

# Psychometrics of MOOCs: How Analyzing Digital Traces Helps to Improve Learning

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# Traditional vs. Online Learning



We can see what happens...



We cannot see what happens...

## But we have data...

A lot of data on learners, content and context

### **Psychometrics**

Psychometrics is a scientific discipline concerned with the question of how hidden/unobservable constructs (e.g., knowledge, interest, motivation) can be optimally related to observables (e.g., item responses, response times, content views).



# Center for Psychometrics in eLearning



digital learning does happen,

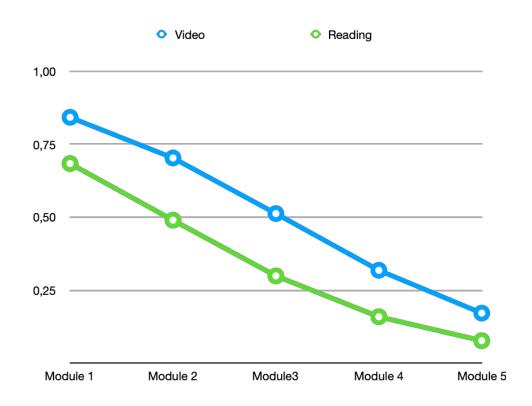
how

digital learning products do work?

### **Example One**

Learners are more active with video lectures than with reading materials.

Hint! Include reading materials into video lectures.

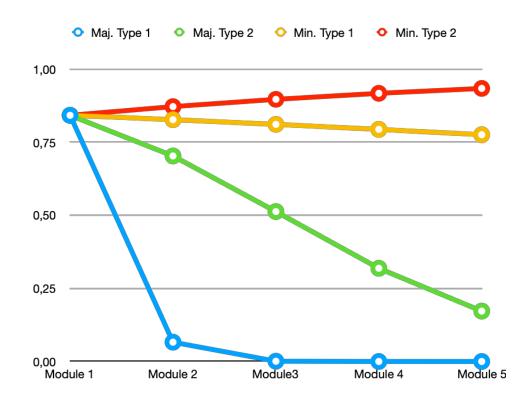


### Example Two

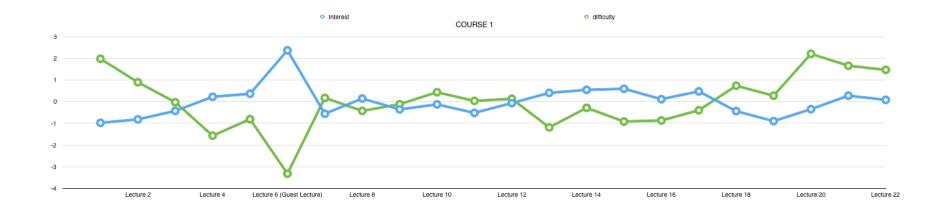
We have detected three groups of learners:
majority with decreasing activity, and minorities with flat and increasing

The minorities perform better and with a lower number of attempts in summative assessments.

activity.

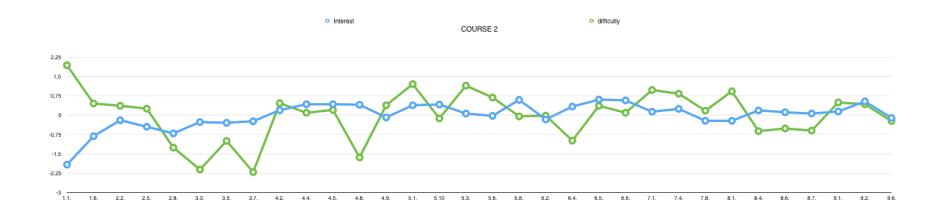


# **Example Three**



Guest lectures boost learners' interest.

## **Example Four**



«In the start of the course you may feel asleep, but later it is fine...» (from a learner's feedback)

### What next?

Although we have a lot of exciting breakthroughs in psychometrics, shipping analytic products are still cumbersome. There is a gap between research and practice. The biggest problems are research generalizability and users' perception. To take psychometrics to every digital learning product, we as a community have important work to do to cover this gap.



### Thank you!

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