

# Using complex network analysis based on intensive longitudinal data to predict treatment dropout in patients with mood and anxiety disorders

Brian Schwartz and Wolfgang Lutz  
University of Trier



mean dropout rate = 19.7 % (range = 0 – 74.2)

Swift & Greenberg (2012). J Consult Clin Psych, 80(4), 547–599.

## Individual's perspective

- poor treatment outcomes
- higher hospitalization rates
- continuing psychological disorders
- strain for patients' relatives

## Society's perspective

- inefficient use of clinical personnel
- strains the health system
- reduced productivity of patients
- increasing mental health costs

# Predicting dropout based on a single measurement

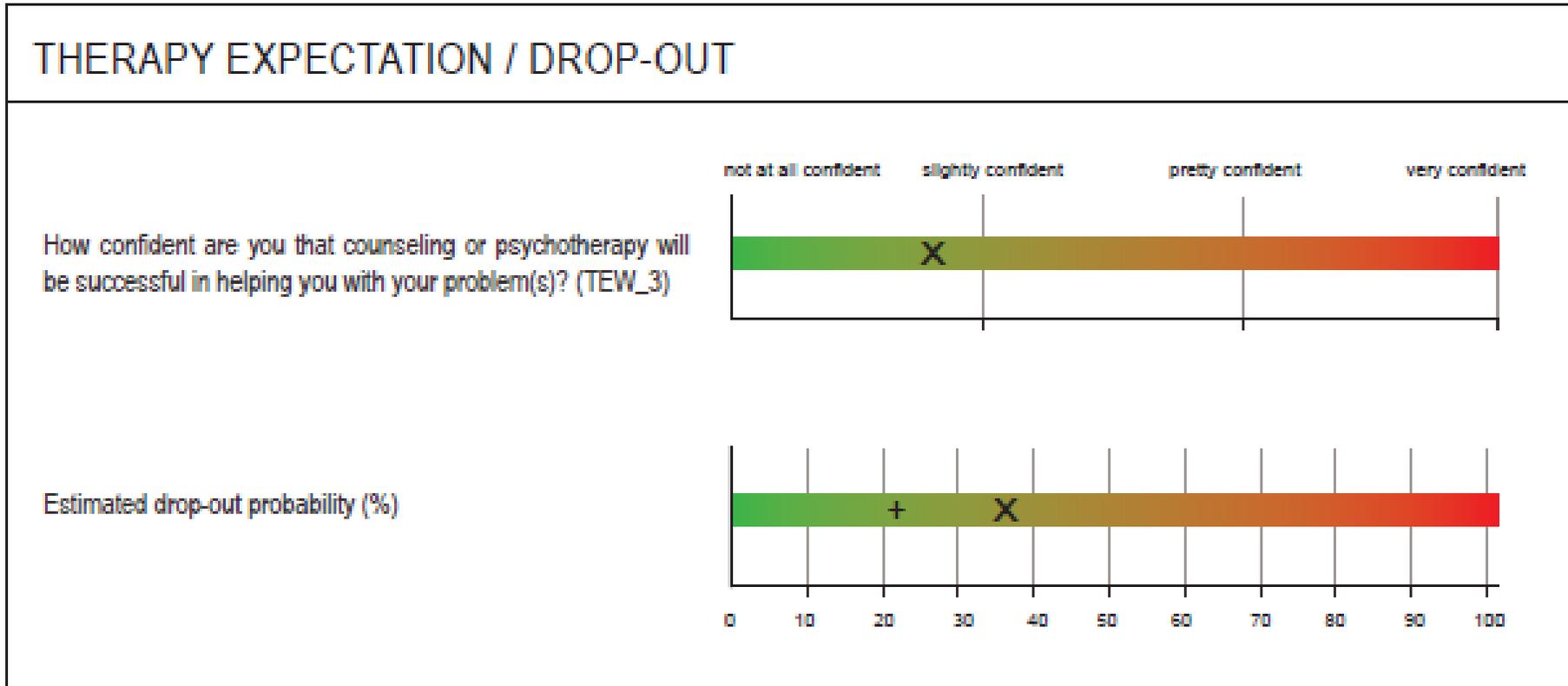
- $N = 707$  patients treated by 66 therapists ( $M = 10.71$  patients per therapist, range = 3 – 30)
- Impairment, interpersonal problems, treatment expectations, personality style, socio-demographics
- Multilevel logistic regression model

$$R^2_{\text{GLMM(marginal)}} = .105$$
$$AUC = .686$$

Fixed effects on final model

	estimate	P-value
BSI – global severity index	0.396	.007
Age	-0.005	.549
Sex	0.458	.029
Education middle	-0.102	.691
Education high	-0.590	.022
PSSI-K – obsessive-compulsive	-0.390	.010
PSSI-K – histrionic	-0.395	.011
Treatment expectation 1	-0.254	.016
Treatment expectation 2	-0.457	.001

# Dropout prediction in the Trier Treatment Navigator

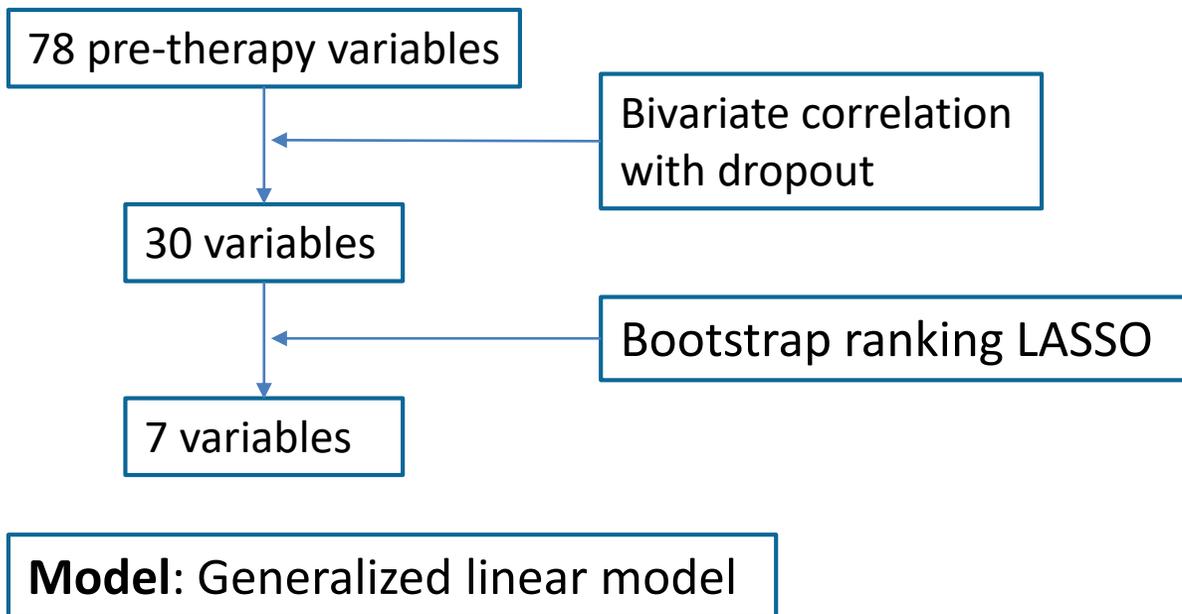


# Dropout prediction in the Trier Treatment Navigator



- Archival data ( $N = 1234$ ), 22.6% dropout

## Variable selection



## Final prediction model for dropout

	BRLasso	GLM	p-value
FEP-2	-0.230	-0.697	.001
HSCL-11	0.261	0.609	.001
PSSI-K – histrionic	0.322	0.359	.001
OQ-30 – interpersonal relationships	0.411	0.530	<.001
PSSI-K – obsessive-compulsive	-0.416	-0.320	.004
Treatment expectation (therapist)	-0.509	-0.513	<.001
High school education	-0.586	-0.610	<.001

$$R^2_{\text{McFadden}} = .120$$

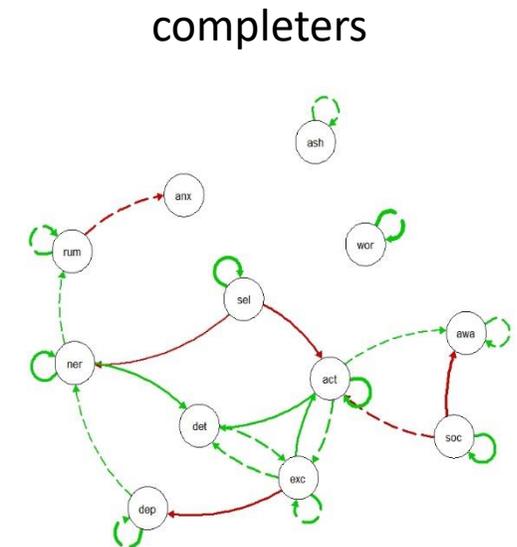
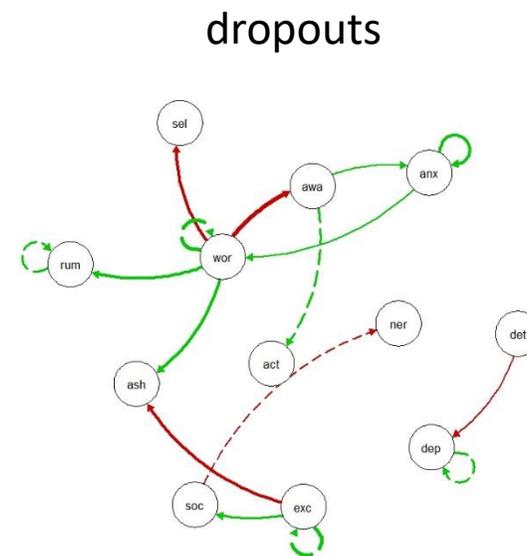
$$AUC = .698$$

# Intensive longitudinal data and network analysis

- Pre-therapy **ambulatory assessments** (4 times/day \* 14 days)
- $N = 3248$  observations nested within  $n = 58$  patients
- Positive and negative affect, rumination, worry, self-efficacy, social support (16 items)

- **Longitudinal Network analysis:**

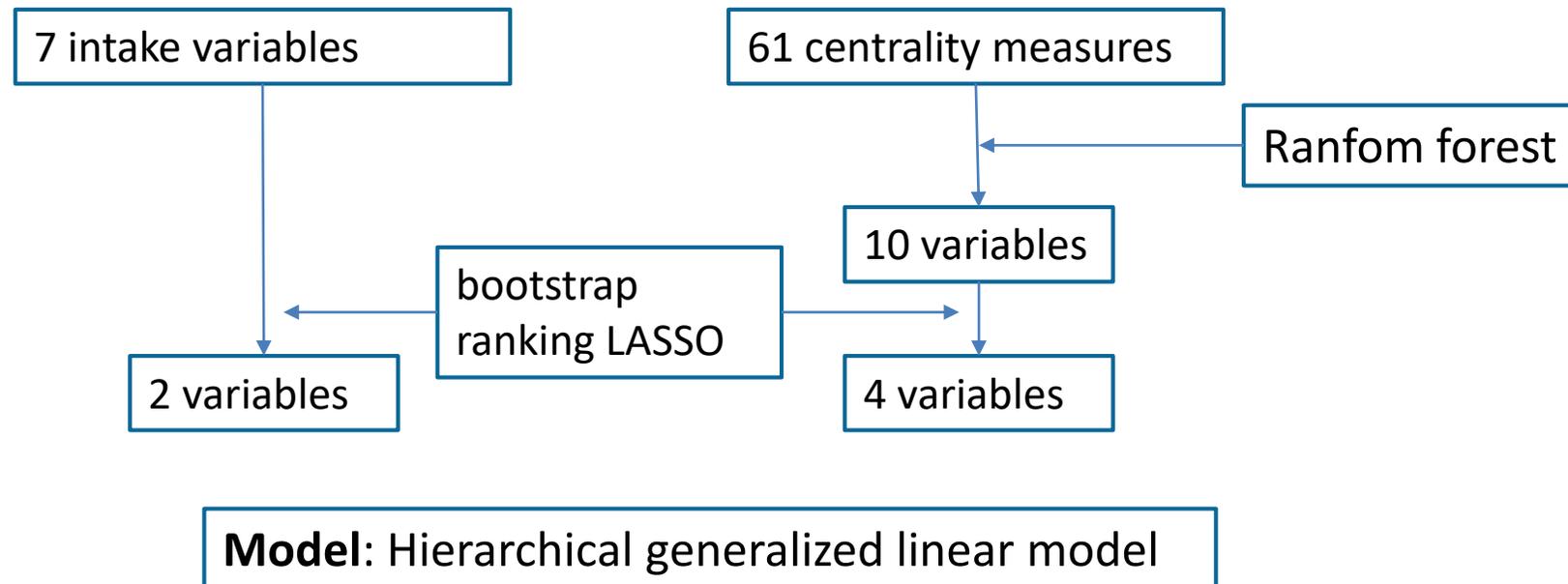
- Multilevel vector autoregressive (mIVAR) models
- Each variable regressed on lagged versions of all variables (lag 1)



# Combining ML and statistical inference

- Network centrality measures: betweenness, closeness, instrength, outstrength, expected force
- 7 intake variables (e.g., impairment, sex, personality style)

## Variable selection



# Prediction based on centrality measures

Hierarchical prediction model for dropout

	GLM			
	Block 1		Block 2	
	estimate	p-value	estimate	p-value
BSI – global severity index	0.87†	.066	0.62	.324
sex	-0.79	.195	-1.27	.101
nervous – betweenness			-1.00*	.018
excited – expected force			-0.90*	.035
active – instrength			-1.02*	.035
social support – outstrength			-1.00*	.029

Only cross-sectional variables (block 1)

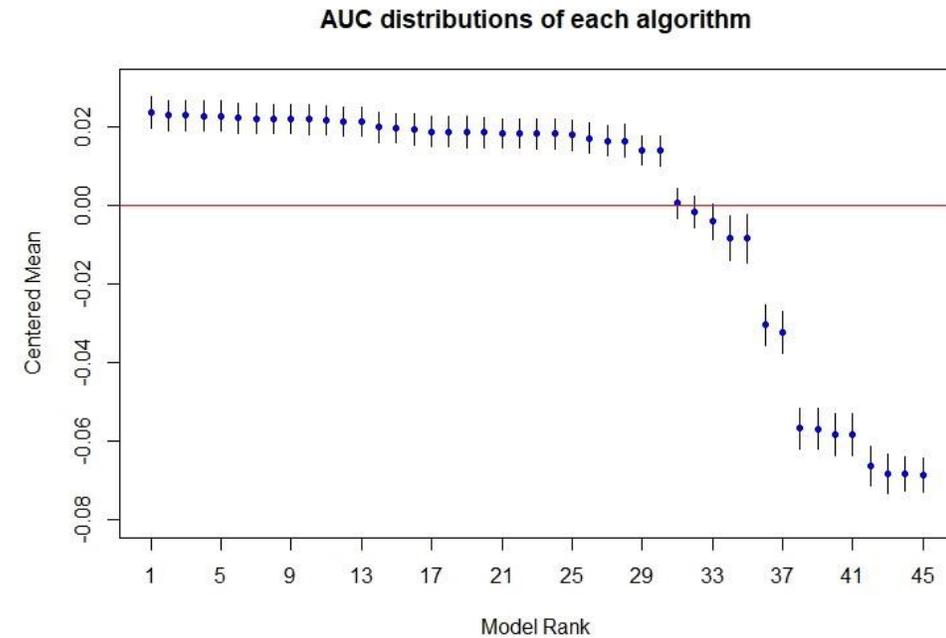
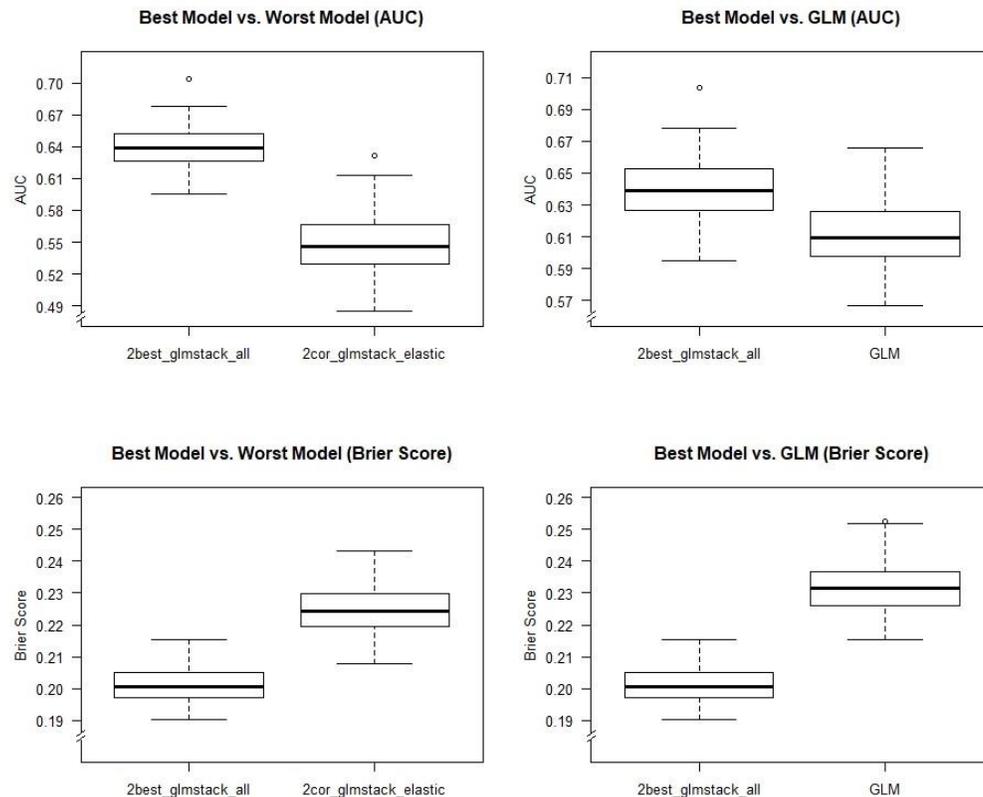
$$R^2_{\text{McFadden}} = .06$$
$$AUC = .64$$

$$R^2_{\text{McFadden}} = .32$$
$$AUC = .83$$

With centrality measures (block 2)

# Selection of machine learning algorithms

- $N = 2043$  outpatients, 22 algorithms and ensembles
- Best model: Ensemble of **elasticnet** and **glmboost**



Best model  
 $R^2_{\text{McFadden}} = .060$   
 $AUC = .640$

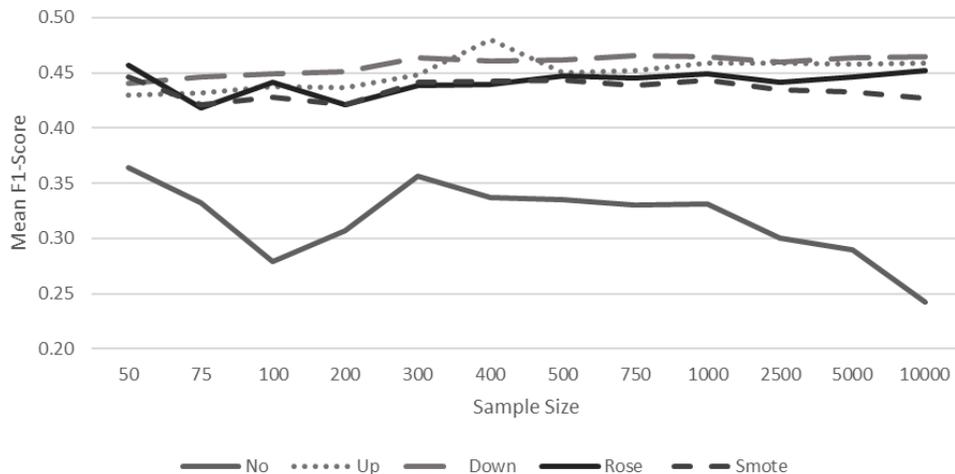
Worst model  
 $R^2_{\text{McFadden}} = .007$   
 $AUC = .548$

# Resampling methods for imbalanced data

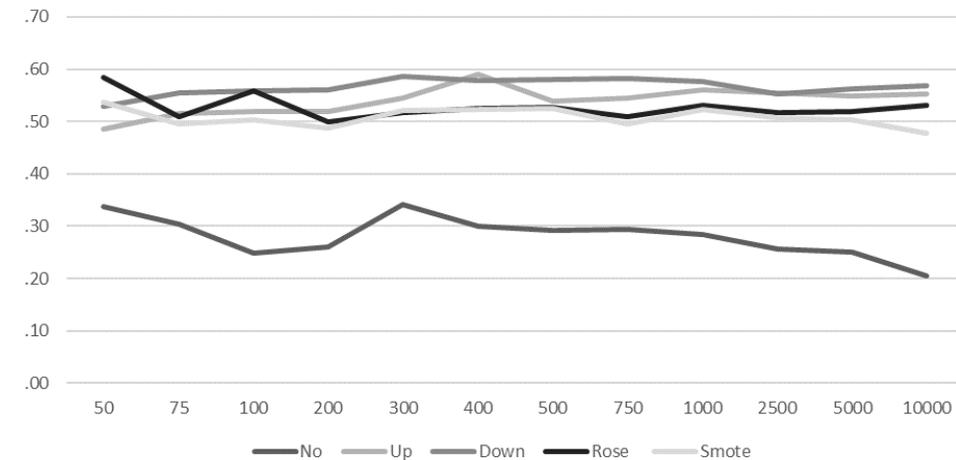


- $N = 49,602$  outpatients
- 5 resampling methods: no resampling, up-sampling, down-sampling, SMOTE, and ROSE
- $F_1$ -score: accuracy of binary classifier by weighting precision and recall

Mean  $F_1$ -score across algorithms and sample sizes

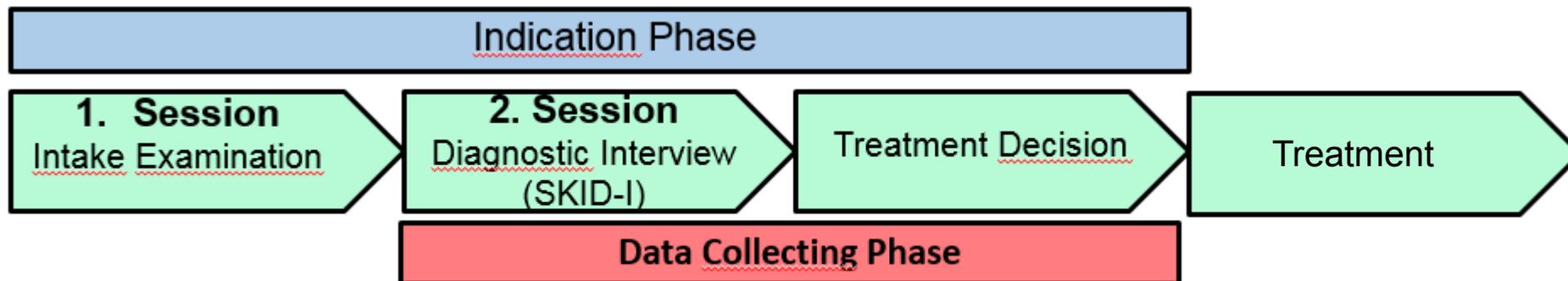


Mean sensitivity across algorithms and sample sizes



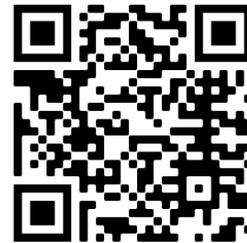
# Additional data sources

- Assessing passive data from personal digital devices
- Fitness tracker: [Garmin vivo smart 4](#)
  - Stress levels (heart rate variability)
  - Sleep quality and duration
  - Activity (steps)
  - Pulse
  - ...



- Improving dropout prediction to support clinical decision-making by **scientifically trained therapists**
- Longitudinal data seem to improve predictions, but **implementation** is challenging and psychometric training important
- Further **investigation of longitudinal networks as well as ML** before implementation into TTN/practice (larger data, crossvalidation, prospective evaluation)
- Unclear if centrality measures (as a summary of a network) can be meaningful predictors  
Bringmann et al. (2019). J Abnorm Psychol, 128(8), 892–903
- **Limitations:** Early implementation, new territory, methodological heterogeneity

# Thank you!



Follow this QR code to the network analysis paper

Correspondance: Brian Schwartz, M.Sc.  
E-mail: schwartzb@uni-trier.de  
Twitter: @Schwartz\_PsyRes

