

Thin Slices of Natural Behavior: When Am I Most “Me”?

Background

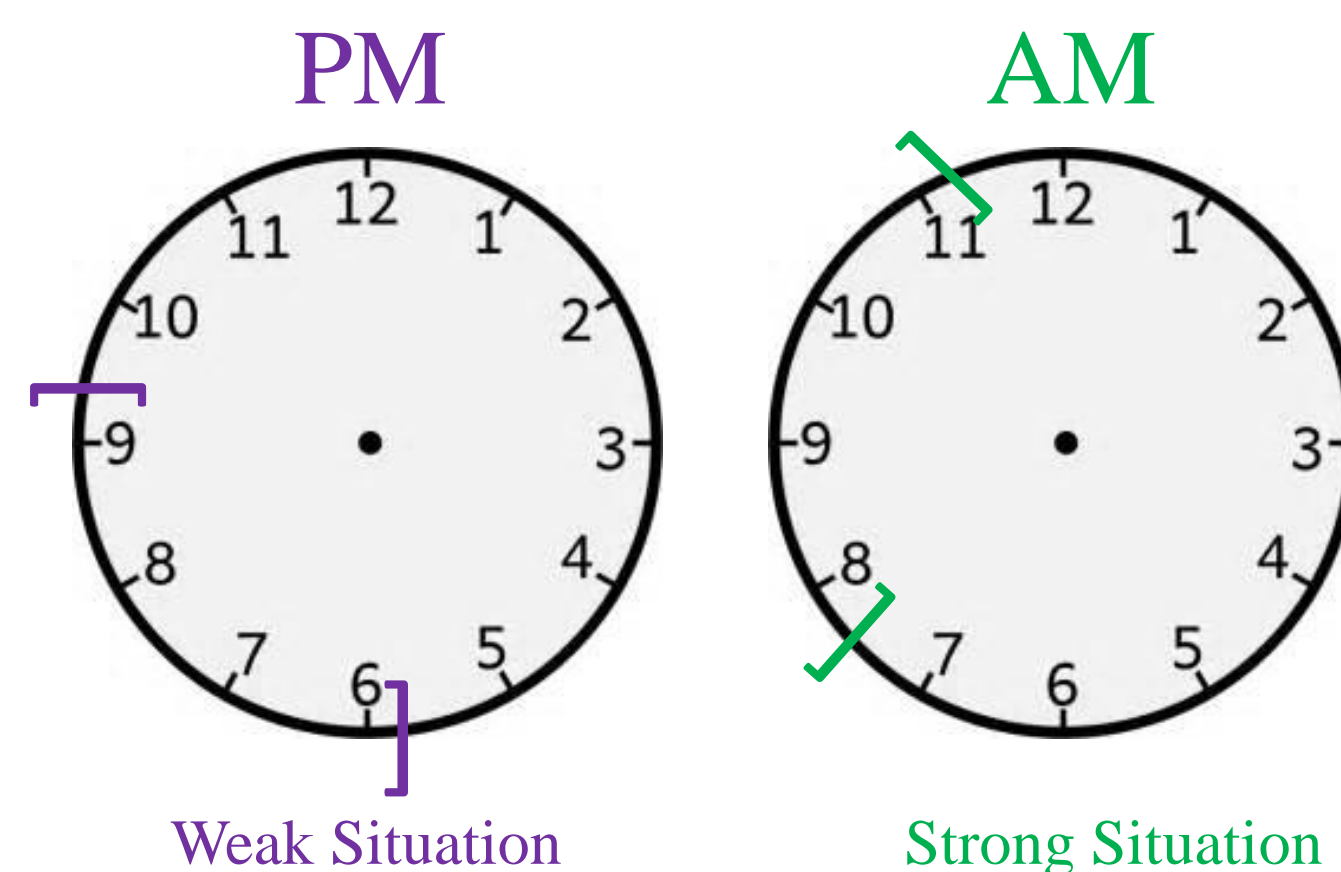
- Certain situations allow for **greater variability** in expressions of individual differences (Snyder & Ickes, 1985)
- It is possible that these circumstances may tend to reliably occur at certain points in time
- In fact, some have suggested that there are specific times of day in which we might be able to best observe inter-individual variability in behavior (e.g., 7:00pm; Baranski et al., 2016)

Research Questions

- **Consistency:** Are people consistent in expressing various forms of behavior throughout a given day?
- **Representativeness:** Are there times of day that might be more representative of an individual’s behavior in aggregate?
- Does consistency or representativeness change as a function of class of behavior?

Method

- To answer these questions, we re-analyzed behavioral data (gathered via the Electronically Activated Recorder) from 84 participants over a two-day period (Beer & Vazire, in review)
- We sub-sampled the data thusly:



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Interpreting the Figure

- Axes represent the part-total correlations for the AM and PM subsamples
- Behaviors located closest to the center line represent those that showed relatively equivalent relations to the total sample
- Behaviors located in the upper left and lower-right showed greater representativeness for PM and AM, respectively
- Behaviors close to the origin were not well-captured, AM or PM

Conclusions

- Talking with close others, playing music, watching TV, and moving seem generally **consistent** and **representative** across samples
- The evening time slices seemed to better capture the whole for several behaviors, particularly some that may be relevant to Extraversion
- (Substantial) Limitations:
 - Time slices chosen a priori (both in terms of length and temporal position)
 - Full sample is not ideal in size
 - This begs for replication/proper extension