

I am estimating a single-factor model with 6 dichotomous items. The bivariate frequency table between 2 items has an empty cell. I am wondering if there has been any new thoughts on empty cells and ML? My initial thought is to drop one of the items since it is quite skewed (91% answer yes). But, I am wondering if anyone on this thread has any new thoughts on this, or has read any recent work that might shed light on how to handle this under ML. Thank you.

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Having an empty cell in this case is equivalent to polychoric correlation of +-1 and you can combine the two items in one with 3 categories, for example

0 0 -> 0

0 1 -> 1

1 1 -> 2

That will preserve all the information in the data.