

Shifting States or Constant Traits:

How stable are sexual excitation and sexual inhibition in women?

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Dual Control Model of sexual response

- Sexual excitation (SE)
 - facilitates sexual arousal → Gas pedal
- Sexual inhibition (SI)
 - diminishes sexual arousal → Brake

Sexual Excitation Sexual Inhibition Inventory for Women (SESII-W)

- measures SE and SI in women
- 36 Items, good psychometric properties
- 8 lower order factors (5 for SE and 3 for SI)

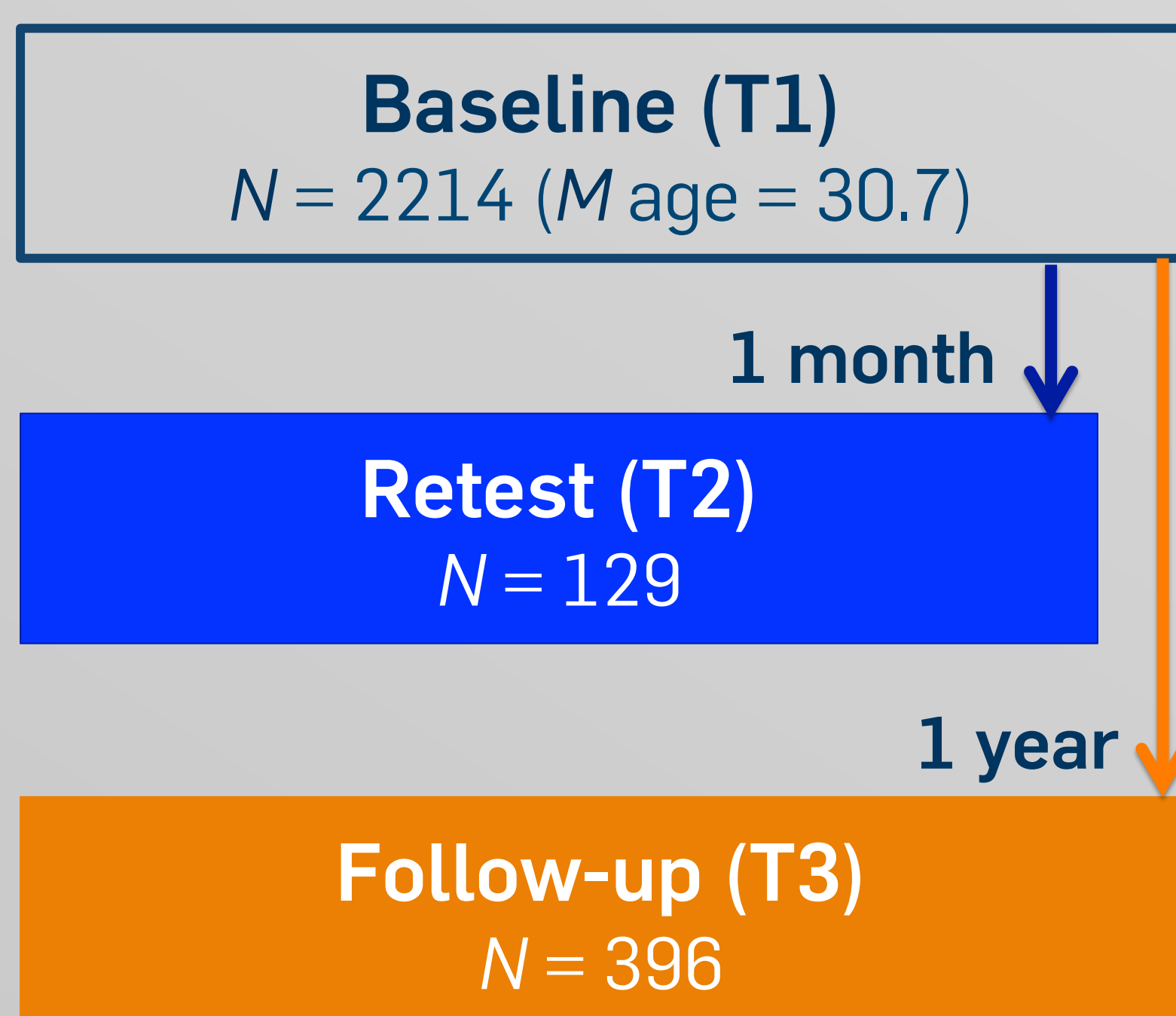
Previous research

- Do SE and SI vary across individuals? ✓
- Are low SE and high SI associated with sexual problems in men and women? ✓
- Are high SE and low SI associated with risky sexual behaviors in men and women? ✓

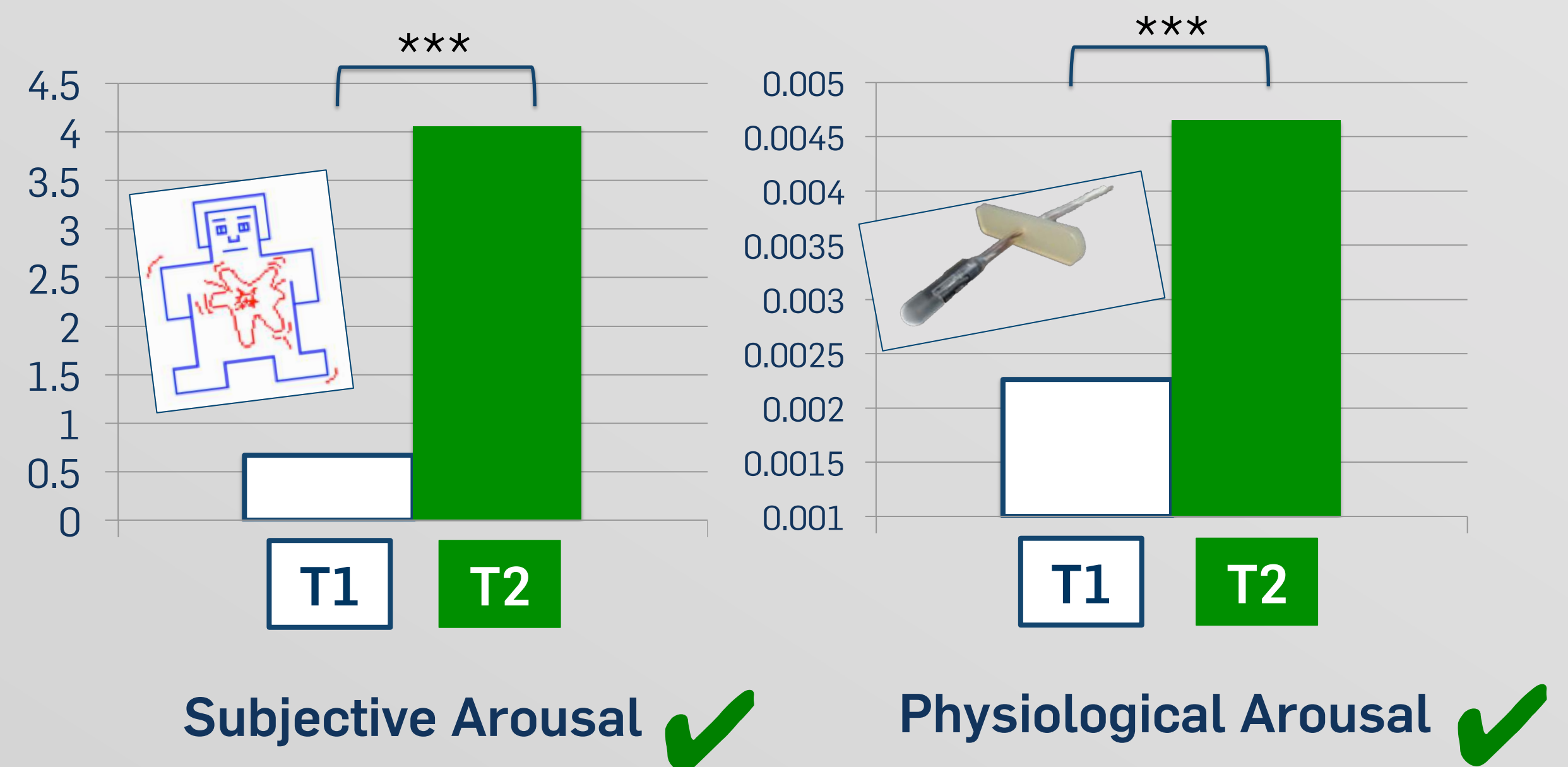
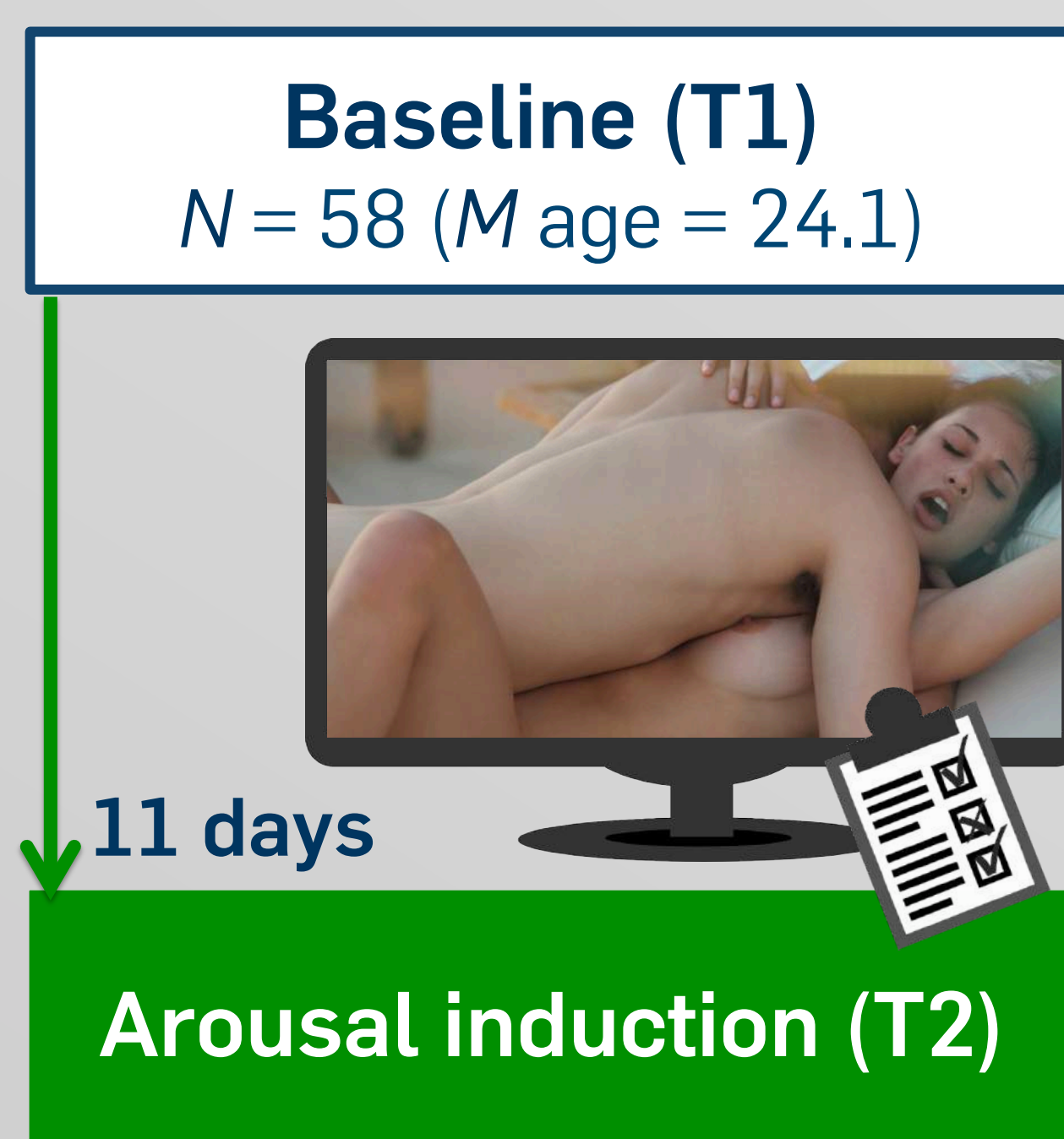
Are SE and SI stable over time? ?

Are SE and SI state dependent? ?

Longitudinal survey



Psychophysiological study



Results

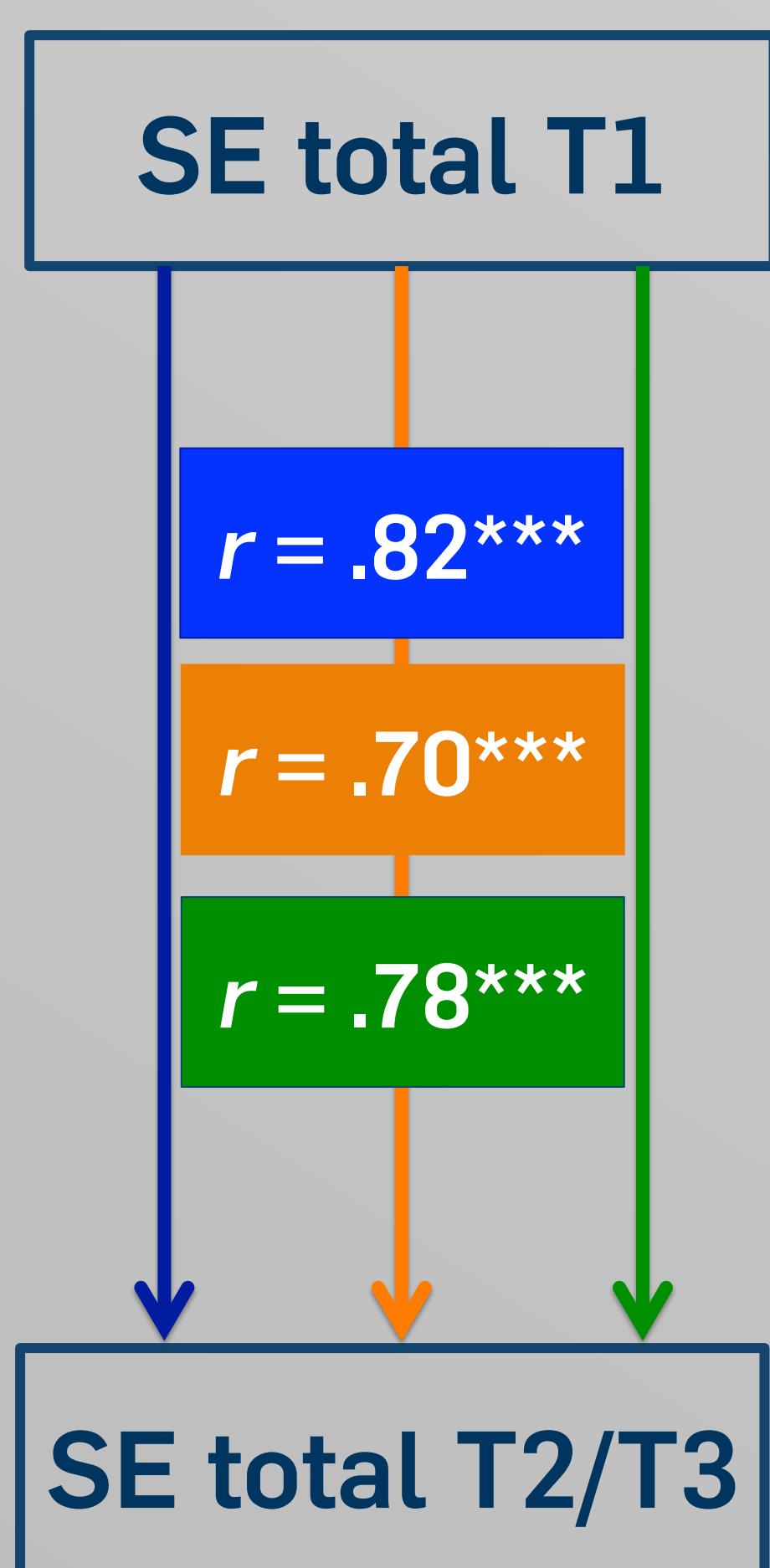
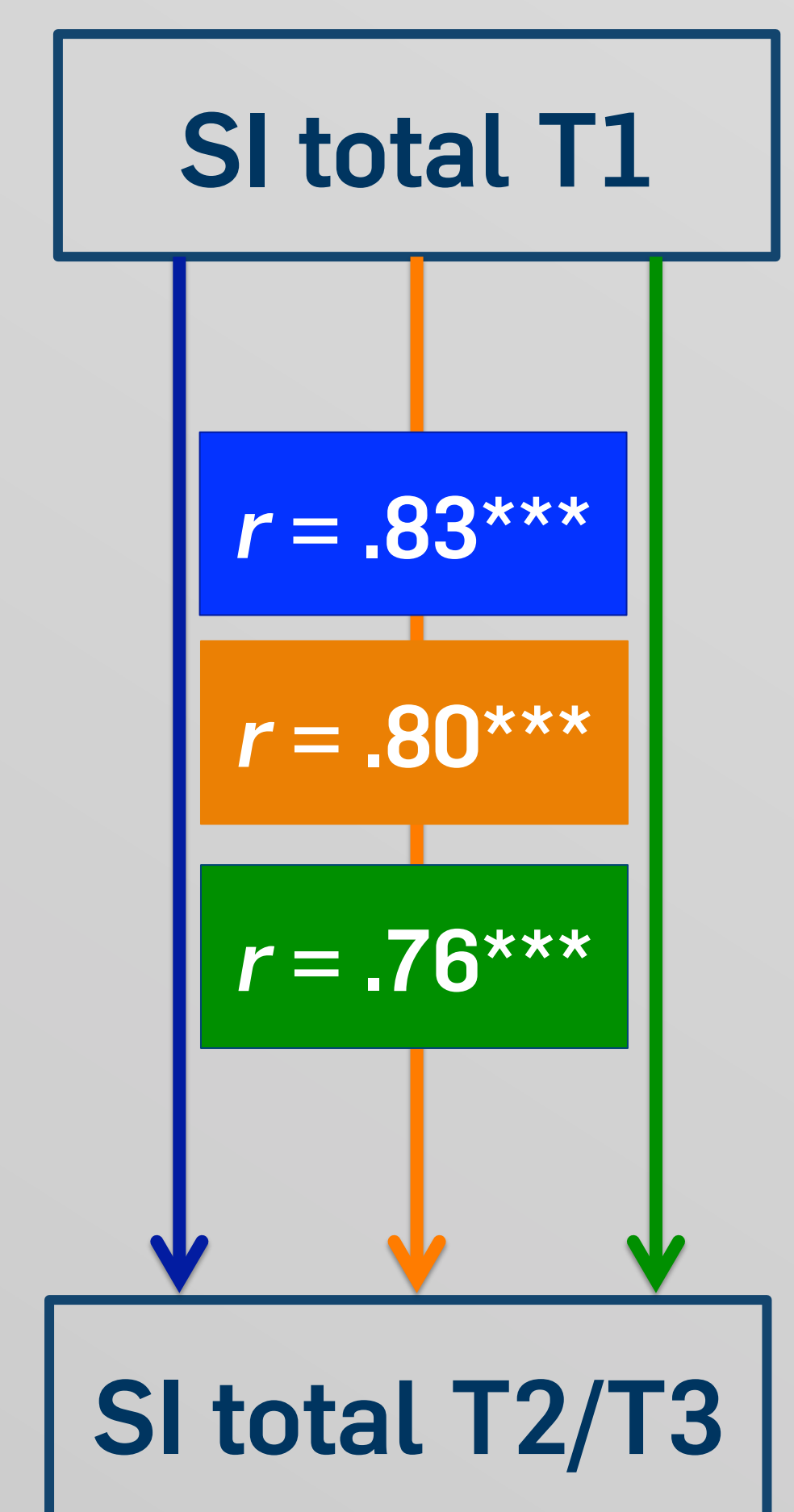


Table 1: Stability of the lower order factors of SE and SI

	Retest	Follow-up	Sexual arousal
Sexual excitation			
Arousability	.66***	.60***	.67***
Partner Characteristics	.70***	.54***	.58***
Sexual Power Dynamics	.77***	.71***	.82***
Smell	.75***	.65***	.70***
Setting (unusual/unconcealed)	.74***	.68***	.72***
Sexual inhibition			
Concerns about Sexual Function	.75***	.71***	.74***
Arousal Contingency	.75***	.74***	.62***
Relationship Importance	.83***	.73***	.72***



Our findings:
SE and SI are stable over time
SE and SI are not state dependent

Conclusion

- SE and SI can be reliably measured with the SESII-W
- SE and SI seem to be stable personality traits
- Sexual arousal does not significantly influence women's sexual excitation or inhibition proneness

Selected literature:

Bancroft, J., Graham, C. A., Janssen, E. & Sanders, S. A. (2009). The Dual Control Model: Current Status and Future Directions. *Journal of Sex Research* 46, 121–142.
 Graham, C. A., Sanders, S. A. & Milhausen, R. R. (2006). The Sexual Excitation/Sexual Inhibition Inventory for Women: Psychometric Properties. *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 35, 397–409.
 Velten, J., Scholten, S., Graham, C., & Margraf, J. (2015). Psychometric Properties of the Sexual Excitation/Sexual Inhibition Inventory for Women in a German Sample. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 1–12. doi: 10.1007/s10508-015-0547-8