

General Feedback on Assignment 2

Big-Picture Questions:

1. This went well, for the most part. Good job!
2. In describing model identification, be sure to include how the metric of the latent factor is interpreting within each method. One thing I want to point out is that using the ‘marker’ method of factor identification (i.e., fixing one loading to 1) means that the factor metric is *almost* like that of the marker indicator, EXCEPT that it is only the reliable variance of the marker that gets placed on the factor. So the factor variance will be shrunken by $1 - \text{loading}^2$. Finally, a complete description of model identification should include how to identify higher-order factor models. This includes describes what the “relevant pieces of information” are for both measurement and structural models.
3. This went well, for the most part. Good job! However – many of you neglected to carry this logic through your results section. All 4 steps should be covered.

CFA Models:

All results sections should begin with the relevant version of Mplus you used and how you identified the model.

1. Most of this was good, although I was amused to see that many of you perfectly described the 4-step process of model evaluation, but then stopped short of the third step in your results section (inspecting individual parameters, effect sizes, and such). This is just as important as global fit, local fit, and everything else.
2. Your table needs to have ALL parameters (see essay question 1), and these need to be clearly labeled. Copy the Mplus output from your final model into a table (you can use the Text to Table option in excel), and then add the labels. Not much typing is required that way.
3. Omega is calculated using standardized loadings and standardized error variances – both sides need to be on the same scale. If you didn’t show at least your intermediate calculations (sums on each side of the equation), you didn’t get your point.
4. Even though tau-equivalence did not hold for most of you, please test the parallel assumption, too (just so that I know you know how). This should include a description of what tau-equivalence and parallel indicators actually means! Also report the fit of each model, as well as the comparison between models. Including this info in the text or in a table is fine.
5. I requested your Mplus output file, which should have commented syntax for all your models at the top. If you used separate syntax files for each model, just paste the relevant code into your assignment instead.