

[PSY202B Guest Lecture] Statistical Modeling in  
Psychological Sciences

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Hi everyone! I'm Ihnwhi.

It is my great pleasure to be your guest lecturer for PSY202B. The theme of my lecture is statistical modeling in psychological sciences. An essential aspect of psychological research is statistical modeling based on substantive theories. I will briefly introduce Mplus and walk you around several analytic techniques using Mplus. This GitBook is your guide such that you can easily access code for Mplus practicals. Let's embark on this exciting learning together!



## Chapter 2

# Introduction to Mplus

### 2.1 What is it? Why called Mplus?

Mplus is a statistical modeling program that provides researchers with a flexible tool to analyze data

- Many models: regression, path analysis, factor analysis, SEM, MLM, longitudinal models, mixture model, mediation/moderation
- Many data: cross-sectional, longitudinal, single-/multilevel, observed/latent, incomplete
- Many variables: continuous, dichotomous, categorical, count
- Many estimator: maximum likelihood, weighted least squares, Bayesian

### 2.2 Syntax-based programming

- Commands and subcommands (<https://www.statmodel.com/language.html>)
- Examples of commands? (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeRRtdmu23k>)

TITLE, DATA, VARIABLE, ANALYSIS, MODEL, OUTPUT

DEFINE, SAVEDATA, PLOT, MONTECARLO

## 2.3 Some tips when programming

1. Comments can be added with exclamation marks (!)
  2. Commands should end with colon (:), and subcommands should end with semicolon (;)
  3. Syntax is not case sensitive
  4. Data should consist of numeric values, with no variable names
  5. Data and Mplus input file should be in the same directory (like an R working directory)
- Otherwise, be sure to specify the correct directory

## 2.4 Some tips about model command particularly

1. Start with a path diagram
2. Think of it as specifying model parameters
3. Care to the degrees of freedom (DF)

## 2.5 Example. Multiple linear regression using maximum likelihood estimation

### 2.5.1 Model syntax

```
! Title command
TITLE: Predicting album sales using ML multiple regression

! Data command
DATA:
    ! When data and input file are in the same working directory
    FILE IS Album Sales.csv; ! Subcommands should end with ;

    ! When data and input file are in the different working directory
    ! FILE IS c:\desktop\different folder\Album Sales.csv;

! Variable command
```



## 2.5. EXAMPLE. MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION USING MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION<sup>9</sup>

```
VARIABLE:
    ! Column names (i.e., ALL variable names)
    NAMES ARE adverts sales airplay attract;

    ! Variables that will be used in our analysis
    USEVARIABLES ARE adverts sales airplay;

! Analysis command
ANALYSIS:
    ESTIMATOR IS ML; ! This is the default

! Model command
MODEL:
    ! Let's predict sales using adverts and airplay
    ! We regress sales on adverts and airplay
    sales ON adverts airplay;

    ! If you do not specify variances of and covariances between predictors
    ! degrees of freedom (DF) are not correct
    ! Variances of exogenous variable
    adverts airplay;
    ! Covariances between exogenous variable
    adverts WITH airplay;

! Output command
OUTPUT:
    TECH1 SAMPSTAT STDYX;
    ! TECH1 to understand which parameters are being estimated
    ! SAMPSTAT to check sample descriptive statistics
    ! STDYX to standardize Y (i.e., DV) and X (i.e., IV)
```

### 2.5.2 Part of the output file

#### MODEL RESULTS

		Estimate	S.E.	Est./S.E.	Two-Tailed P-Value
SALES ON					
ADVERTS		0.087	0.007	12.082	0.000
AIRPLAY		3.589	0.285	12.608	0.000
ADVERTS WITH					

AIRPLAY	604.061	421.412	1.433	0.152
Means				
ADVERTS	614.412	34.255	17.936	0.000
AIRPLAY	27.500	0.865	31.777	0.000

## 2.6 Additional materials

1. Official website at <https://www.statmodel.com/>
2. User's guide and examples at <https://www.statmodel.com/ugexcerpts.shtml> → Highly recommended!
3. Mplus YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/MplusVideos>
4. QuantFish YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/QuantFish>
5. Tutorials by Prof. Rens van de Schoot and his students at <https://www.rensvandeschoot.com/tutorials/>

## Chapter 3

# Path Analysis

This Chapter is empty, and only exists to show that you can link to chapters by title.



## Chapter 4

# Confirmatory Factor Analysis

This Chapter is empty, and only exists to show that you can link to chapters by title.



## Chapter 5

# Structural Equation Modeling

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