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Teamwork Competency Test (TWCT): a Step Forward on Measuring Teamwork Competencies

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Abstract

The Teamwork KSA Test (TWKSAT), designed to assess teamwork competencies, has been widely used both in applied and academic contexts. However, studies have brought to light a number of reliability problems in the test. In this paper we describe three studies which 1) examine the functioning of the TWKSAT (N = 135), 2) propose a new measure, TWCT, including an investigation of metric properties (N = 120), and 3) analyze the convergent and predictive validity of the TWCT in comparison with the TWKSAT (N = 91). Based on our results, we conclude that the TWKSAT does not adequately reflect the initial substantive model and has limitations with regard to reliability. The TWCT improves the TWKSAT by enhancing reliability, content validity, and substantiating the dimensional structure of the test.

Keywords: Teamwork test, teamwork competencies

Teamwork Competency Test (TWCT): a Step Forward on Measuring Teamwork Competencies

Work teams have responded effectively to the global challenges of our times, providing organizations with the benefits of adaptability, productivity and creativity above and beyond the contributions individuals can make on their own (Kozlowski & Ilgen, 2006; Salas, Sims & Burke, 2005). However, teamworking requires several competencies to allow its members to effectively integrate their contributions, function as a unified whole and make an "expert team" out of a mere "group of experts" (Lawler & Worley, 2006).

Work teams bring to their mission much more than just the behaviors directly related to the task in hand. Their members need to interact and cooperate if they are to synchronize effectively (Salas, et al., 2005; Salas, Sims & Klein, 2004), which requires a specific set of behaviors that further the attainment of team goals. Empirical evidence shows that measures of knowledge and skills related both to a specific task and to teamwork predict individual performance in work contexts (e.g., McClough & Rogelberg, 2003; Schmidt & Hunter, 1983). At the same time, teams formed by people with strong teamwork competencies display a specific range of behaviors, including the use of integrative (win-win) as opposed to distributive (win-lose) negotiating strategies. These findings are relevant as teams are often affected by interpersonal conflicts and faulty cooperation, which hinder optimum performance (Hackman, 2002). The availability of an appropriate measure of teamwork competencies may help minimize these problems (Stevens & Campion, 1994, 1999).

Increasingly, scholars have underlined the importance of teamwork competencies for the effectiveness of groups and work teams over recent decades (e.g.,

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Cannon-Bowers & Bowers, 2011; Cannon-Bowers, Tannenbaum, Salas & Volpe, 1995; Chen, Donahue & Klimoski, 2004; Leach, Wall, Rogelberg & Jackson, 2005; Peeters, van Tuijl, Rutte, & Reymen, 2006). In particular, Stevens and Campion (1994, 1999) proposed the Teamwork KSA Test (TWKSAT), which identifies and measures five transportable teamwork competencies that are common to different types of teams (please see Figure 1) and have been related to different performance criteria (McClough & Rogelberg, 2003; Stevens & Campion, 1999).

Insert Figure 1 about here

However, studies employing the TWKSAT report low levels of reliability (Athanasaw, 2003; Chen et al., 2004; McClough & Rogelberg, 2003). Despite the TWKSAT's capacity to predict individual performance in team tasks, there are no studies addressing the causes of the test's low reliability or explaining its dimensional structure to identify the scoring types that may be thrown up by the individual item scores. To resolve the problems affecting the assessment of teamwork competencies, this paper (a) examines the metric properties of the TWKSAT items, as well as their content validity and dimensional structure, and (b) proposes a new measure based on Stevens and Campion's model, analyzing its reliability and validity as a measure of teamwork competencies. Although recently some tests have been proposed to capture knowledge on teamwork (e.g., boundary spanning activities, Marrone et al., 2007; team roles, Mumford et al., 2008), it is still necessary to develop tests capable of assessing teamwork competencies to predict employees' performance in teams and thus design and develop high-performance teams. Our study aims to improve the assessment of

teamwork-related competencies in work settings, beyond the TWKSAT, one of the most popular measures in the field.

The TWKSAT as a Measure of Teamwork Competency

Competencies are defined as the underlying characteristics integrated with an individual's knowledge, skills and abilities that are causally related to a referential criterion of effective and/or superior action in a specific job or situation (Spencer & Spencer, 1993). In particular, researchers have stressed the key role of teamwork competencies for the effectiveness of work teams (e.g., Cannon-Bowers et al., 1995; Chen et al., 2004).

Cannon-Bowers et al. (1995) identified eight central teamwork competencies, namely adaptability, shared understanding of the situation, performance monitoring and feedback, leadership, interpersonal relations, coordination, communication, and decisionmaking. These scholars also make a key contribution by defining competencies on the basis of two dimensions: task competencies *vs.* team competencies, and specific competencies *vs.* general competencies. Given their relationship with performance in different teamwork situations, general team competencies (i.e., transportable competencies) are of particular interest to organizations. With this in mind, Stevens and Campion (1994, 1999) identified five transportable teamwork competencies that are common to different types of teams: 1) conflict resolution, 2) collaborative problem solving, 3) communication, 4) goal setting and performance management, and 5) planning and task coordination. These competencies are grouped in two more general dimensions termed "interpersonal competencies" (defined by the first three items in the above list) and "self-management competencies" (represented by the last two items). This distinction is based on the idea that team effectiveness depends on its members'

ability both to manage their relations appropriately and to direct their actions to carry out the tasks assigned by the organization.

Perhaps the most important contribution made by Stevens and Campion (1999) is the construction of the TWKSAT, which provides both practitioners and academics with an instrument to measure key teamwork competencies. The available evidence suggests that the TWKSAT has considerable predictive validity. Thus, the TWKSAT measure of employees in real work teams correlated with their performance in the team as evaluated both by supervisors (correlations of between .23 and .52) and by colleagues (correlations of between .21 and .34) (McClough & Rogelberg, 2003; Stevens & Campion, 1999). Furthermore, Chen et al. (2004) found that the TWKSAT was sensitive to changes in the individual competency of university students after participation in a training program designed to develop their teamwork competencies.

However, other studies in which the TWKSAT was used have also consistently reported low reliability of the measure. Stevens and Campion (1999) originally found reliability of .80 (internal consistency), but this would appear to be an overestimate (McClough & Rogelberg, 2003). In fact, the alpha coefficients in studies employing TWKSAT are consistently lower. For example, McClough and Rogelberg (2003) found an alpha coefficient of .59, and Chen et al. (2004) found a coefficient of .64 before training in teamwork skills and .82 after training. Athanasaw (2003) obtained a coefficient of .66 for the complete scale and between .25 and .48 for each of the five factors, and Leach et al. (2005) found a coefficient of .70. As McClough and Rogelberg (2003) point out, however, the TWKSAT was designed from a multidimensional standpoint and other situational judgment tests share the low alpha coefficients found to date. In this type of test, internal consistency-based reliability measures should be

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complemented with test-retest estimations (Clevenger, Pereira, Wiechmann, Schmitt & Harvey, 2001; McDaniel, Morgeson, Finnegan, Campion & Braverman, 2001). However, Chen et al. (2004) reported a test-retest correlation of .60 in the control group for their study. Overall, the available evidence suggests that the reliability of the TWKSAT could be improved, despite the test's predictive capacity.

No studies have been carried out to date to identify the reasons for the TWKSAT's low reliability, either by examining the metric characteristics of the items or the degree to which the different contents proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994) are actually present in the TWKSAT. Nor has any attempt been made to explain the dimensional structure of the TWKSAT, though this is crucial to identifying the scoring obtained from the test items scores.

Overall, our main objective is to present a new measure of the teamwork-related competencies based on Stevens and Campion's (1994) original model. To this end, we conducted three empirical studies. The first one is devoted to analyzing the metric properties of the items, content validity, and the dimensionality of the TWKSAT. In the second study we proposed a new measure, testing the improvements made on reliability and dimensionality in a sample of university students. Finally, in the third study we tested the validity of the new measure in a sample of professional employees.

Study 1

The aim of this first study is to analyze the items comprising the TWKSAT, examining their content and dimensionality. To begin with, we present the results of the descriptive analysis based on the impact of each item on reliability. Following the strategy employed by Rovinelli and Hambleton (1977), we then go on to analyze the test items in terms of content validity. Next, the dimensionality of the test is examined using factorial analysis.

Method

TWKSAT translation. The TWKSAT¹ comprises 35 multiple-response items, which describe different situations that may arise within a work team. Respondents answer the items by indicating how they would act in each situation. The questionnaire evaluates the five teamwork competencies identified by Stevens and Campion (1994). An example item is the following (Stevens & Campion, 1999): "Your team wants to improve the quality and flow of the conversations among its members. Your team should: (A) use comments that build upon and connect to what others have already said; (B) set up a specific order for everyone to speak and then follow it; (C) let team members with more to say determine the direction and topic of conversation; (D) do all of the above."

The original version of the TWKSAT is written in English. We therefore applied the back-translation procedure (Brislin, 1970) in order to use the scale in Spanish and ensure the equivalence of items (Gibson, 1999). Three certified translators and a group of specialists from bilingual teams in the United States and Spain were involved in this process. The materials forming the test were first translated into Spanish by the three translators. The Spanish version of the test was then translated back into English by the bilingual specialists. Finally, the back-translation was reviewed by the research team to ensure that the meaning of the items was consistent in the different translations. As a final result, we obtained a scale in Spanish equivalent to the English language original.

Participants and procedure. The participants in the study comprised 135 students from different disciplines (78% IT Engineering and 22% Psychology) at a public

university in Madrid. Men made up 71% of the total sample, and the average age was 23 years (SD = .93). All of the participants were from Spain and had Spanish as their mother tongue.

Participation in the study was mandatory for the students, being part of a program of practices in different subjects. Participants signed a consent form regarding their participation in the study. They could voluntarily decline to be enrolled on the research simply by not providing their records to be included in the research, without any adverse effect on their class grades. At the beginning of the academic semester the researchers applied the TWKSAT to the students as a part of their class requirements. The objectives and reasoning behind the study were explained by the professors at the end of the course. Each participant was also given a brief report with the scores obtained in the test and the meaning of each of the teamwork competencies.

The validity of the TWKSAT content was analyzed by three experts in the field of teamworking. All raters had over ten years' experience in conducting team-based research and consulting. The experts analyzed the TWKSAT items as described in the results section.

Results

Description of items. Table 1 shows the mean (difficulty index), standard deviation, asymmetry, kurtosis, and discrimination index for each item on the scale, as well as the Cronbach's alpha estimated for all 35 items together. As may be observed, the range of difficulty varies between .08 (item 26) and .93 (item 6). With regard to the discrimination index, four items (7, 12, 27 and 35) were negatively correlated with the scale and another series of items (2, 4, 10, 11, 15, 17, 24 and 25) display a positive but very low adjusted correlation (< .15). The total alpha for the scale is .60. However, if

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the negatively correlated items and those with a correlation of less than .15 are discarded, the alpha scale rises to .71.

Insert Table 1 about here

Content analysis. To examine the validity of the test content, we employed the strategy proposed by Rovinelli and Hambleton (1977), in which a group of experts express the degree to which each item measures each of the previously defined evaluation objectives. Accordingly, three experts separately analyzed the 35 items comprising the test, indicating the extent to which each item was representative of each of the teamwork sub-competencies defined by Stevens and Campion (1994) and relevant to the measurement of the target. A score of 1 was assigned if the item was considered appropriate, -1 if not, and 0 if the expert in question was unsure. The resulting index will be 1 where all of the experts concur that an item is appropriate in view of the target measured. The experts were also asked to make any general comments on the measurement items included.

Table 2 summarizes the results obtained. A number of items display a high level of item-target congruence (> .80), other items show a congruence index of less than .50 for all of the measurement targets (27, 29 and 33), and item 31 falls short of the threshold value of .30 for inclusion in the table (Thorn & Deitz, 1989). Table 2 also provides valuable information related to the degree to which the test items meet the proposed measurement objectives. There are no items associated with the sub-competencies A2 ("Recognize the type and source of conflict"), C1 ("Understand and use communication networks") and D2 ("Monitor, assess and provide feedback on

individual and group performance"). Moreover, the number of items that are congruent with the different measurement targets varies between a single highly congruent item (23) for A3 ("Use win-win strategies") and four items (1, 4, 11 and 19) for D1 ("Help set specific, challenging and accepted objectives).

Finally, all of the experts remarked in their comments that the test items only allow assessment of respondents' knowledge, although the original Stevens and Campion (1994) model refers to "teamwork knowledge, skills and abilities".

Insert Table 2 about here

Dimensionality analysis. A confirmatory factor analysis (*N* =135) was carried out on the correlation matrix to examine the dimensionality of the test. As these are dichotomous (right/wrong) items, the tetrachoric correlation matrix was analyzed using Mplus (Muthén & Muthén, 2006). Following the substantive model proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994, 1999), we tested 5 models: (a) 5-factor orthogonal model, (b) 2-factor orthogonal model, (c) 5-factor correlated model, (d) 2-factor correlated model, and (e) 1-factor model.

Table 3 presents the fit indices established for the different estimated models. The orthogonal solutions of 5-factor and 2-factor do not fit the data. Values in each index are substantially below the usual standards. However, when correlation between factors is allowed, the model fits the data better. Even so the only adjustment index for which a good fit is obtained is RMSEA (<.05). A similar effect is observed with a single factor model. Additionally, in order to deeply explore the dimensionality of the items proposed, an exhaustive exploratory factorial analysis of the different factorial solutions from one to seven factors was carried on, including a review of both orthogonal and oblique rotations. The results do not allow us to clearly label the factors according to Stevens and Campion's model (1994).

Insert Table 3 about here

Criterion validity analysis. To provide further evidence of the criterion-related validity of the TWKSAT, we correlated the scores in the TWKSAT against the criterion for individual performance in a team task. A sub-sample of the study (N = 30; 56% women; average age 23 years) formed by the participants in an undergraduate teamwork course was observed during the resolution of a group decision-making task. The participants were randomly assigned to five-member teams. The task² set required the teams to generate effective measures to resolve traffic problems caused by improper parking on a university campus. The teams were allowed 30 minutes to complete the task and were video-recorded for subsequent analysis. Both team tasks and video recording were standard features of the course, and the participants were therefore familiar with these procedures. An ad hoc code (Appendix A) was designed for behavioral observation. The code categories describe specific behaviors associated with the five teamwork competencies identified by Stevens and Campion (1994, 1999) (e.g., "Request additional information from team members"). Two groups of five judges each independently analyzed the recordings, noting the frequency of teamwork behaviors associated with a particular competency displayed by each of the team members. All of

the judges were postgraduate students who were blind to the objectives of the study and independent of the research group. They were trained in the use of the code and underwent a trial period to align criteria and discuss inconsistencies. The mean interjudge reliability for the different competencies was acceptable (Kappa = .87), and we therefore computed the mean of their assessments to obtain a single score for each competency. Finally, we computed the mean of the scores for each individual and the five competencies, as in the case of the questionnaire, to obtain a total teamwork competency score. As expected, the TWKSAT score was positively correlated with the observed measure of teamwork skills (r = .43; p < .05).

Discussion

The first study revealed certain weaknesses in the TWKSAT (Stevens & Campion, 1999) which affect its use in academic and professional contexts. Specifically, the following deficiencies were observed in three different facets: a) some items show very low reliability indices affecting the general reliability of the scale, b) the contents of the original model proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994) are not fully represented in the test, and c) the dimensional structure obtained from the factorial analysis is not well aligned with the substantive model.

With regard to the first weakness, the results of the study show that certain items should be eliminated from the scale, as their adjusted correlations with the total for the scale are less than the generally accepted standards.

Turning to the second weakness, the content analysis indicates that certain teamwork sub-competencies identified in the general model are not picked up by the test items. Thus, no items exist associated with the sub-competencies A2 ("Recognize the type and source of conflict"), C1 ("Understand and use communication networks") and D2 ("Monitor, assess and provide feedback on individual and group performance"). The content analysis also revealed that certain items are not associated with any of the proposed measurement targets (items 27, 29, 31 and 33). In addition, the format of the items is designed to measure "knowledge", but not skills or aptitudes.

Finally, Stevens and Campion (1994) established 14 teamwork subcompetencies in their model, grouped into five competencies which are, in turn, integrated in two dimensions. However, our results indicate a structure that tends towards unidimensionality.

To sum up, the results of this study provide an explanation of the low reliability indices reported in previous research, and suggest how a more reliable measurement could be obtained from TWKSAT without affecting its predictive capacity. In line with prior studies using the original English version of the TWKSAT (Chen et al.,2004; McClough & Rogelberg, 2003; Stevens & Campion, 1999), the Spanish adaptation of the test used in our study reveals similar correlation indices (r = .43; p < .05).

It is necessary to recognize that our results may be influenced by cultural differences between USA-based samples used by the Stevens & Campion (1999) to develop and validate the TWKSAT and our Spain-based sample . Cross-cultural studies (e.g., Earley, 1997; Hoftstede 1980, 1983a, 1983b) show that cultural differences may affect the processes and outcomes of individuals and groups in organizations (Cox, Lobel & McLeod, 1991; Gibson, 1999). Thus, in contrast to the North-Americans, Spaniards tend to be: (a) higher in collectivism, so they tend to put the group interests first (Triandis, 1995) and look more actively for social acceptance, strong group identity and the development of personal relationships (Grimm, Church, Katigbak, & Reyes, 1999); (b) higher in power distance, leading them to behave more submissively with

managers and avoid disagreements and feeling more comfortable working in teams with strong directivity (Earley & Erez, 1997); (c) lower in action-oriented (Maznevski, DiStefano, Gomez, Noorderhaven, & Wu, 1997), which would take them to work less hard (Hampden-Turner & Trompenaars, 1993), and be more resistant to work by objectives (Kluckhohn and Strodtbeck, 1961); and (d) are more likely to believe that external forces determine their successes and failures (Trompenaars, 1993). According to these cultural differences between Spanish and North-American populations, the way employees approach their professional performance in teams and therefore, the way employees respond to TWKSAT may be different. Thus, generalization of our findings to the context of teamwork in North-American cultures should be done with caution.

To conclude, our findings suggest the need to improve the measurement of teamwork competencies. TWKSAT only allows measurement of the general teamwork competency, which constricts examination of the conceptual richness expressed in Stevens and Campion's (1994) original model. Consequently, it is desirable to develop new items capable of capturing the different sub-competencies, as well as obtaining more reliable scores in the five competencies addressed.

Study 2

The second study analyzes a new measure of the teamwork KSAs based on Stevens and Campion's (1994) model which is called the TWCT. For this purpose, we developed and adapted new items in light of the findings from study 1. The new test comprises 36 items, which were applied to a sample of 120 university students to analyze the functioning of the items, and to test the TWCT's reliability, content validity and dimensionality.

Method

Item development for TWCT. Based on results from study 1, we developed new items in order to represent the 14 sub-competencies established by Stevens and Campion (1994). The items were worded in the observable behavior format. An initial set of 83 items was constructed, which was progressively refined down to the final 36 items. Based on interviews with three experts in the fields of teamwork and organizational behavior, several items were rephrased (7 items) or left out (31 items). The remaining 52 items were applied to different samples and, taking into account the item statistics (corrected item-total correlation and factor loadings), 16 items were deleted. Using the selected 36 items, a pilot study was conducted on 26 members of four software development programmers' teams from a small IT company. All team members responded to the questionnaire and provided feedback on the items. Most items were understood, and perceived as unambiguous. Some minor changes were made based on their comments, but all the items were retained. As a result, the new measure contains 36 items drafted in Spanish (see the complete scale in Appendix B) and uses a 4-point response scale of frequency (1 = Never/Almost never and 4 = Always/Almost always).

Participants and procedure. The sample comprised 120 final year psychology students at a large Spanish public university, 68.7% of whom were women. The average age was 23 years (SD = .96). The procedure was identical to that employed in study 1. The assistance of the same experts was used to analyze the validity of the test contents as in study 1.

Results

Description of items and scales. Table 4 summarizes the main descriptive statistics for the questionnaire items. The mean scores for all items were above 2.5 (the

theoretical midpoint on the response scale), except those related with the *Collaborative Problem Solving* dimension, where the averages were somewhat lower (between 1.94 and 2.28). The reliability indices for both the scales and the full questionnaire (.89) were satisfactory.

Content analysis. Table 4 presents the congruence indices (Rovinelli & Hambleton, 1977) for each item based on the sub-competencies proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994). The congruence indices for all of the items were satisfactory (minimum .56 and maximum 1). Finally, the whole content domain established in the model was represented by the items developed.

Insert Table 4 about here

Dimensionality analysis. We carried out various factorial analyses to explore the dimensionality of the questionnaire, above and beyond the adequacy and relevance of the items. Given the high means for the items and the deviation of distributions away from normal, we used the minimum unweighted least squares (ULS) method for factor extraction, employing the FACTOR program (Lorenzo-Seva & Ferrando, 2006). Bartlett's sphericity test ($\chi 2 = 5557.6$, d.f. = 703, p < .001), and the KMO index (.66) confirmed that the item correlation matrix could be factorized. The factorial solution extracted was obliquely rotated. Eleven factors were found to have an eigenvalue of more than one after extraction. The parallel analysis retained only the first eight factors extracted. In line with this analysis, the eight-factor model was the one that best reflected the initial substantive model, explaining 56% of the total variance, with only 18% residual errors of more than .05. The eight-factor solution was compared with five

factors, as proposed in the substantive model. The percentage variance explained was found to be lower (43%), as was the percentage of residual errors greater than .05 (33%). In addition, the residual mean squares error average (RMSEA) showed a marginally acceptable value (.085) in the eight-factor model, but a clearly unacceptable value in the five-factor model (.11). Therefore, it appears that the eight-factor model better reproduces the analyzed data matrix compared with the five-factor model.

Table 5 presents the results obtained in the configuration matrix after oblique rotation. Although this matrix does not exactly reproduce the expected structure of 14 sub-competencies, a detailed analysis indicates that it reflects the substantive model with some variations - on which the development of the items was based. The first factor extracted represents the *Conflict Resolution* competency. The items developed in relation to this competency (especially those referring to the recognition of conflict: items 1, 10, 15, 16, 19 and 21) are associated with this factor, as are the Communication competency items related to open communication and support. They are joined by item 18 (designed for the *Planning and Coordination* competency). The second factor extracted reflects the Planning and Coordination competency (items 4, 13, 23, 33 and 34). This factor also includes item 8 (designed for the *Communication* competency). The items for the Goal Setting and Performance Management competency appear in factors 3 and 6. Items related to "monitoring, assessing and providing feedback on individual and group performance" (items 6, 22, 31 and 35) are associated with factor 6, and those referring to "offering teammates feedback on their results" (items 20, 32 and 32) are associated with factor 6. Factors 4 and 5 reflect the Collaborative Problem Solving competency. Factor 4 is associated with items referring to "recognizing obstacles to participative problem solving" (items 14, 24 and 26), and factor 5 with

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items referring to "identifying situations that require participation in decision making" (items 11 and 25). Finally, factors 7 and 8 reflect the *Communication* competency. The items related with "active listening, non-verbal communication and recognition of communication networks" (items 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 27) are associated with factor 7, while those related with "informal communication acts with other team members" (items 12 and 30) are associated with factor 8.

Insert Table 5 about here

Finally, we performed a confirmatory factorial analysis (N = 120) on the scores obtained for the eight factors to verify whether the eight factors extracted are associated with two general dimensions, as proposed in the substantive model, or with a single dimension as study 1 suggests. The following factors were assigned to the interpersonal competencies dimension in the two-dimensional model (see Figure 1): 1 (conflict resolution), 4 (collaborative problem solving: group), 5 (collaborative problem solving: individual), 7 (communication: active listening) and 8 (communication: informal). The following were assigned to the self-management dimension: 2 (planning), 3 (performance objective management: monitoring), and 7 (performance objective management: feedback).

Insert Figure 2 about here

In view of the weightings assigned to the different variables, all of the parameters estimated in the two-factor model are significant (p < .001), except for the

relationship between F4 and F5 and the interpersonal relations dimension (p = .001 and p = .040, respectively). All of the parameters estimated are again significant (p < .001) for a one-factor model, except for the relationship between F4 and F5 and the general teamwork factor (p = .002 and p = .042, respectively). None of the standardized residuals attains a value of $|\text{res}_z| > 2$ for the one-factor model. However, a high value, $|\text{res}_z| > 2$, appears in the two-factor model for the relationship between F1 and F7, although this is not an especially large deviation.

The values obtained for the goodness-of-fit estimators for both models indicate a good fit in both models. For 1-Factor Model and 2-Factor Model the values were respectively: Chi Square .181 and .242, SMRM .048 and .047, RMSEA .037 and .031, CFI .976 and .983, TLI .966 and .975.

Discussion

Overall, the results of the second study show that the TWCT reasonably covers the whole content domain proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994), is reliable, and that its dimensional structure adequately reflects the original substantive model (although it does not do so exactly). With regard to the first point, the inter-judge analysis indicates that the TWCT items are representative of the 14 sub-competencies defined by the authors. In terms of reliability, the five scales present adequate Cronbach alphas of more than .80, except the *Conflict Resolution* scale, which has an alpha of .71. The alpha for the total scale is also adequate (.89). Finally, the dimensionality analysis reveals a latent structure for TWCT that is substantially associated with Stevens and Campion's (1994) model. However, the structure observed does not exactly reproduce either the structure of the 14 sub-competencies or the structure of the five competencies.

Our results suggest the need to reconfigure the scales originally designed. This is particularly important regarding the Conflict Resolution competency. The analyses of both dimensionality and congruence reveal a strong association between the Conflict Resolution items and the Communication items (related to open communication and support). It seems reasonable to integrate the items in the Communication subcompetency into the *Conflict Resolution* competency, as the factorial analysis indicates. This is also true with regard to item 18, which both the judges and the factorial analysis associate with that competency. The Conflict Resolution scale with an alpha of .84 would thus be established with the same items as originally designed. The *Collaborative* Problem Solving scale is also maintained intact, integrating the factor 4 and 5 items with an alpha of .83. The *Communication* scale contains the factor 7 and 8 items associated with communication items, except for open communication and support, obtaining an alpha of .72. The *Objective Management and Performance* competency would be formed by all of the items from factors 3 and 6 with an alpha of .82. Finally, the Planning and Coordination competency integrates all of the items associated with factor 2 (alpha = .88), except 18 which is moved to *Conflict Resolution*.

Study 3

The third study has a dual objective: 1) to obtain initial evidence for the convergent validity of the new measure of teamwork competency developed in study 2, and 2) to compare the new measure with the original test proposed by Stevens and Campion (1999). A sample of employees was used to analyze the relationship between TWCT and: a) the original TWKSAT, b) supervisor assessments of employees' teamwork competencies, and c) self-assessments of competency by employees themselves.

Method

Sample. A total of 91 employees working in a major Spanish power utility took part in the study. Men made up 81% of the total sample, and the average age was 29.6 years (SD = 3.38). The measurements were made as part of the activities undertaken by the employees within the framework of a mandatory skills development program set up by the company. Participants signed a consent form regarding their participation in the study. They could decline to be enrolled in the research by not providing their records, without any adverse effect on their participation in the skills development program. We also obtained the company consent to use the data in the research.

Measures. *TWKSAT*. We applied the original version of the Stevens and Campion (1999) test used in study 1.

TWCT. The version of the test designed in study 2 was applied. Six different measures were established for each participant, consisting of a total score and a score for each of the five competencies.

Team Performance: Supervisor Assessment. The assessments of each employee's immediate superior were obtained specifically for the purposes of the study and did not form part of the company's usual performance management process. The information gathered on the employees was strictly training-related. The supervisor questionnaire contained eight items describing different teamwork behaviors, to which they were asked to respond on a four-point scale (1 = completely disagree, 4 = completely agree). An example item is "He/she (the employee) participates actively in work meetings (giving his/her opinion, asking questions, etc.)." The items were drawn from a competency model used in the company. *Team Performance: Self-Assessment.* The same eight-item questionnaire expressed in the first person was also answered by each employee to assess their usual behavior in work team situations.

Procedure. The supervisors' assessments (measure 3) and the self-assessments of the employees (measure 4) were obtained concurrently at the beginning of the course. The supervisors gave their responses online via a user/key connection to a page containing the questionnaire and instructions for completion. The TWKSAT and TWCT measures (respectively, measures 1 and 2) were collected at a first training session one week later. Both questionnaires were administered in a paper and pencil format, counterbalanced to avoid effects associated with the order of presentation.

Results

Table 6 summarizes the descriptive statistics and intercorrelations for all of the variables in the study. The reliability of the two criteria measures used was .70 for team performance supervisor evaluation and .54 for team performance self-evaluation. The two versions of the TWKSAT were positively correlated (r = .47; p < .01), as were the assessments made by the supervisors and the employees (r = .25; p < .05). As in study 2, the competencies evaluated in the TWCT were positively correlated (except B: *Collaborative Problem Solving*). Also, the competencies as captured by the TWCT were positively correlated with the original TWKSAT, except competency B.

The supervisor assessment correlation with the TWCT was .34 (p < .01) compared to a correlation of .26 (p < .05) with the TWKSAT. These correlations are not statistically different (T = - 0.76, p < .05). A similar effect was observed in the employee self-assessments, which showed a correlation of .39 (p < .01) with the TWCT and .21 (p < .05) with the TWKSAT. These correlations are statistically different (T = -1.78, p < .05). Analysis of the TWCT competencies shows that competencies A (*Conflict Resolution*), D (*Goal Setting and Performance Management*) and E (*Planning and Coordination*) are positively correlated both with the supervisor's assessment (r = .24, p < .05; r = .36, p < .01; r = .27, p < .01, respectively) and with employees' self-assessments (r = .30, p < .01; r = .38, p < .01; r = .37, p < .01, respectively).

Insert Table 6 about here

Finally, we performed a hierarchical regression analysis examining the proportion of the variance in the scores obtained from the supervisors' assessments due to TWKSAT and TWCT, respectively. In the first step, TWKSAT was introduced, while the TWCT score was introduced in a second step. Table 7 indicates that the percentage of explained variance increases significantly at 6.3% ($\Delta R^2 = .063$, p < .05; F = 6.60; $\beta = .285$, p < .05) when TWCT is introduced.

Insert Table 7 about here

Discussion

The results of the third study provide favorable empirical evidence for the convergent validity of TWCT. The total score in this new version of the test is positively correlated with the other measures in the study, namely a) the score in the original Stevens and Campion test (1999), b) the supervisors' assessments of the teamwork behavior of employees in their routine work, and c) the self-assessments made by the employees themselves. Furthermore, the results indicate that *Conflict*

Resolution, Goal Setting and Performance Management, and *Planning and Coordination* are the only competencies of the five contained in TWCT that correlate independently with the criterion variables.

Contrary to our expectations, however, the correlations between the different sub-scales in the test were not all either significant or positive. Specifically, *Collaborative Problem Solving* is weakly related to the other dimensions except *Goal Setting and Performance Management* and *Planning and Coordination*.

Another interesting feature is the significant, positive correlation found between the original TWKSAT and the supervisors' assessments. This is in line with the original study carried out by Stevens and Campion (1999). Finally, comparison of the predictive capacity of the two versions of the TWKSAT suggests that the TWCT is a better predictor of the self-assessment of teamwork – but not of the supervisors' assessments – than the original test.

General Discussion

Overall, the three studies highlight certain significant limitations in the original TWKSAT designed by Stevens and Campion (1999), improving the metric characteristics of the test and developing a new version. Available research shows that the TWKSAT offers good predictive validity (McClough & Rogelberg, 2003), but it may be improved in terms of reliability (e.g., Athanasaw, 2003; Chen et al., 2004). Despite the TWKSAT's relevance as an appropriate measure of essential teamwork competencies, the absence of studies examining the causes of these reliability problems is surprising.

Based on the results of study 1: a) the reliability problems in the TWKSAT are due to the poor functioning of certain items, b) the domain contents proposed by the

authors are not satisfactorily represented by the test items, and c) the dimensionality of the test does not reflect the original substantive model.

Study 2 presents the TWCT, which is a new development focused on the Stevens & Campion's model. The TWCT includes 36 items in a four-point frequency scale format and drafted in "observable behaviors" statements. The dimensionality of the TWCT reproduces the original substantive model better than its predecessor, reflecting the assessment contents domain included in the model and offering reliable scores both in the test total and in each of the model's five dimensions.

Finally, study 3 provides initial evidence for the criterion validity of the TWCT compared to the original test in a sample of professionals. The total TWCT score is positively correlated with the teamwork assessments made both by supervisors and by the employees themselves. Moreover the TWCT predicts the supervisor assessment better than the TWKSAT.

Overall, our research provides empirical evidence concerning the method for valid, reliable teamwork competency assessments. The TWCT offers a more accurate measure of teamwork competency in terms of reliability than the original measure proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994), as well as greater conceptual richness in terms of independent scores for the five competencies identified by the authors. This importantly allows differential analysis of the effects of specific competencies on the performance of different types of teams. In addition, it makes possible the examination of whether improving the skills associated with a specific teamwork competency benefits the others. Our findings also help both academics and practitioners to better understand the low reliability indicators for the TWKSAT, and provide a new test (TWCT) which improves reliability and offers an independent measure for each of the dimensions proposed by Stevens and Campion (1999).

Considering the competencies measured by TWCT from the standpoint of the five major teamwork dimensions proposed by Salas et al. (2005), the competencies measured at the individual level are found to be associated with two of the core dimensions these authors describe, namely follow-up and monitoring of team performance, and team orientation. However, other core dimensions of the model, like team leadership, replacement behaviors and adaptability, do not appear in the TWCT. In addition, recent studies show the capacity of knowledge tests on team roles related to the task, team and boundary spanning activities to accurately predict performance in teams (Marrone et al., 2007; Mumford et al., 2008). Future research should consider this issue as the TWCT would gain in both quality and utility if it included the mentioned dimensions.

Despite the above-mentioned contributions, our research is not without limitations. First, the samples analyzed in the first two studies are of a reasonable size but were provided by university students. If our results are to be generalized, the studies would need to be replicated in larger samples of employees. In particular, the factorial analysis conducted on the TWKSAT should be replicated both in larger samples, since our sample was smaller than the criterion of 10 participants per item, and in American samples to solve the potential effects of cultural differences. As proposed by Ryan, Chan, Ployhart and Slade (1999), beyond the translation of the TWKSAT, it is necessary to adapt the test considering the equivalence of the measurements obtained in culturally diverse populations. Secondly, the factorial analyses carried out on the TWCT reveal a dimensional structure that is similar to the substantive model employed but

does not reflect it perfectly. Further studies should look into the reasons for this, particularly with regard to the functioning of the *Collaborative Problem Solving* scale. In line with the underlying theoretical model, it was expected that this competency would correlate with *Conflict Management* and *Communication*, but only a weak association was found. Moreover, *Collaborative Problem Solving* correlates more closely with other competencies related with team self-management. Analysis of the content of items (e.g., item 11 "In addressing minor aspects of tasks, I do not need to consult with the majority of the team members to reach a consensus decision") indicates that behaviors of this kind are related to effective coordination.

The number and type of competencies selected is a critical issue. The competencies originally proposed by Stevens and Campion (1994) do not exhaust the set of skills that could be considered to explain what people actually do in effective teamwork. For example, the skills to develop shared mental models (Cannon-Bowers et al., 1995; Zaccaro, Rittman & Marks, 2001), mutual trust (Bandow, 2001; Webber, 2002) and team leadership (Cannon-Bowers et al., 1995; Marks, Mathieu & Zaccaro, 2000) may also be critical in explaining team performance. As mentioned above, the development of measures that integrate these aspects would improve our ability to diagnose and predict teams' performance based on the personal abilities of the individuals who form them. Moreover, the use of advanced psychometric models like those based on item response theory (Hambleton & Swaminathan, 1985) would allow the design of computerized adaptive tests able to optimize the administration of a wide-ranging measure (Lord, 1970; Owen, 1975).

Finally, let us consider the practical implications of this research. The information provided by the new TWCT is of great interest for people management in

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organizations, as it shows managers, team leaders and human resources professionals which employees' competencies are critical to select, train and develop in order to improve team performance.

By throwing light on candidates' skills, the test would facilitate selection and team composition decisions. The access to information on five different competencies means the configuration of teams can be supported by a richer information base than would be possible using only a single general estimate. In addition, the differential diagnosis provided by the TWCT on the stronger and weaker competencies of each employee will allow teams to customize training and development interventions. This is particularly valuable in view of the increasing demand for training programs to improve teamwork competencies (Chen et al., 2004). Finally, the behaviors made explicit by the TWCT could be used as a guide to determine the behavioral anchors and sample behaviors used in the design of performance assessment and management tools.

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FOOTNOTES

1.

TWKSAT is a commercial test and we therefore do not provide the content of the items included in the test so as to protect the intellectual property rights of its authors. The test can be acquired at (<u>http://www.vangent-</u>

<u>hcm.com/Solutions/SelectionAssessments/SkillsAbilitiesAssessments/</u>). We use the original numbering of the items in our presentation of results to facilitate understanding.

2.

The task materials are available under request.

			Discrimination Index		
	Mean	Standard	(corrected item-total	Skewness	Kurtosis
		Deviation	correlation)		
Item01	.59	0.49	.22	-0.80	-1.34
Item02	.39	0.49	.03	0.68	-1.53
Item03	.79	0.41	.18	-1.62	0.63
Item04	.68	0.47	.01	-1.44	0.08
Item05	.53	0.50	.17	-0.23	-1.94
Item06	.93	0.25	.35	-5.39	27.02
Item07	.49	0.50	07	0.02	-1.99
Item08	.91	0.29	.37	-4.08	14.60
Item09	.34	0.47	.19	0.25	-1.93
Item10	.72	0.45	.13	-1.26	-0.40
Item11	.50	0.50	.14	-0.46	-1.78
Item12	.29	0.45	01	0.70	-1.49
Item13	.71	0.46	.15	-1.01	-0.96
Item14	.29	0.45	.22	0.69	-1.51
Item15	.70	0.46	.10	-0.88	-1.22
Item16	.11	0.32	.30	0.60	-1.63
Item17	.69	0.46	.02	-0.79	-1.37
Item18	.16	0.37	.31	0.15	-1.97
Item19	.70	0.46	.30	-0.86	-1.25
Item20	.76	0.43	.35	-1.62	0.63
Item21	.56	0.50	.21	-1.06	-0.85
Item22	.61	0.49	.29	-0.60	-1.63
Item23	.50	0.50	.27	-0.33	-1.88
Item24	.40	0.49	.01	-0.02	-1.99
Item25	.32	0.47	.02	0.43	-1.80

Table 1 Descriptive Statistics for Study 1 TWKSAT Original Items

Item26	.08	0.28	.24	0.92	-1.14
Item27	.38	0.49	06	0.01	-1.99
Item28	.68	0.47	.36	-1.18	-0.58
Item29	.22	0.41	.15	1.15	-0.67
Item30	.15	0.36	.41	0.13	-1.98
Item31	.64	0.48	.15	-1.00	-0.99
Item32	.09	0.29	.34	0.31	-1.89
Item33	.61	0.49	.12	-0.40	-1.83
Item34	.23	0.42	.10	0.76	-1.41
Item35	.50	0.50	05	0.02	-1.99

$$\alpha = .60$$

N = 135

Item/Content	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	E1	E2
Item06	.88						.35							
Item07	.65						.47							
Item23			.92											
Item10				.55				.37						
Item12				.64										
Item26				.65										
Item22					.97									
Item27					.31									
Item28					.92									
Item29					.31									
Item15							.96							
Item32							.79							
Item33							.45							
Item34							.64							
Item09								.58						
Item16								.94	.76					
Item30								.60						
Item14							.58		.94					
Item24								.40	.94					
Item35							.59		.95					
Item02										.79				
Item17										.99				
Item01											.95			
Item04											.92			
Item11											.97			
Item19											1			
Item18											.62			

Table 2 TWKSAT Congruence Indexes

Item08	.88	.71
Item13	.62	
Item20	.78	
Item21	.95	.41
Item25	.55	.37
Item05	.59	
Item03	.71	.88

Item31

A1: The KSA to recognize and encourage desirable, but discourage undesirable, team conflict; A2: The KSA to recognize the type and source of conflict confronting the team and to implement an appropriate conflict resolution strategy; A3: The KSA to employ an integrative negotiation strategy rather than the traditional distributive strategy; B1: The KSA to identify situations requiring participative group problem solving and to utilize the proper degree and type of participation; B2: The KSA to recognize the obstacles to collaborative group problem solving and implement appropriate corrective actions; C1: The KSA to understand communication networks and to utilize decentralized networks to enhance the communication where possible; C2: The KSA to communicate openly and supportively; C3: The KSA to listen nonevaluatively and appropriately use active listening techniques; C4: The KSA to maximize consonance between non-verbal and verbal messages, and to recognize and interpret the non-verbal messages of others; C5: The KSA to engage in ritual greetings and small talk, and a recognition of their importance; D1: The KSA to help establish specific, challenging, and accepted team goals; D2: The KSA to monitor, evaluate, and provide feedback on both overall team performance and individual team member performance; E1: The KSA to coordinate and synchronize activities, information, and task interdependencies between members; E2: The KSA to help establish task and role expectations of individual team members and to ensure proper balancing of workload in the team. To facilitate indexes reading, <.30 have been eliminated; indexes >.80 appear in cursive; and the greater index obtained for each item appears in boldface.

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	RMSEA	CFI	TLI
5-Factor Model (Ortogonal)	0,082	0,067	0,008
2-Factor Model (Ortogonal)	0,07	0,324	0,282
5-Factor Model (Correlated)	0,04	0,776	0,762
2-Factor Model (Correlated)	0,038	0,807	0,792
1-Factor Model	0,041	0,774	0,76

N= 135; RMSEA: Root Mean Square Error Of Approximation; CFI: Confirmatory fit index; TLI: Tucker-Lewis fit index

Item	М	SD	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	E1	E2
1	3.34	0.67	1													
16	3.00	0.75	1													
19	2.91	0.74	.56						.83							
21	3.12	0.75	.77						.63					.5		
7	3.41	0.60		.69						.83						
10	2.47	0.89		.64												
3	2.88	0.79			.94											
15	3.27	0.68			.81				.81							
11	3.00	0.86				.81										
25	3.04	0.84				1										
14	2.71	0.74					.70									
24	2.51	0.81					.83									
26	2.61	0.76					1									
5	2.83	0.70						0.95								
17	3.27	0.70							.95							
28	3.28	0.69							1							
29	3.31	0.68							.69							
2	3.43	0.61								.78						
27	3.37	0.63								1						
8	3.57	0.61									0.89					
9	3.13	0.75									0.83					
12	3.25	0.79										1				
30	3.23	0.78										1				
35	2.70	0.75											1			
6	2.99	0.76												.87		
20	3.03	0.81												.95		
22	2.91	0.83												.95		
31	3.00	0.77												1		
32	3.06	0.78												1		
36	2.86	0.80												.95		

4	3.06	0.72
23	3.33	0.75
33	3.11	0.68
34	3.07	0.68
13	3.65	0.60
18	3.05	0.73
Total	112.9	12

N = 120

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Item/factor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Item28	.93	09	05	02	10	02	03	.05
Item17	.92	12	02	05	07	02	04	.08
Item29	.90	11	03	05	10	06	06	.12
Item15	.47	.08	.05	.04	.16	.07	.02	04
Item19	.35	.03	.05	.06	.09	.16	.19	03
Item18	.29	.00	.25	.09	.03	.06	.17	.03
Item01	.24	.07	.12	.10	.24	.14	.16	02
Item10	.23	02	.15	.08	.09	.06	.14	05
Item21	.21	05	.06	.13	.04	.29	03	08
Item16	.18	.13	.20	01	.13	.15	.09	.05
Item34	.05	94	02	.01	03	.10	06	03
Item33	.02	91	04	03	04	.06	03	01
Item04	.05	84	.03	.02	.01	.09	07	05
Item23	.01	55	.13	05	.05	.06	.12	02
Item08	.04	22	.01	.01	.05	07	.11	.08
Item13	.00	19	.13	02	.05	02	.18	.06
Item31	06	05	.93	03	02	.01	06	.03
Item06	06	.01	.91	.00	02	.02	05	.01
Item22	.00	05	.87	.02	01	01	03	07
Item35	.12	01	.11	.10	.03	.05	01	.08
Item26	02	01	01	.95	06	.03	07	.00
Item14	02	.01	09	.89	07	02	06	.01
Item24	12	.03	.08	.80	.05	02	.03	.01
Item11	08	02	03	02	.98	03	08	.02
Item25	07	02	03	05	.93	03	10	.03
Item20	06	10	02	01	04	.89	.03	.02
Item32	09	14	02	05	01	.85	.03	.08

Item36	.11	.06	.13	.04	.00	.53	.08	.09
Item27	08	06	01	04	07	.09	.90	08
Item02	10	05	02	06	10	.05	.79	03
Item03	.16	.04	08	.00	.03	.13	.39	.03
Item07	.03	.03	.03	.09	.10	.02	.36	.15
Item05	.09	03	.14	.01	07	08	.25	.09
Item09	.08	16	03	.17	.11	11	.25	.00
Item30	02	.01	05	.01	.03	.03	03	1
Item12	.02	.04	01	.01	.00	.07	06	.90

N = 120; Extraction: Unweighted Least Squares (ULS); Rotation: Oblimin-Kaiser; Convergence: 12 iterations.

Table 6 Descriptive Statistics and Inter-correlations for Study 3 Measures

		М	SD	α	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
1	TWKSAT	21.9	2.3	.37																
2	TWCT Total	109.0	10.9	.84	.47	**														
3	TWCT KSA_A	30.5	4.6	.84	.36	**	.81	**												
4	TWCT KSA_B	13.6	2.6	.26	.10		.42	**	.07											
5	TWCT KSA_C	25.0	2.8	.35	.37	**	.59	**	.39	**	.00									
6	TWCT KSA_D	19.9	3.3	.66	.41	**	.81	**	.59	**	.24	*	.33	**						
7	TWCT KSA_E	19.9	2.4	.55	.33	**	.72	**	.43	**	.36	**	.29	**	.51	**				
8	Team Performance Supervisor evaluation	16.2	3.3	.70	.26	*	.34	**	.24	*	.13		.16		.36	**	.27	**		
9	Team Performance Self-evaluation	23.4	2.8	.54	.21	*	.39	**	.30	**	.08		.19		.38	**	.37	**	.25	*
	<i>N</i> = 91; * <i>p</i> <.05; ** <i>p</i> <.01; KSA_A: conflic	ct resolu	ition; K	SA_B	colla	abora	ative	prob	lem s	solvi	ng; K	SA_	<u>C:</u> co	omm	unicat	tion; l	KSA_I): goa	ıl setti	ng

and performance management; and KSA_E: planning and task coordination.

TWKSA 2.0	46
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Table 7 Hierarchical Regression Analysis over the Team Performance Supervisor

evaluation

Step 1	dF	F	$R^2\Delta$.067*	β
TWKSAT	1. 89	6.42		250*
Step 2 TWKSAT TWCT	2. 88	6.60	.063*	.125 .285*

4	7
	4

Figure 1. Stevens & Campion Model

I. Interpersonal KSAs

1. Conflict Resolution

Recognize team conflict.

Recognize type and source of conflict and implement conflict resolution strategies.

Employ integrative (win-win) negotiation strategies.

2. Collaborative Problem Solving

Identify situations requiring participative group problem solving.

Recognize the obstacles to collaborative group problem solving and implement corrective actions.

3. Communication

Understand communication networks and utilize decentralized networks to enhance communication.

Communicate open and supportively.

Listen in a non-evaluative way and use active listening techniques.

Maximize consonance between non-verbal and verbal messages, and recognize and interpret the non-verbal messages of

others.

Engage in ritual greetings and small talk.

II. Self-management KSAs

4. Goal Setting and Performance Management

Establish specific, challenging and accepted team goals.

Monitor, evaluate, and provide feedback on both overall team performance and individual performance.

5. Planning and Task Coordination

Coordinate and synchronize activities, information, and task interdependences.

Establish task and role expectations of individual team members, and ensure proper balancing of workload in the team.



Figure 2. Confirmatory Factor Analysis Solutions for 1-Factor and 2-Factor Models