Dear October,

Dr. Longo speaks of Visuospatial as a feature of memory. In brief the visuospatical sketchpad is limited in capacity and features of a given dimension relative to competing and retention of objects depens on binding together of these features and that process demands attention.

Although the primary function of the visual sketchpad is to measure non-verbal intelligence in respect to the capacity to hold and manipulate visuospatial representation, it also plays a role in acquiring semantic knowledge about objects and how to use them especially in understanding complex issues or systems, spatial orientation and geographical knowledge.

The brain systems responsible for keeping information in working memory largely overlap with those that control your ability to focus. Loosely put, "you need to remember what to focus on". This overlap is also evident in everyday functioning. There are basically three components: The visuospatial sketchpad, the phonological loop and the central executive. The central executive is the component that retrives and applies the stored information and the visuospatial sketchpad and phonological loop are the two storage systems.

You may have noticed that Conway used the Chronbach’s alpha. As you could see in the Anova the Alpha is set at 0.05. This insures that you are working with 95 percent confidence. The Chronbach alpha is used when you are using different tests and you want to make sure that they are internally consistent.

Reliability comes to the forefront when variables developed from summated scales are used as predictor components in objective models. Since summated scales are an assembly of interrelated items designed to measure underlying constructs, it is very important to know whether the same set of items would elicit the same responses if the same questions are recast and re-administered to the same respondents. Variables derived from test instruments are declared to be reliable only when they provide stable and reliable responses over a repeated administration of the test.

Excel does not have an easy way to generate Chronbach’s alpha. If you are using empirical data you really don’t need it, but if you are using questionnaires with degree responses or different types of tests it might be helpful. For your information I have put in a link to an online calculator for future reference.The minimum acceptance level is 0.70 but 0.80 is the perferred level.

<http://www.wessa.net/rwasp_cronbach.wasp>

The next module is focused on multiple linear regressions. Multiple linear regressions provide the researcher with the statistical tools to address causality and to make predictions. In the next module we will focus primarily on multiple linear regressions. I will try to make a case for limiting your study to about five variables. Each variable will have a logical set of attributes that you will develop in the review of literature. The general rule is that you should have 10 times the number of observations as you have variables. If you start with five variables you will need 50 observations to insure statical stability. The analysis of the logical set of attributes associated with each variable does not require additional observation, but is generated through statistical analysis. In other words, you can do a regression analysis on each of the attributes associated with one of the five original variables.

I have always advised student to start with Chapter III, the method. This is the chapter that clearly defines the research questions and the unit of analysis and the statistics that will be utilized to examine the data gleaned for the instrument that provides the unit of analysis. I hope that you find regression analysis helpful

The grade for Module 5 is A.

Dr. B.