

## *Supplementary Material*

# Varimax rotation based on gradient projection is a feasible alternative to SPSS

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## 1 Supplementary Code for GPR-Varimax

The following code follows the suggestions we give in the manuscript for optimal results of GPR-Varimax.

### 1.1 Code for GPR-Varimax in R

```
#####
##### EXAMPLE FOR GPR-VARIMAX

#####
# WITH KAISER-NORMALIZATION
##### SELECTION OF SOLUTION WITH GREATEST VARIMAX FROM UNROTATED LOADINGS AND
10 RANDOM START LOADINGS

#####
# additions to code for GPArotation (Bernaards & Jennrich, 2005):
# Kaiser-normalization of loadings before rotation
# loops for selecting best solution from identity-T and 10 random Ts

setwd ("F:/Gradient projection rotation/Data/R codes and data")

install.packages("GPArotation")
library("GPArotation")

library(foreign)

### settings:

n_fac <- 3
n_var <- 18
n_random <- 10
n_iter <- 250

### get unrotated loading matrix A:

A <- as.matrix(read.table("A_norot_Sample1_3C.txt", sep = ";"))
```

```

#### Kaiser-normalization: divide loadings by square root of
communalities

A_sq <- A^2
H_sq <- rowSums(A_sq, na.rm = FALSE, dims = 1)
H_root <- H_sq^0.5
H_diag <- diag(H_root)

A_kais <- solve(H_diag) %*% A
A <- A_kais

#### GPR-Varimax
#### first use identity-T (unrotated start loadings)

GPR_ident <- GPForth(A, Tmat=diag(ncol(A)), normalize=FALSE, eps=1e-5,
maxit=n_iter,
method="varimax", methodArgs=NULL)

A_sol1 <- GPR_ident[["loadings"]]

#### reverse Kaiser-normalization after rotation:

A_sol1 <- diag(H_root) %*% A_sol1

#### Varimax-criterion for unrotated start loadings (T = identity)

A_sq <- A_sol1^2
mn_A_sq1 <- colSums(A_sq) / n_var
mn_A_sq2 <- matrix(rep(mn_A_sq1, each=n_var), nrow=n_var, byrow=FALSE)

A_diff <- A_sq - mn_A_sq2
A_diff_sq <- A_diff^2
A_diff_cssq <- colSums(A_diff_sq, na.rm = FALSE, dims = 1)

var_A_sq <- A_diff_cssq / n_var
var_A_rssq <- sum(var_A_sq)
vari_1 <- var_A_rssq / n_fac

#### loop across 10 random start loadings and replace solution if Varimax
criterion gets larger
#### set preliminary varicrit and A solution to solution from T=identity:

A_sol <- A_sol1

vari_crit <- vari_1

for (i_random in 1:n_random) {

  Random.Start <- function(n_fac) {
    qr.Q(qr(matrix(rnorm(n_fac*n_fac), n_fac)))
  }

  T_rnd <- Random.Start(n_fac)
}

```

```

GPR_rand <- GPForth(A, Tmat=T_rnd, normalize=FALSE, eps=1e-5, maxit=n_iter,
                      method="varimax", methodArgs=NULL)

A_solr <- GPR_rand[["loadings"]]

### reverse Kaiser-normalization after rotation:

A_solr <- diag(H_root) %*% A_solr

### Varimax criterion for each solution from random start loadings:

A_sq <- A_solr^2
mn_A_sq1 <- colSums(A_sq)/n_var
mn_A_sq2 <- matrix(rep(mn_A_sq1,each=n_var), nrow=n_var, byrow=FALSE)

A_diff <- A_sq - mn_A_sq2
A_diff_sq <- A_diff^2
A_diff_cssq <- colSums(A_diff_sq, na.rm = FALSE, dims = 1)

var_A_sq <- A_diff_cssq/n_var
var_A_rssq <- sum(var_A_sq)
vari_rnd <- var_A_rssq/n_fac

### select solution with largest Varimax criterion:

if(vari_rnd > vari_crit){
  vari_crit <- vari_rnd
  A_sol <- A_solr
}

View(A_sol1)
View(A_sol)
View(vari_crit)

write.table (A_sol, "A_GPR_R_Sample1_3C.txt", sep = ";")

```

## 1.2 Code for GPR-Varimax in SPSS Matrix

```
*****
***** EXAMPLE FOR GPR-VARIMAX

***** WITH KAISER-NORMALIZATION

***** SELECTION OF SOLUTION WITH GREATEST VARIMAX
***** FROM UNROTATED LOADINGS AND 10 RANDOM START LOADINGS
***** *****
***** changes to code from http://www.stat.ucla.edu/research/gpa/orthogonal.SPS
(Bernaards & Jennrich, 2005):

*** Kaiser-normalization of loadings before rotation
*** loops for selecting best solution from identity-T and 10 random Ts

*** Tmat for identity as Tmat = ident(n_fac) instead of Tmat={1, 0; 0, 1}
*** #iter = 0 to n_iter
*** addition under compute X=Tmat-al*Gp.: compute X=TRUNC(1000000*X)&/1000000.
*** (last step ensures a symmetric matrix for SVD of X)

set mxloop = 100000000 mtindex = 500000.

***** .
***** .
* VARIMAX.
***** .
***** .

MATRIX.

*settings:

compute n_fac = 3.
compute n_var = 18.
compute n_random = 10.
compute n_iter = 250.

* get unrotated loading matrix A:

get A /file = "F:\Gradient projection rotation\Data\SPSS data\Sample
1\A_norot_Sample1_3C.sav".

* Kaiser normalization: divide loadings by square root of communalities:

compute H_sq = rssq(A).
compute H_root = (H_sq)**0.5.
compute A_kais=INV(Mdiag(H_root))*A.
```

```

* GPR-Varimax:

*****
*** first use identity-T (unrotated start loadings)

compute A = A_kais.
compute Tmat = ident(n_fac).
compute al=1.
compute L=A * Tmat.
* .
* Varimax.
* .
compute L2 = L&*L.
compute n = nrow(L2).
compute cm = make(n,n,1)/n.
compute QL = L2 - cm*L2.
compute ft = -trace(T(QL)*QL)/4.
compute Gq = -L&*QL.
* .
* end Varimax.
* .
compute f=ft.
compute G=T(A)*Gq.
loop #iter=0 to n_iter .
    compute M=T(Tmat) * G.
    compute S=(M + T(M))/2.
    compute Gp=G - Tmat*S.
    compute s=sqrt(trace(T(Gp) * Gp)).
    compute sl = lg10(s).
    compute outp ={#iter, ft, sl, al}.
    *print outp.
    do if (s < 0.00001).
        break.
    end if.
    compute al=2*al.
    loop #i = 0 to 10.
        compute X=Tmat-al*Gp.
        compute X=TRUNC(1000000*X)&/1000000.
        call SVD (X,u,d,v).
        compute Tt=U*T(V).
        compute L=A*Tt.
    * .
    * Varimax.
    * .
    compute L2 = L&*L.
    compute n = nrow(L2).
    compute cm = make(n,n,1)/n.
    compute QL = L2 - cm*L2.
    compute ft = -trace(T(QL)*QL)/4.
    compute Gq = -L&*QL.
    * .
    * end Varimax.
    * .
    do if (ft < f-.5*s*s*al).

```

```

        compute i=10.
    end if.
    do if (ft > f-.5*s*s*al).
        compute al=al/2.
    end if.
end loop.
compute Tmat=Tt.
compute f=ft.
compute G=T(A)*Gq.
end loop.
compute A_sol1=A*Tmat.
*print A_sol1.
*print Tmat.

*reverse Kaiser-normalization after rotation:

compute A_sol1= mdiag(H_root)*A_sol1.

*****
** Varimax-criterion for unrotated start loadings (T = identity)

compute A_sq = A_sol1**2.
compute mn_A_sq1 = csum(A_sq)/n_var.

loop i_fac = 1 to n_fac.
    compute mn_multi = make(n_var,1,mn_A_sq1(1,i_fac)).
    do if i_fac = 1.
        compute mn_A_sq2 = mn_multi.
    end if.
    do if i_fac > 1.
        compute mn_A_sq2 = {mn_A_sq2, mn_multi}.
    end if.
end loop.

compute A_diff = A_sq - mn_A_sq2.
compute var_A_sq = cssq(A_diff)/n_var.
compute vari_1 = rsum(var_A_sq)/n_fac.

*****
** loop across 10 random start loadings and replace solution if
Varimax criterion gets larger

*set preliminary varicrit and A solution to solution from T=identity:

compute A_sol = A_sol1.
compute varicrit = vari_1.

loop i_random=1 to n_random.

    compute A = A_kais.
    compute TRA = UNIFORM(n_fac, n_fac).

```

```

compute Tmat = GSCH(TRA) .
compute al=1.
compute L=A * Tmat.
* .
* Varimax.
* .
compute L2 = L&*L.
compute n = nrow(L2).
compute cm = make(n,n,1)/n.
compute QL = L2 - cm*L2.
compute ft = -trace(T(QL)*QL)/4.
compute Gq = -L&*QL.
* .
* end Varimax.
* .
compute f=ft.
compute G=T(A)*Gq.
loop #iter=0 to n_iter .
    compute M=T(Tmat) * G.
    compute S=(M + T(M))/2.
    compute Gp=G - Tmat*S.
    compute s=sqrt(trace(T(Gp) * Gp)).
    compute sl = lg10(s).
    compute outp ={#iter, ft, sl, al}.
    *print outp.
    do if (s < 0.00001).
        break.
    end if.
    compute al=2*al.
loop #i = 0 to 10.
    compute X=Tmat-al*Gp.
    compute X=TRUNC(1000000*X) &/1000000.
    call SVD (X,u,d,v).
    compute Tt=U*T(V).
    compute L=A*Tt.
* .
* Varimax.
* .
compute L2 = L&*L.
compute n = nrow(L2).
compute cm = make(n,n,1)/n.
compute QL = L2 - cm*L2.
compute ft = -trace(T(QL)*QL)/4.
compute Gq = -L&*QL.
* .
* end Varimax.
* .
do if (ft < f-.5*s*s*al).
    compute i=10.
end if.
do if (ft > f-.5*s*s*al).
    compute al=al/2.
end if.
end loop.
compute Tmat=Tt.
compute f=ft.

```

```

        compute G=T(A)*Gq.
end loop.
compute A_solr=A*Tmat.
*print A_solr.
*print Tmat.

*reverse Kaiser-normalization after rotation:

compute A_solr= mdiag(H_root)*A_solr.

***** Varimax criterion for each solution from random start loadings:

compute A_sq = A_solr**2.
compute mn_A_sq1 = csum(A_sq)/n_var.

loop i_fac = 1 to n_fac.
    compute mn_multi = make(n_var,1,mn_A_sq1(1,i_fac)).
    do if i_fac = 1.
        compute mn_A_sq2 = mn_multi.
    end if.
    do if i_fac > 1.
        compute mn_A_sq2 = {mn_A_sq2, mn_multi}.
    end if.
end loop.

compute A_diff = A_sq - mn_A_sq2.
compute var_A_sq = cssq(A_diff)/n_var.
compute vari_rnd = rsum(var_A_sq)/n_fac.

* select solution with largest Varimax criterion:

do if vari_rnd > varicrit.
    compute A_sol = A_solr.
    compute varicrit = vari_rnd.
end if.

end loop.

print A_sol1.
print A_sol.
print varicrit.

save A_sol /outfile = "F:\Gradient projection rotation\Data\SPSS data\Sample
1\A_GPR_SPSSMatr_Sample1_3C.sav".

END MATRIX.

```

## 2 Supplementary Tables

*Supplementary Table 1*

*Exemplary loading matrix obtained from GPR-Varimax implemented in SPSS Matrix and R for Sample 1 from the simulation and rotation of 3 components with 18 variables, n = 100, and single-optimum simple structure in the population*

|     | Unrotated Loadings |      |      | GPR-Varimax solution<br>from SPSS Matrix |      |      | GPR-Varimax solution<br>from R |      |      |
|-----|--------------------|------|------|--|------|------|--------------------------------|------|------|
|     | C1                 | C2   | C3   | C1                                       | C2   | C3   | C1                             | C2   | C3   |
| V1  | .56                | -.16 | .17  | .59                                      | -.03 | .13  | .59                            | -.03 | .13  |
| V2  | .61                | -.46 | .01  | .74                                      | -.02 | -.18 | .74                            | -.02 | -.18 |
| V3  | .60                | -.36 | .02  | .69                                      | -.05 | -.11 | .69                            | -.05 | -.11 |
| V4  | .56                | .02  | -.15 | .45                                      | -.36 | .05  | .45                            | -.36 | .05  |
| V5  | .47                | -.35 | .15  | .59                                      | .09  | -.05 | .59                            | .09  | -.05 |
| V6  | .48                | -.06 | .12  | .47                                      | -.09 | .14  | .47                            | -.09 | .14  |
| V7  | -.33               | -.40 | .41  | -.04                                     | .65  | -.11 | -.04                           | .65  | -.11 |
| V8  | .15                | -.41 | .43  | .40                                      | .47  | .00  | .40                            | .47  | .00  |
| V9  | -.29               | -.01 | .63  | -.13                                     | .60  | .33  | -.13                           | .60  | .33  |
| V10 | -.28               | -.31 | .41  | -.02                                     | .59  | -.03 | -.02                           | .59  | -.03 |
| V11 | -.27               | -.33 | .31  | -.03                                     | .51  | -.11 | -.03                           | .51  | -.11 |
| V12 | -.30               | -.34 | .34  | -.04                                     | .56  | -.10 | -.04                           | .56  | -.10 |
| V13 | .14                | .52  | .34  | -.04                                     | -.07 | .63  | -.04                           | -.07 | .63  |
| V14 | .08                | .46  | .38  | -.06                                     | .02  | .60  | -.06                           | .02  | .60  |
| V15 | .09                | .38  | .27  | -.04                                     | -.03 | .47  | -.04                           | -.03 | .47  |
| V16 | .41                | .25  | .32  | .31                                      | -.06 | .49  | .31                            | -.06 | .49  |
| V17 | .06                | .45  | .24  | -.10                                     | -.08 | .50  | -.10                           | -.08 | .50  |
| V18 | .37                | .36  | .42  | .24                                      | -.03 | .62  | .24                            | -.03 | .62  |

*Note.* GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. GPR-Varimax was conducted with the suggested settings: Kaiser-normalized loadings, 250 iterations per rotation, and selection of the best solution from the unrotated loading matrix and an additional 10 multiple random start loading matrices.

Supplementary Table 2

*Varimax criterion for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 4 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations  |                | 250 iterations |                |
|---|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00501) | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00501) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00502) | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00502) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00502) | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00502) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00500) | .0408 (.00494) | .0406 (.00501) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) | .0417 (.00269) | .0417 (.00270) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00244) | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00244) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00244) | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00244) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00246) | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00245) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00244) | .0226 (.00237) | .0223 (.00245) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0240 (.00134) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0240 (.00134) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0240 (.00134) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0249 (.00134) | .0240 (.00134) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00130) | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00129) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00130) | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00129) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00130) | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00129) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00130) | .0147 (.00125) | .0145 (.00129) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.0085)  | .0170 (.00084) | .0170 (.00085) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .0108 (.00077) | .0107 (.00079) | .0108 (.00076) | .0107 (.00079) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0108 (.00077) | .0106 (.00080) | .0108 (.00076) | .0107 (.00080) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0108 (.00077) | .0106 (.00080) | .0108 (.00076) | .0107 (.00080) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0108 (.00077) | .0106 (.00080) | .0108 (.00076) | .0107 (.00080) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) | .0126 (.00057) | .0125 (.00057) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 3*

*Mean congruence with population components for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 4 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .944 (.0282)  | .944 (.0291) | .944 (.0282)   | .944 (.0291) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .944 (.0282)  | .944 (.0296) | .944 (.0282)   | .944 (.0296) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .944 (.0282)  | .944 (.0297) | .944 (.0282)   | .944 (.0295) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .944 (.0282)  | .944 (.0291) | .944 (.0282)   | .944 (.0291) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .983 (.0052)  | .983 (.0052) | .983 (.0052)   | .983 (.0052) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .983 (.0052)  | .983 (.0052) | .983 (.0052)   | .983 (.0052) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .983 (.0052)  | .983 (.0052) | .983 (.0052)   | .983 (.0052) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .983 (.0052)  | .983 (.0052) | .983 (.0052)   | .983 (.0052) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .862 (.0453)  | .863 (.0462) | .862 (.0453)   | .863 (.0461) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .862 (.0453)  | .863 (.0463) | .862 (.0452)   | .863 (.0461) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .862 (.0453)  | .863 (.0462) | .862 (.0452)   | .863 (.0460) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .862 (.0453)  | .863 (.0457) | .862 (.0452)   | .863 (.0461) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .962 (.0064)  | .962 (.0064) | .962 (.0064)   | .962 (.0064) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .962 (.0064)  | .962 (.0064) | .962 (.0064)   | .962 (.0064) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .962 (.0064)  | .962 (.0064) | .962 (.0064)   | .962 (.0064) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .962 (.0064)  | .962 (.0064) | .962 (.0064)   | .962 (.0064) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .786 (.0452)  | .789 (.0452) | .786 (.0452)   | .789 (.0451) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .785 (.0460)  | .788 (.0458) | .785 (.0457)   | .789 (.0452) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .785 (.0460)  | .788 (.0458) | .785 (.0457)   | .789 (.0452) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .785 (.0460)  | .788 (.0458) | .785 (.0457)   | .789 (.0452) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .940 (.0075)  | .941 (.0073) | .940 (.0075)   | .941 (.0073) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .940 (.0074)  | .941 (.0073) | .940 (.0074)   | .941 (.0073) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .940 (.0075)  | .941 (.0073) | .940 (.0075)   | .941 (.0073) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .940 (.0075)  | .941 (.0073) | .940 (.0075)   | .941 (.0073) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .729 (.0412)  | .732 (.0405) | .729 (.0411)   | .732 (.0406) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .727 (.0416)  | .731 (.0411) | .729 (.0410)   | .732 (.0410) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .727 (.0416)  | .731 (.0411) | .729 (.0410)   | .732 (.0410) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .727 (.0416)  | .731 (.0411) | .729 (.0410)   | .732 (.0410) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .918 (.0088)  | .918 (.0086) | .918 (.0088)   | .918 (.0086) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .918 (.0088)  | .918 (.0086) | .918 (.0088)   | .918 (.0086) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .918 (.0088)  | .918 (.0086) | .918 (.0088)   | .918 (.0086) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .918 (.0088)  | .918 (.0086) | .918 (.0088)   | .918 (.0086) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

Supplementary Table 4

*RMSE as deviation from population components for rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 4 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .128 (.0295)  | .128 (.0314) | .128 (.0295)   | .128 (.0314) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .128 (.0295)  | .128 (.0317) | .128 (.0295)   | .128 (.0317) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .128 (.0295)  | .128 (.0317) | .128 (.0295)   | .128 (.0316) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .128 (.0295)  | .128 (.0300) | .128 (.0295)   | .128 (.0314) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .070 (.0105)  | .070 (.0104) | .070 (.0105)   | .070 (.0104) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .070 (.0105)  | .070 (.0104) | .070 (.0105)   | .070 (.0104) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .070 (.0105)  | .070 (.0104) | .070 (.0105)   | .070 (.0104) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .070 (.0105)  | .070 (.0104) | .070 (.0105)   | .070 (.0104) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .149 (.0321)  | .148 (.0322) | .149 (.0321)   | .148 (.0322) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .149 (.0321)  | .149 (.0327) | .149 (.0321)   | .148 (.0323) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .149 (.0321)  | .148 (.0325) | .149 (.0321)   | .148 (.0320) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .149 (.0321)  | .148 (.0318) | .149 (.0321)   | .148 (.0318) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .076 (.0061)  | .076 (.0061) | .076 (.0061)   | .076 (.0060) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .076 (.0061)  | .076 (.0061) | .076 (.0061)   | .076 (.0060) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .076 (.0061)  | .076 (.0061) | .076 (.0061)   | .076 (.0060) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .076 (.0061)  | .076 (.0061) | .076 (.0061)   | .076 (.0060) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .158 (.0246)  | .157 (.0250) | .158 (.0246)   | .157 (.0250) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .158 (.0250)  | .158 (.0254) | .158 (.0251)   | .157 (.0252) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .158 (.0250)  | .158 (.0254) | .158 (.0251)   | .157 (.0252) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .158 (.0250)  | .158 (.0254) | .158 (.0251)   | .157 (.0252) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .078 (.0045)  | .077 (.0045) | .078 (.0045)   | .077 (.0045) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .078 (.0045)  | .077 (.0045) | .078 (.0045)   | .077 (.0045) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .078 (.0045)  | .077 (.0045) | .078 (.0045)   | .077 (.0045) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .078 (.0045)  | .077 (.0045) | .078 (.0045)   | .077 (.0045) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 5*

*Varimax criterion for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 6 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k  | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations  |                | 250 iterations |                |
|----|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|    |     |                 | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    |
| 3  | 100 | SPSS            | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) | .0311 (.00360) | .0310 (.00362) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) | .0311 (.00205) |
| 6  | 100 | SPSS            | .0176 (.00174) | .0175 (.00176) | .0176 (.00174) | .0175 (.00176) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0176 (.00174) | .0175 (.00176) | .0176 (.00174) | .0175 (.00176) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0176 (.00175) | .0175 (.00177) | .0176 (.00175) | .0175 (.00177) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0176 (.00175) | .0175 (.00177) | .0176 (.00175) | .0175 (.00177) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) | .0187 (.00095) |
| 9  | 100 | SPSS            | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00104) | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00104) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00105) | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00105) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00105) | .0113 (.00105) | .0112 (.00107) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0114 (.00103) | .0113 (.00105) | .0113 (.00105) | .0112 (.00107) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) | .0129 (.00059) |
| 12 | 100 | SPSS            | .0083 (.00062) | .0082 (.00065) | .0083 (.00062) | .0082 (.00065) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) | .0083 (.00063) | .0082 (.00064) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) | .0097 (.00039) | .0096 (.00039) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

Supplementary Table 6

*Mean congruence with population components for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 6 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .949 (.0160)  | .949 (.0159) | .949 (.0160)   | .949 (.0159) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .949 (.0160)  | .949 (.0158) | .949 (.0160)   | .949 (.0159) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .949 (.0160)  | .949 (.0159) | .949 (.0160)   | .949 (.0159) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .949 (.0160)  | .949 (.0159) | .949 (.0160)   | .949 (.0159) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .984 (.0039)  | .984 (.0039) | .984 (.0039)   | .984 (.0039) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .984 (.0039)  | .984 (.0039) | .984 (.0039)   | .984 (.0039) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .984 (.0039)  | .984 (.0039) | .984 (.0039)   | .984 (.0039) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .984 (.0039)  | .984 (.0039) | .984 (.0039)   | .984 (.0039) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .883 (.0261)  | .884 (.0255) | .883 (.0261)   | .884 (.0255) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .882 (.0263)  | .884 (.0255) | .883 (.0261)   | .884 (.0255) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .883 (.0262)  | .884 (.0255) | .883 (.0261)   | .884 (.0255) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .883 (.0261)  | .884 (.0255) | .883 (.0261)   | .884 (.0255) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .964 (.0044)  | .964 (.0043) | .964 (.0043)   | .964 (.0043) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .964 (.0044)  | .964 (.0043) | .964 (.0043)   | .964 (.0043) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .964 (.0044)  | .964 (.0043) | .964 (.0043)   | .964 (.0043) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .964 (.0044)  | .964 (.0043) | .964 (.0043)   | .964 (.0043) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .811 (.0350)  | .814 (.0343) | .811 (.0350)   | .814 (.0343) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .811 (.0355)  | .814 (.0345) | .811 (.0350)   | .814 (.0341) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .811 (.0355)  | .814 (.0345) | .811 (.0350)   | .814 (.0341) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .811 (.0355)  | .814 (.0345) | .811 (.0350)   | .814 (.0341) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .944 (.0050)  | .944 (.0050) | .944 (.0050)   | .944 (.0050) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .944 (.0053)  | .944 (.0050) | .944 (.0053)   | .944 (.0050) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .944 (.0050)  | .944 (.0050) | .944 (.0050)   | .944 (.0050) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .944 (.0050)  | .944 (.0050) | .944 (.0050)   | .944 (.0050) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 7*

*RMSE as deviation from population components for rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 6 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k  | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|----|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|    |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3  | 100 | SPSS            | .115 (.0159)  | .115 (.0158) | .115 (.0159)   | .115 (.0158) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .115 (.0159)  | .115 (.0158) | .115 (.0159)   | .115 (.0158) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .115 (.0159)  | .115 (.0158) | .115 (.0159)   | .115 (.0158) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .115 (.0159)  | .115 (.0158) | .115 (.0159)   | .115 (.0158) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .065 (.0073)  | .064 (.0073) | .065 (.0073)   | .064 (.0073) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .065 (.0073)  | .064 (.0073) | .065 (.0073)   | .064 (.0073) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .065 (.0073)  | .064 (.0073) | .065 (.0073)   | .064 (.0073) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .065 (.0073)  | .064 (.0073) | .065 (.0073)   | .064 (.0073) |
|    | 100 | SPSS            | .126 (.0151)  | .126 (.0145) | .126 (.0151)   | .126 (.0145) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .126 (.0154)  | .126 (.0149) | .126 (.0151)   | .126 (.0145) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .126 (.0151)  | .126 (.0145) | .126 (.0151)   | .126 (.0145) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .126 (.0151)  | .126 (.0145) | .126 (.0151)   | .126 (.0145) |
| 6  | 300 | SPSS            | .069 (.0034)  | .068 (.0038) | .069 (.0039)   | .068 (.0038) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .069 (.0034)  | .068 (.0038) | .069 (.0039)   | .068 (.0038) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .069 (.0034)  | .068 (.0038) | .069 (.0039)   | .068 (.0038) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .069 (.0034)  | .068 (.0038) | .069 (.0039)   | .068 (.0038) |
|    | 100 | SPSS            | .135 (.0173)  | .134 (.0169) | .135 (.0173)   | .134 (.0169) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .136 (.0178)  | .134 (.0172) | .135 (.0173)   | .134 (.0167) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .136 (.0178)  | .134 (.0172) | .135 (.0173)   | .134 (.0167) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .136 (.0178)  | .134 (.0172) | .135 (.0173)   | .134 (.0167) |
|    | 9   | SPSS            | .070 (.0029)  | .070 (.0028) | .070 (.0029)   | .070 (.0028) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .070 (.0037)  | .070 (.0028) | .070 (.0037)   | .070 (.0028) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .070 (.0029)  | .070 (.0028) | .070 (.0029)   | .070 (.0028) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .070 (.0029)  | .070 (.0028) | .070 (.0029)   | .070 (.0028) |
| 12 | 100 | SPSS            | .138 (.0143)  | .137 (.0140) | .138 (.0142)   | .137 (.0140) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .139 (.0149)  | .138 (.0146) | .138 (.0143)   | .137 (.0145) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .139 (.0149)  | .138 (.0146) | .138 (.0143)   | .137 (.0145) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .139 (.0149)  | .138 (.0146) | .138 (.0143)   | .137 (.0145) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .071 (.0023)  | .071 (.0023) | .071 (.0023)   | .071 (.0023) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .071 (.0023)  | .071 (.0023) | .071 (.0023)   | .071 (.0023) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .071 (.0023)  | .071 (.0023) | .071 (.0023)   | .071 (.0023) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .071 (.0023)  | .071 (.0023) | .071 (.0023)   | .071 (.0023) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

Supplementary Table 8

*Varimax criterion for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 8 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations  |                | 250 iterations |                |
|---|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .0267 (.00314) | .0266 (.00315) | .0267 (.00314) | .0226 (.00315) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0267 (.00326) | .0268 (.00349) | .0267 (.00314) | .0226 (.00315) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0267 (.00314) | .0266 (.00315) | .0267 (.00314) | .0226 (.00315) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0267 (.00314) | .0266 (.00315) | .0267 (.00314) | .0226 (.00315) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) | .0263 (.00176) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) | .0153 (.00140) | .0152 (.00141) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) | .0160 (.00080) | .0159 (.00080) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .0100 (.00088) | .0099 (.00089) | .0100 (.00088) | .0099 (.00089) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0100 (.00088) | .0100 (.00088) | .0100 (.00088) | .0100 (.00089) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0100 (.00089) | .0100 (.00088) | .0100 (.00089) | .0100 (.00089) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0100 (.00089) | .0100 (.00088) | .0100 (.00089) | .0100 (.00089) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) | .0111 (.00048) | .0110 (.00048) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00056) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0072 (.00054) | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00054) | .0072 (.00056) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0072 (.00056) | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00056) | .0072 (.00056) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0072 (.00056) | .0072 (.00055) | .0072 (.00056) | .0072 (.00056) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) | .0083 (.00032) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 9*

*Mean congruence with population components for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 8 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k  | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|----|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|    |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3  | 100 | SPSS            | .951 (.0131)  | .951 (.0130) | .951 (.0131)   | .951 (.0130) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .949 (.0162)  | .950 (.0167) | .951 (.0131)   | .951 (.0130) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .951 (.0131)  | .951 (.0130) | .951 (.0131)   | .951 (.0130) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .951 (.0131)  | .951 (.0130) | .951 (.0131)   | .951 (.0130) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .984 (.0031)  | .984 (.0031) | .984 (.0031)   | .984 (.0031) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .984 (.0031)  | .984 (.0031) | .984 (.0031)   | .984 (.0031) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .984 (.0031)  | .984 (.0031) | .984 (.0031)   | .984 (.0031) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .984 (.0031)  | .984 (.0031) | .984 (.0031)   | .984 (.0031) |
|    | 100 | SPSS            | .893 (.0174)  | .894 (.0172) | .893 (.0174)   | .894 (.0172) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .893 (.0174)  | .894 (.0172) | .893 (.0174)   | .894 (.0172) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .893 (.0174)  | .894 (.0172) | .893 (.0174)   | .894 (.0172) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .893 (.0174)  | .894 (.0172) | .893 (.0174)   | .894 (.0172) |
| 6  | 300 | SPSS            | .965 (.0036)  | .965 (.0036) | .965 (.0036)   | .965 (.0036) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .965 (.0036)  | .965 (.0036) | .965 (.0036)   | .965 (.0036) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .965 (.0036)  | .965 (.0036) | .965 (.0036)   | .965 (.0036) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .965 (.0036)  | .965 (.0036) | .965 (.0036)   | .965 (.0036) |
|    | 100 | SPSS            | .832 (.0270)  | .833 (.0268) | .832 (.0270)   | .833 (.0267) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .832 (.0271)  | .833 (.0269) | .832 (.0270)   | .833 (.0268) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .832 (.0271)  | .833 (.0269) | .832 (.0270)   | .833 (.0268) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .832 (.0270)  | .833 (.0269) | .832 (.0270)   | .833 (.0268) |
|    | 9   | SPSS            | .946 (.0039)  | .947 (.0039) | .946 (.0039)   | .947 (.0039) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .946 (.0039)  | .947 (.0039) | .946 (.0039)   | .947 (.0039) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .946 (.0039)  | .947 (.0039) | .946 (.0039)   | .947 (.0039) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .946 (.0039)  | .947 (.0039) | .946 (.0039)   | .947 (.0039) |
| 12 | 100 | SPSS            | .775 (.0269)  | .777 (.0268) | .775 (.0269)   | .777 (.0268) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .774 (.0275)  | .777 (.0271) | .775 (.0270)   | .777 (.0269) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .774 (.0271)  | .777 (.0271) | .775 (.0269)   | .777 (.0269) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .775 (.0267)  | .777 (.0271) | .775 (.0267)   | .777 (.0269) |
|    | 300 | SPSS            | .928 (.0043)  | .928 (.0043) | .928 (.0043)   | .928 (.0043) |
|    |     | GPR-unrotated   | .928 (.0046)  | .928 (.0043) | .928 (.0046)   | .928 (.0043) |
|    |     | GPR-random 1    | .928 (.0043)  | .928 (.0043) | .928 (.0043)   | .928 (.0043) |
|    |     | GPR-random 10   | .928 (.0043)  | .928 (.0043) | .928 (.0043)   | .928 (.0043) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

Supplementary Table 10

*RMSE as deviation from population components for rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the single-optimum model and 8 variables per component – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .108 (.0127)  | .108 (.0126) | .108 (.0127)   | .108 (.0126) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .110 (.0150)  | .109 (.0155) | .108 (.0127)   | .108 (.0126) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .108 (.0127)  | .108 (.0126) | .108 (.0127)   | .108 (.0126) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .108 (.0127)  | .108 (.0126) | .108 (.0127)   | .108 (.0126) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .061 (.0057)  | .061 (.0057) | .061 (.0057)   | .061 (.0057) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .061 (.0057)  | .061 (.0057) | .061 (.0057)   | .061 (.0057) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .061 (.0057)  | .061 (.0057) | .061 (.0057)   | .061 (.0057) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .061 (.0057)  | .061 (.0057) | .061 (.0057)   | .061 (.0057) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .116 (.0093)  | .115 (.0093) | .116 (.0093)   | .115 (.0093) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .116 (.0093)  | .115 (.0093) | .116 (.0093)   | .115 (.0093) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .116 (.0093)  | .115 (.0093) | .116 (.0093)   | .115 (.0093) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .116 (.0093)  | .115 (.0093) | .116 (.0093)   | .115 (.0093) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .065 (.0031)  | .064 (.0030) | .065 (.0031)   | .064 (.0030) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .065 (.0031)  | .064 (.0030) | .065 (.0031)   | .064 (.0030) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .065 (.0031)  | .064 (.0030) | .065 (.0031)   | .064 (.0030) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .065 (.0031)  | .064 (.0030) | .065 (.0031)   | .064 (.0030) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .122 (.0116)  | .121 (.0107) | .122 (.0115)   | .121 (.0107) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .122 (.0120)  | .121 (.0111) | .122 (.0116)   | .121 (.0107) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .122 (.0117)  | .121 (.0111) | .122 (.0115)   | .121 (.0107) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .122 (.0114)  | .121 (.0111) | .122 (.0115)   | .121 (.0107) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .066 (.0021)  | .066 (.0021) | .066 (.0021)   | .066 (.0021) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .066 (.0021)  | .066 (.0021) | .066 (.0021)   | .066 (.0021) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .066 (.0021)  | .066 (.0021) | .066 (.0021)   | .066 (.0021) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .066 (.0021)  | .066 (.0021) | .066 (.0021)   | .066 (.0021) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 11*

*Varimax criterion for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the double-optimum model – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations  |                | 250 iterations |                |
|---|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser    |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00262) | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00262) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00261) | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00261) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00262) | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00262) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00261) | .0227 (.00259) | .0224 (.00262) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0212 (.00143) | .0209 (.00143) | .0212 (.00143) | .0209 (.00143) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0212 (.00144) | .0209 (.00144) | .0212 (.00143) | .0209 (.00144) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0212 (.00144) | .0209 (.00144) | .0212 (.00143) | .0209 (.00143) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0212 (.00143) | .0210 (.00142) | .0212 (.00143) | .0209 (.00142) |
|   | 6   | SPSS            | .0136 (.00117) | .0135 (.00119) | .0136 (.00117) | .0135 (.00119) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0136 (.00117) | .0135 (.00119) | .0136 (.00117) | .0135 (.00119) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0136 (.00116) | .0135 (.00119) | .0136 (.00116) | .0135 (.00119) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0136 (.00116) | .0135 (.00119) | .0136 (.00116) | .0135 (.00119) |
|   | 9   | SPSS            | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00068) | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00069) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00068) | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00069) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00069) | .0135 (.00069) | .0133 (.00068) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0135 (.00069) | .0134 (.00068) | .0135 (.00069) | .0134 (.00068) |
|   | 12  | SPSS            | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00076) | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00076) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) | .0091 (.00075) | .0090 (.00075) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00042) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00042) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00042) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00042) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) | .0094 (.00041) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00051) | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00050) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00051) | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00050) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00051) | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00050) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00051) | .0067 (.00049) | .0066 (.00050) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00027) | .0072 (.00027) | .0071 (.00028) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

Supplementary Table 12

*Mean congruence with population components for component rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the double-optimum model – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .910 (.0470)  | .883 (.0659) | .910 (.0470)   | .883 (.0659) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .910 (.0474)  | .884 (.0656) | .910 (.0470)   | .884 (.0659) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .910 (.0469)  | .900 (.0463) | .910 (.0470)   | .900 (.0462) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .910 (.0470)  | .900 (.0466) | .910 (.0470)   | .900 (.0462) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .957 (.0370)  | .906 (.0755) | .957 (.0370)   | .906 (.0755) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .958 (.0366)  | .908 (.0749) | .957 (.0369)   | .906 (.0755) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .958 (.0363)  | .933 (.0366) | .957 (.0368)   | .935 (.0352) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .957 (.0369)  | .942 (.0345) | .957 (.0371)   | .936 (.0344) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .853 (.0339)  | .830 (.0444) | .853 (.0339)   | .830 (.0444) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .853 (.0340)  | .830 (.0442) | .853 (.0339)   | .830 (.0444) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .854 (.0353)  | .830 (.0442) | .853 (.0338)   | .830 (.0444) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .853 (.0339)  | .830 (.0442) | .853 (.0339)   | .830 (.0444) |
| 6 | 300 | SPSS            | .940 (.0234)  | .904 (.0405) | .940 (.0234)   | .890 (.0491) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .940 (.0246)  | .904 (.0406) | .940 (.0236)   | .890 (.0489) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .940 (.0242)  | .920 (.0264) | .940 (.0236)   | .920 (.0263) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .940 (.0235)  | .927 (.0234) | .940 (.0234)   | .922 (.0256) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .794 (.0354)  | .777 (.0364) | .794 (.0355)   | .777 (.0364) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .793 (.0355)  | .776 (.0366) | .794 (.0354)   | .777 (.0366) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .793 (.0355)  | .776 (.0366) | .794 (.0354)   | .777 (.0366) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .793 (.0355)  | .776 (.0366) | .794 (.0354)   | .777 (.0366) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .922 (.0191)  | .876 (.0386) | .922 (.0191)   | .878 (.0402) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .921 (.0193)  | .876 (.0385) | .921 (.0192)   | .878 (.0403) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .921 (.0195)  | .903 (.0212) | .921 (.0192)   | .904 (.0202) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .922 (.0190)  | .910 (.0193) | .922 (.0190)   | .906 (.0202) |
| 9 | 100 | SPSS            | .738 (.0346)  | .727 (.0337) | .737 (.0347)   | .725 (.0341) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .737 (.0345)  | .726 (.0332) | .738 (.0346)   | .725 (.0341) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .737 (.0345)  | .726 (.0332) | .738 (.0346)   | .725 (.0341) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .737 (.0345)  | .726 (.0332) | .738 (.0346)   | .725 (.0341) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .902 (.0181)  | .861 (.0328) | .902 (.0181)   | .860 (.0331) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .902 (.0183)  | .861 (.0323) | .902 (.0183)   | .860 (.0331) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .902 (.0184)  | .887 (.0191) | .902 (.0184)   | .887 (.0186) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .902 (.0183)  | .892 (.0179) | .902 (.0182)   | .889 (.0180) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 13*

*RMSE as deviation from population components for rotation by SPSS-Varimax and GPR-Varimax for the double-optimum model – Means and standard deviations of 1,000 samples*

| k | N   | Rotation method | 25 iterations |              | 250 iterations |              |
|---|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
|   |     |                 | No Kaiser     | With Kaiser  | No Kaiser      | With Kaiser  |
| 3 | 100 | SPSS            | .378 (.1454)  | .379 (.1437) | .378 (.1476)   | .379 (.1436) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .377 (.1461)  | .378 (.1435) | .379 (.1475)   | .378 (.1439) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .377 (.1460)  | .386 (.1380) | .378 (.1476)   | .379 (.1454) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .377 (.1455)  | .385 (.1388) | .378 (.1476)   | .379 (.1454) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .360 (.1648)  | .359 (.1519) | .360 (.1648)   | .359 (.1519) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .359 (.1657)  | .359 (.1519) | .359 (.1653)   | .361 (.1515) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .361 (.1658)  | .359 (.1519) | .360 (.1652)   | .368 (.1505) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .359 (.1650)  | .359 (.1519) | .360 (.1649)   | .368 (.1514) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .288 (.0608)  | .287 (.0621) | .288 (.0608)   | .287 (.0621) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .288 (.0609)  | .287 (.0621) | .288 (.0609)   | .286 (.0626) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .288 (.0611)  | .287 (.0621) | .288 (.0611)   | .286 (.0626) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .288 (.0606)  | .287 (.0621) | .288 (.0607)   | .286 (.0626) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .272 (.0726)  | .271 (.0704) | .271 (.0741)   | .277 (.0636) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .272 (.0731)  | .273 (.0694) | .271 (.0737)   | .277 (.0632) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .272 (.0727)  | .273 (.0698) | .271 (.0735)   | .273 (.0700) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .272 (.0731)  | .273 (.0702) | .271 (.0736)   | .274 (.0700) |
| 6 | 100 | SPSS            | .246 (.0375)  | .247 (.0358) | .246 (.0375)   | .247 (.0359) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .246 (.0378)  | .247 (.0359) | .247 (.0376)   | .247 (.0360) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .246 (.0378)  | .247 (.0359) | .247 (.0376)   | .247 (.0360) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .246 (.0378)  | .247 (.0359) | .247 (.0376)   | .247 (.0360) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .229 (.0440)  | .230 (.0420) | .229 (.0437)   | .229 (.0424) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .229 (.0443)  | .231 (.0413) | .229 (.0436)   | .229 (.0422) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .229 (.0439)  | .229 (.0439) | .229 (.0436)   | .228 (.0432) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .229 (.0438)  | .229 (.0433) | .229 (.0434)   | .229 (.0433) |
|   | 100 | SPSS            | .222 (.0254)  | .220 (.0256) | .220 (.0269)   | .221 (.0251) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .223 (.0254)  | .220 (.0255) | .220 (.0270)   | .221 (.0253) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .223 (.0254)  | .220 (.0255) | .220 (.0270)   | .221 (.0253) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .223 (.0254)  | .220 (.0255) | .220 (.0270)   | .221 (.0253) |
|   | 300 | SPSS            | .201 (.0338)  | .202 (.0302) | .202 (.0324)   | .201 (.0308) |
|   |     | GPR-unrotated   | .202 (.0332)  | .202 (.0303) | .202 (.0323)   | .201 (.0307) |
|   |     | GPR-random 1    | .201 (.0337)  | .201 (.0312) | .202 (.0322)   | .201 (.0314) |
|   |     | GPR-random 10   | .202 (.0336)  | .201 (.0317) | .202 (.0323)   | .201 (.0314) |

Note. GPR = gradient-projection based rotation. k = number of components. Rotation after principal component analysis of simulated data.

*Supplementary Table 14*

*Empirical example: Inter-correlations of 17 knowledge items from three knowledge domains (n = 397)*

| G/h 1 | G/h 2 | G/h 3 | G/h 4 | G/h 5 | G/h 6 | Sc 1  | Sc 2  | Sc 3  | Sc 4  | Sc 5  | C 1   | C 2   | C 3   | C 4   | C 5   | C 6   |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| G/h 1 | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| G/h 2 | .057  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| G/h 3 | .097  | .178  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| G/h 4 | .154  | .130  | .182  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| G/h 5 | .079  | .089  | .217  | .067  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| G/h 6 | .092  | .114  | .154  | .067  | .101  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Sc 1  | .057  | .024  | .074  | -.009 | .051  | .087  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Sc 2  | .108  | .091  | .193  | .030  | .108  | .091  | .162  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Sc 3  | .097  | .055  | .101  | .040  | .159  | .155  | .184  | .193  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Sc 4  | .017  | -.007 | -.031 | -.006 | .014  | .045  | .181  | .216  | .322  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Sc 5  | Sc 1  | -.019 | .019  | .040  | .089  | .039  | .127  | .062  | .229  | .322  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| C 1   | .061  | .052  | .039  | -.005 | .104  | .121  | .081  | .069  | .084  | .009  | .043  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |       |
| C 2   | -.034 | .009  | .133  | -.042 | .057  | .126  | -.012 | .177  | .054  | .096  | .094  | .061  | 1.000 |       |       |       |       |
| C 3   | -.001 | .046  | .024  | .013  | -.014 | .156  | .089  | .074  | .089  | .143  | .049  | .096  | .044  | 1.000 |       |       |       |
| C 4   | .058  | .014  | .115  | .032  | .109  | .152  | .131  | .012  | .150  | .048  | -.015 | .118  | .139  | .070  | 1.000 |       |       |
| C 5   | .064  | .013  | .136  | .084  | .149  | .108  | .057  | .108  | .139  | .059  | .081  | .177  | .197  | .059  | .122  | 1.000 |       |
| C 6   | -.024 | .066  | .026  | -.008 | .003  | .138  | .053  | .158  | .124  | .092  | .049  | -.065 | .138  | .097  | .115  | .032  | 1.000 |

Note. G/h = Geography/history. Sc = Science. C = Culture.