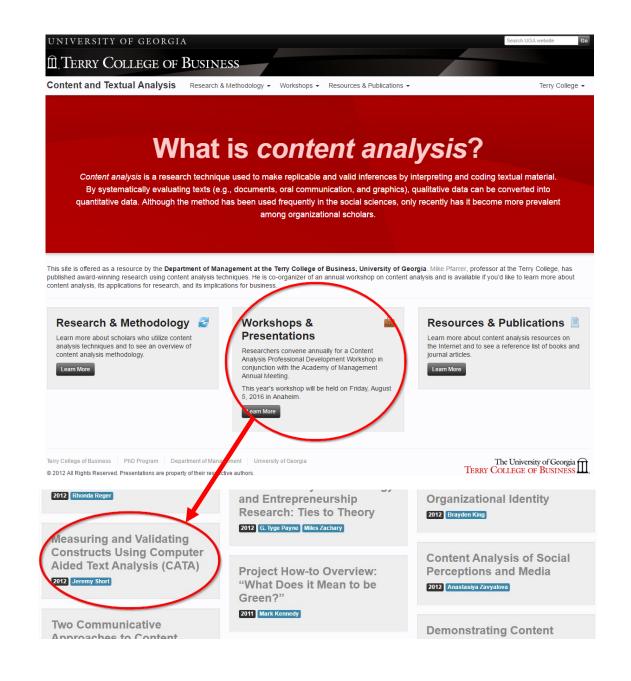
## Validity

Content

External

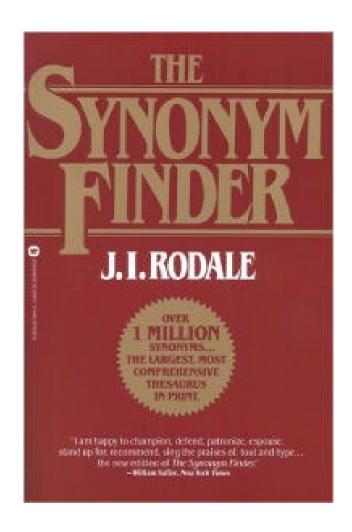
Discriminant

• Predictive



## Two-step process

- Deductive word list
  - From theory
  - From existing word lists
  - From the synonym finder
- Inductive word list
  - From sampled texts



Random Response

Something can change while writing the text.

e.g., get a journal rejection in the middle of writing an email

- Transient
- Specific Factor
- Algorithm

- Random Response
- Transient

Something can change between writing of sequential texts.

e.g., Stock market tanks

- Specific Factor
- Algorithm

- Random Response
- Transient
- Specific Factor

Contents of the word list involves judgment: omission/selection of words

e.g., Does "risk" always indicate risk taking?

Algorithm

- Random Response
- Transient
- Specific Factor
- Algorithm

Differences in CATA tool algorithms

e.g., Word list includes phrases but your CATA tool cannot process phrases

# Estimating Reliability

Measurement Error Source	Reliability Estimate	Calculation Guidelines
Transient Error	Test-Retest Reliability	Collect 2 sequential texts and use CATA to analyze them. Calculate the correlation.
Specific Factor Error	Parallel Forms Reliability	Manually code 10% of sample. Calculate the correlation.
Algorithm Error	Interrater Agreement	Run CATA using two tools. Calculate Krippendorff's alpha.

# Is there error to worry about?

Error Source	Type of Reliability Estimate	Entrepreneurial Orientation Dimension	Reliability Estimate	Percent of Variance Due to Measurement Error <sup>a</sup>
Transient	Test-retest	Autonomy	.32	68
error		Competitive aggressiveness	.43	37
		Innovativeness	.52	48
		Proactiveness	.55	45
		Risk taking	.71	29
		Mean (Test-retest)	.51	49
Specific factor error	Parallel forms	Autonomy	.29	71
		Competitive aggressiveness	.51	49
		Innovativeness	.35	65
		Proactiveness	.72	28
		Risk taking	.30	<u>70</u>
		Mean (Parallel forms)	.43	57
Algorithm	Krippendorff's	Autonomy	.90	10
error	alpha	Competitive aggressiveness	.89	11
		Innovativeness	.89	11
		Proactiveness	.88	12
		Risk taking	.90	10
		Mean (Krippendorff's alpha)	.89	11

## Is that significant?

- Engelen, Neumann, & Schmidt (2016)
  - EO $\rightarrow$ Tobin's Q: r = .24
  - Without measurement error: r = .34
  - Regression coefficient with error: 0.59
  - Regression coefficient without error: 0.83
  - Difference: 0.24

For a Business Week 1000 firm with \$10B in assets, the difference is an increase of \$2.4B in market value

# How you too can stop worrying: Transient Error

- Is the construct theoretically stable over time?
- Investigate the possibility of shocks
- Decrease lag between texts
- Text selection
  - Frequency
  - Content consistency (managerial attention)
  - Standardization
  - Author (did it change?)

# How you too can stop worrying: Specific Factor Error

### Refine the dictionaries

- Deductive/Inductive (Short et al., 2010)
- Manual/CATA (McKenny et al., in press)
- Avoid word roots (e.g., Refin\*)
- Include all relevant conjugations
- Replace words with phrases (e.g., "risk" vs "risk taking")
- Ensure that words are relevant to your context

# How you too can stop worrying: Algorithm Error

Identify CATA tool limitations

Run CATA using a third tool

Recreate CATA analysis manually

# Thank you



"Based on the findings of this presentation, I hope your conclusion is that measurement error is not a deterrent for reasons which at this moment must be all too obvious."

~Dr. Strangelove (almost)

## Resources

- CAT Scanner CATA software (Free)
  - http://www.catscanner.net/

- University of Georgia Content Analysis site
  - http://www.terry.uga.edu/management/contentanalysis
  - Particularly Relevant Presentations
    - Custom Dictionaries in Computer-Aided Text Analysis (McKenny, 2012)
    - Measuring and Validating Constructs Using Computer-Aided Text Analysis (Short, 2012)

### Resources

- McKenny AF, Aguinis H, Short JC, Anglin AH. In Press. What doesn't get measured does exist: improving the accuracy of computer-aided text analysis. *Journal of Management*. doi: 10.1177/0149206316657594.
  - Supplemental Materials
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   Organizational Research Methods 13(2): 320-347