irtgraph tif --- Test information function plot

Description	Quick start	Menu	Syntax	Options
Remarks and examples	Methods and formulas	Reference	Also see	

Description

irtgraph tif plots the test information function (TIF) for the currently fitted IRT model.

Quick start

2PL model for binary items b1 to b10 irt 2pl b1-b10 Plot the TIF for the fitted model irtgraph tif Plot the TIF and its standard error irtgraph tif, se Fit a group 2PL model irt 2pl b1-b9, group(female)

Plot the TIFs for the fitted model for both groups irtgraph tif

Menu

 $Statistics > \mathsf{IRT} \ (\mathsf{item response theory})$

Syntax

irtgraph tif [, options] Description options Plots se[(line_options)] plot the standard error of the TIF range(##) plot over $\theta = \#$ to #l ine affect rendition of the plotted TIF line_options Add plots addplot(*plot*) add other plots to the TIF plot Y axis, X axis, Titles, Legend, Overall any options other than by () documented in [G-3] twoway_options twoway_options Data n(#) evaluate TIF at # points; default is n(300) data(filename[, replace]) save plot data to a file

Options

Plots

- se[(line_options)] requests the standard error of the TIF be plotted. The optional line_options specify
 how the lines are rendered; see [G-3] line_options.
- range (# #) specifies the range of values for θ . This option requires a pair of numbers identifying the minimum and maximum. The default is range (-4 4).

Line

line_options affect the rendition of the plotted TIF; see [G-3] *line_options*.

Add plots

addplot(*plot*) allows adding more graph twoway plots to the graph; see [G-3] *addplot_option*.

Yaxis, Xaxis, Titles, Legend, Overall

twoway_options are any of the options documented in [G-3] *twoway_options*, excluding by(). These include options for titling the graph (see [G-3] *title_options*) and for saving the graph to disk (see [G-3] *saving_option*).

Data

n(#) specifies the number of points at which the plotted lines are to be evaluated. The default is n(300). data(*filename*[, replace]) saves the plot data to a Stata data file.

Remarks and examples

irtgraph tif plots the TIF after estimating the parameters of an IRT model using irt.

In IRT, the term "information" is used to describe reliability or precision of an item or a whole instrument. More reliable instruments measure the latent trait around the estimated difficulty parameter with greater precision.

The TIF is useful in test development where, depending on the specific needs, the test can be chosen to cover the whole spectrum or to focus on a particular range of the ability scale. For tests with alternate formats, TIFs are used to ensure the formats carry the same information across the targeted latent trait range.

Example 1: TIF for binary items

We continue with the 2PL model from example 1 of [IRT] **irt 2pl**. Recall that we fit a 2PL model to the nine binary items.

```
. use https://www.stata-press.com/data/r19/masc1
(Data from De Boeck & Wilson (2004))
. irt 2pl q1-q9
(output omitted)
```

In example 1 of [IRT] **irtgraph iif**, we plotted IIFs and noted that items provided more information over the negative range of the latent trait than over the positive range. This asymmetry is also present in the TIF, which we plot below.



The test provides the most information around the latent trait between approximately -1.5 to 0. If we wished for the test to provide more information around a particular latent trait range, we could include additional items that contribute more information within the desired range. Looking at the standard error curve, we observe that the amount of information provided by the test at θ is inversely related to the precision with which ability is estimated at that point.

. irtgraph tif, se

Methods and formulas

Test information is the negative of the expectation of the second derivative with respect to θ of the log likelihood defined in *Methods and formulas* of [IRT] **irt hybrid**.

$$I(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -E \Big\{ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^2} \log \! L(\boldsymbol{B}) \Big\}$$

Given an instrument consisting of I items, the formula above reduces to

$$I(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\theta}^2} + \sum_{i=1}^{I} I_i(\theta)$$

where $I_i(\theta)$ is as defined in *Methods and formulas* of [IRT] **irtgraph iif**. Thus, the TIF is the sum of the individual IIFs and the prior variance of the latent trait, σ_{θ}^2 . **irt** fits IRT models with σ_{θ}^2 constrained to 1.

The standard error of the TIF is given by

$$\operatorname{se}(\hat{\theta}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{I(\theta)}}$$

Reference

Raciborski, R. 2015. Spotlight on irt. The Stata Blog: Not Elsewhere Classified. https://blog.stata.com/2015/07/31/ spotlight-on-irt/.

Also see

- [IRT] irt Introduction to IRT models
- [IRT] irt 1pl One-parameter logistic model
- [IRT] irt 2pl Two-parameter logistic model
- [IRT] irt 3pl Three-parameter logistic model
- [IRT] irt grm Graded response model
- [IRT] irt hybrid Hybrid IRT models
- [IRT] irt nrm Nominal response model
- [IRT] irt pcm Partial credit model
- [IRT] irt rsm Rating scale model
- [IRT] irtgraph iif Item information function plot

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