# Appendix - LTA with MplusAutomation

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## Rationale for MplusAutomation workflow:

This R-script is intended to provide a template for running LTA and associated tasks in a systematic manner. Using this approach all code for data pre-processing, model estimation, tabulation, and figure processing can be contained within a single script providing clear documentation. It is the authors belief that this dramatically reduces risk of user-error, is conducive to open-science philosophy, and scientific transparency. All models are estimated using Mplus (cite) using the wrapping program MplusAutomation (cite). This method requires that the user to have the proprietary software Mplus installed on their OS.

This approach relies on the utility of R-Projects. This provides a structured framework for organizing all associated data files, Mplus text files, scripts, and figures. Given the high output of Mplus files inherent to LTA modeling, creating a system of project sub-folders greatly improves organization (i.e., folders; 'data',

'mplus\_files' 'figures', etc.) Additionally, the communication between R and Mplus requires the specification of file-paths a procedure which is streamlined by use of R-projects. Due to the reliance on file-paths the here package is utilized for reproducibility, by making all path syntax uniform across operating systems.

## Preparation

## Download the R-Project

Download Github repository here: https://github.com/garberadamc/LTA-FAQ

For readers unfamiliar with Github and version controlled R-projects:

- 1. On the repository page, click the green Code button and in menu choose option Download ZIP
- 2. Place the un-zipped downloaded folder on your desktop
- 3. Within this folder open the file with the blue cube icon that is file type \_\_\_\_.Rproj
- 4. Next open the file containing all analysis code named LTA\_Annotate.R.

Note: Alternatively, if preferred users may follow analyses using the Rmarkdown script (.Rmd).

### Project folder organization: nested structure

The following sub-folders will be used to contain files:

- 1. "data"
- 2. "enum\_LCA\_time1"
- 3. "enum\_LCA\_time2"
- 4. "LTA\_models"

#### Note regarding choice of project location:

If the project folder is located within too many nested folders it may result in a file-path error when estimating models with MplusAutomation.

#### Notation guide

In the following script, three types of comments are included in code blocks in which models are estimated using MplusAutomation.

- a. Annotate in R: The hashtag symbol # identifies comments written in R-language form.
- b. Annotate in Mplus input: Within the mplusObject() function all text used to generate Mplus input files is enclosed within quotation marks (green text). To add comments the Mplus language convention is used (e.g., !!! annotate Mplus input !!!).
- c. **Annotate context-specific syntax:** To signal to the user areas of the syntax which must be adapted to fit specific modeling contexts the text, NOTE CHANGE: is used.

To install package {rhdf5}

```
if (!requireNamespace("BiocManager", quietly = TRUE))
  install.packages("BiocManager")

BiocManager::install("rhdf5")
```

Load packages

```
library(MplusAutomation)
library(rhdf5)
library(tidyverse)
library(here)
library(glue)
library(janitor)
library(gt)
library(rhdf5)
library(reshape2)
library(cowplot)
```

Read in LSAY data file

Note: The LSAY data file, lsay\_lta\_faq\_2020.csv, has been pre-processed.

## Step 1: Enumeration

Enumerate time point 1 (7th grade)

```
# NOTE CHANGE: '6' indicates the number of k-class models to estimate.
# User can change this number it fit research context.
# In this example, the code loops or iterates over values 1 through 6 ( '{k}' ).
t1_enum_k_16 <- lapply(1:6, function(k) {
   enum_t1 <- mplusObject(

# The 'glue' function inserts R code within a string or green text within quotes using the syntax {---}
   TITLE = glue("Class-{k}_Time1"),

VARIABLE = glue(
   "!!! NOTE CHANGE: List of the five 7th grade indicators !!!
   categorical = ab39m-ab39x;
        usevar = ab39m-ab39x;</pre>
```

```
!!! The value of 'k' is inserted here !!!
     classes = c({k});"),
  ANALYSIS =
   "estimator = mlr;
   type = mixture;
   !!! NOTE CHANGE: The intial and final start values. Reduce to speed up estimation time. !!!
   starts = 500 100;
   processors=10;",
  OUTPUT = "sampstat residual tech11 tech14;",
 PLOT =
   "type = plot3;
   series = ab39m-ab39x(*);",
 usevariables = colnames(lsay_data),
 rdata = lsay_data)
# NOTE CHANGE: Fix to match appropriate sub-folder name
# See after `here` function (e.g., "enum_LCA_time1")
enum_t1_fit <- mplusModeler(enum_t1,</pre>
                 dataout=here("enum_LCA_time1", "t1.dat"),
                 modelout=glue(here("enum_LCA_time1", "c{k}_lca_enum_time1.inp")),
                 check=TRUE, run = TRUE, hashfilename = FALSE)
})
```

#### Enumerate time point 2 (10th grade)

```
t2_enum_k_16 <- lapply(1:6, function(k) {
    enum_t2 <- mplusObject(

    TITLE = glue("Class-{k}_Time2"),

    VARIABLE =
    glue(
    "!!! CHANGE: List of the five 10th grade indicators !!!
    categorical = ga33a-ga331;
        usevar = ga33a-ga331;

    classes = c({k}); !!! Loop value 'k' inserted here !!!"),

ANALYSIS =
    "estimator = mlr;
    type = mixture;
    starts = 500 100;
    processors=10;",

OUTPUT = "sampstat residual tech11 tech14;",</pre>
```

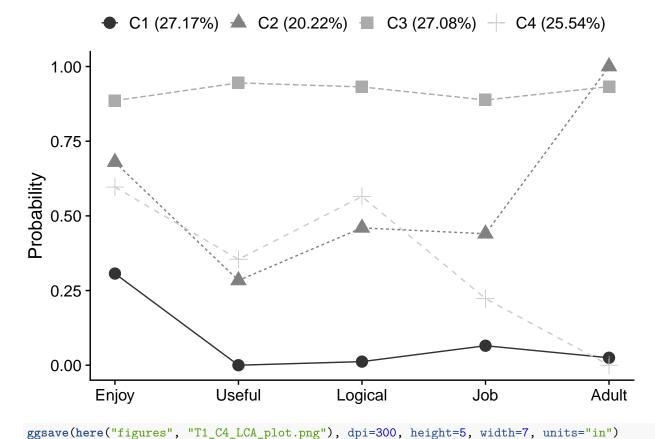
## Plot LCAs

Read models

```
# timepoint 1
output_enum_t1 <- readModels(here("enum_LCA_time1"), quiet = TRUE)
# timepoint 2
output_enum_t2 <- readModels(here("enum_LCA_time2"), quiet = TRUE)</pre>
```

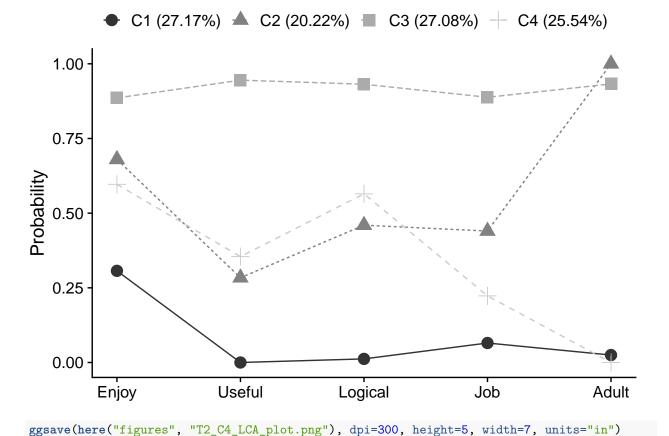
Plot time 1 LCA

```
# extract posterior probabilities
plot_t1 <- as.data.frame(output_enum_t1[["c4_lca_enum_time1.out"]]</pre>
                             [["gh5"]][["means_and_variances_data"]]
                             [["estimated probs"]][["values"]]
                             [seq(2, 10, 2),]) #seq("from", "to", "by")
# extract class size proportions
c_size <- as.data.frame(output_enum_t1[["c4_lca_enum_time1.out"]]</pre>
                          [["class_counts"]][["modelEstimated"]][["proportion"]])
colnames(c_size) <- paste0("cs")</pre>
c_size <- c_size %>% mutate(cs = round(cs*100, 2))
#rename class and indicator names
colnames(plot_t1) <- paste0("C", 1:4, glue(" ({c_size[1:4,]}%)"))</pre>
plot_t1 <- cbind(Var = paste0("U", 1:5), plot_t1)</pre>
plot_t1$Var <- factor(plot_t1$Var,</pre>
               levels = c("U1","U2","U3","U4","U5"),
                labels = c("Enjoy", "Useful", "Logical", "Job", "Adult"))
#change data-frame from wide to long format
pd_long_t1 <- melt(plot_t1, id.vars = "Var")</pre>
```



Plot time 2 LCA

```
#rename class and indicator names
colnames(plot_t2) <- paste0("C", 1:4, glue(" ({c_size[1:4,]}%)"))</pre>
plot_t2 <- cbind(Var = paste0("U", 1:5), plot_t1)</pre>
plot_t2$Var <- factor(plot_t2$Var,</pre>
               levels = c("U1","U2","U3","U4","U5"),
               labels = c("Enjoy", "Useful", "Logical", "Job", "Adult"))
#change data-frame from wide to long format
pd_long_t2 <- melt(plot_t2, id.vars = "Var")</pre>
# plot data
ggplot(pd_long_t2, aes(as.integer(Var), value, shape = variable,
                        colour = variable, lty = variable)) +
  geom_point(size = 4) + geom_line() +
  scale_x_continuous("", breaks = 1:5, labels = plot_t2$Var) +
  scale_y_continuous("Probability") +
  # labs(title = "LCA Probability Plot") +
  scale_colour_grey() +
  theme_cowplot() +
  theme(legend.title = element_blank(),
        legend.position = "top")
```



## Step 2: Create model fit summary table

Extract model fit data

Calculate indices derived from the Log Likelihood (LL)

```
allFit1 <- enum_extract1 %>%
  mutate(aBIC = -2*LL+Parameters*log((Observations+2)/24)) %>%
  mutate(CIAC = -2*LL+Parameters*(log(Observations)+1)) %>%
  mutate(AWE = -2*LL+2*Parameters*(log(Observations)+1.5)) %>%
  mutate(SIC = -.5*BIC) %>%
  mutate(expSIC = exp(SIC - max(SIC))) %>%
  mutate(BF = exp(SIC-lead(SIC))) %>%
  mutate(cmPk = expSIC/sum(expSIC)) %>%
  select(1:5,9:10,6:7,13,14) %>%
  arrange(Parameters)
allFit2 <- enum_extract2 %>%
  mutate(aBIC = -2*LL+Parameters*log((Observations+2)/24)) %>%
  mutate(CIAC = -2*LL+Parameters*(log(Observations)+1)) %>%
  mutate(AWE = -2*LL+2*Parameters*(log(Observations)+1.5)) %>%
  mutate(SIC = -.5*BIC) %>%
  mutate(expSIC = exp(SIC - max(SIC))) %>%
  mutate(BF = exp(SIC-lead(SIC))) %>%
  mutate(cmPk = expSIC/sum(expSIC)) %>%
  select(1:5,9:10,6:7,13,14) %>%
  arrange(Parameters)
allFit <- full_join(allFit1,allFit2)</pre>
```

Format table

```
allFit %>%
  mutate(Title = str_remove(Title, "_Time*")) %>%
  gt() %>%
  tab header(
   title = md("**Model Fit Summary Table**"), subtitle = md(" ")) %%
   tab source note(
   source_note = md("Data Source: **Longitudinal Study of American Youth.**")) %>%
  cols label(
   Title = "Classes",
   Parameters = md("Par"),
   LL = md("*LL*"),
   T11_VLMR_PValue = "VLMR",
   BLRT_PValue = "BLRT",
   BF = md("BF"),
    cmPk = md("*cmP_k*")) %>%
  tab_footnote(
    footnote = md(
    "*Note.* Par = Parameters; *LL* = model log likelihood; BIC = Bayesian information criterion;
     aBIC = sample size adjusted BIC; CAIC = consistent Akaike information criterion;
     AWE = approximate weight of evidence criterion; BLRT = bootstrapped likelihood ratio test p-value
     VLMR = Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin adjusted likelihood ratio test p-value;
      cmPk = approximate correct model probability."),
   locations = cells_title()) %>%
  tab_options(column_labels.font.weight = "bold") %>%
  fmt number(10,decimals = 2,
             drop_trailing_zeros=TRUE,
             suffixing = TRUE) %>%
  fmt_number(c(3:9,11), decimals = 2) \%
  fmt_missing(1:11, missing_text = "--") %>%
  fmt(c(8:9,11),
   fns = function(x)
    ifelse(x<0.001, "<.001", scales::number(x, accuracy = 0.01))) %>%
  fmt(10, fns = function(x))
    ifelse(x>100, ">100", scales::number(x, accuracy = .1))) %>%
  tab_row_group(
    group = "Time-1",
   rows = 1:6) %>%
  tab_row_group(
   group = "Time-2",
   rows = 7:12) %>%
  row_group_order(
     groups = c("Time-1", "Time-2"))
```

Model Fit Summary Table<sup>1</sup>

Classes	Par	LL	BIC	aBIC	CIAC	AWE	BLRT	VLMR	BF	$cmP\_k$
Time-1										
C1_LCA1	5	-10,250.60	20, 541.34	20,525.45	20, 546.34	20,596.47	_	_	_	<.001
$C2\_LCA1$	11	-8,785.32	17,658.92	17,623.97	17,669.93	17,780.22	<.001	<.001	> 100	<.001
$C3\_LCA1$	17	-8,693.57	17,523.59	17,469.57	17,540.59	17,711.04	<.001	<.001	> 100	0.00
$C4\_LCA1$	23	-8,664.09	17,512.79	17,439.71	17,535.79	17,766.40	<.001	<.001	> 100	1.00
$C5\_LCA1$	29	-8,662.39	17,557.54	17,465.39	17,586.54	17,877.31	1.00	0.66	>100	<.001

C6_LCA1	35	-8,661.54	17,604.01	17,492.80	17,639.01	17,989.94	1.00	0.75	>100	<.001
Time-2										
C1_LCA2	5	-7,658.79	15,356.19	15,340.30	15,361.19	15,409.80	_	_	_	<.001
$C2\_LCA2$	11	-6,073.81	12,232.56	12,197.61	12,243.56	12,350.50	<.001	<.001	> 100	<.001
$C3\_LCA2$	17	-5,988.36	12,107.99	12,053.98	12, 124.99	12,290.27	<.001	<.001	> 100	0.32
$C4\_LCA2$	23	-5,964.45	12,106.50	12,033.43	12,129.51	12,353.12	<.001	0.00	2.1	0.68
$C5\_LCA2$	29	-5,961.68	12,147.30	12,055.16	12,176.30	12,458.25	0.31	0.36	> 100	<.001
$C6\_LCA2$	35	-5,961.26	12,192.79	12,081.59	12,227.79	12,568.07	1.00	0.50	>100	<.001

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Note. Par = Parameters; LL = model log likelihood; BIC = Bayesian information criterion; aBIC = sample size adjusted BIC; CAIC = consistent Akaike information criterion; AWE = approximate weight of evidence criterion; BLRT = bootstrapped likelihood ratio test p-value; VLMR = Vuong-Lo-Mendell-Rubin adjusted likelihood ratio test p-value; cmPk = approximate correct model probability.

Data Source: Longitudinal Study of American Youth.

## Step 3: Estimate Latent Transition Analysis

### Estimate non-invariant estimated LTA model

```
lta_non_inv <- mplusObject(</pre>
  TITLE =
    "4-Class-Non-Invariant",
  VARIABLE =
     "usev = ab39m ab39t ab39u ab39w ab39x ! 7th grade indicators
             ga33a ga33h ga33i ga33k ga33l; ! 10th grade indicators
      categorical = ab39m-ab39x ga33a-ga331;
      classes = c1(4) c2(4);",
  ANALYSIS =
     "estimator = mlr;
      type = mixture;
      starts = 500 100;
      processors=10;",
  MODEL =
     "%overall%
      c2 on c1; !!! estimate all multinomial logistic regressions !!!
      !!! The above syntax can also be written as: !!!
               ! c2#1 on c1#1 c1#2 c1#3; !
```

```
! c2#2 on c1#1 c1#2 c1#3; !
               ! c2#3 on c1#1 c1#2 c1#3; !
      MODEL c1:
      %c1#1%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1];
      %c1#2%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1];
      %c1#3%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1];
      %c1#4%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1];
      MODEL c2:
      %c2#1%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1];
      %c2#2%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1];
      %c2#3%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1];
      %c2#4%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1];",
 OUTPUT = "tech1 tech15 svalues;",
 usevariables = colnames(lsay_data),
 rdata = lsay_data)
lta_non_inv_fit <- mplusModeler(lta_non_inv,</pre>
                     dataout=here("enum_LCA_time2", "lta.dat"),
                     modelout=here("LTA_models", "4-class-non-invariant.inp"),
                     check=TRUE, run = TRUE, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

### Estimate invariant LTA model

```
ANALYSIS =
     "estimator = mlr;
     type = mixture;
      starts = 500 100;
     processors=10;",
 MODEL =
     "%overall%
     c2 on c1;
     MODEL c1:
      %c1#1%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1] (1-5);
      %c1#2%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1] (6-10);
      %c1#3%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1] (11-15);
      %c1#4%
      [AB39M$1-AB39X$1] (16-20);
      MODEL c2:
      %c2#1%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1] (1-5);
      %c2#2%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1] (6-10);
      %c2#3%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1] (11-15);
      %c2#4%
      [GA33A$1-GA33L$1] (16-20);",
  SAVEDATA =
   "file = LTA_Inv_CPROBS.dat;
    save = cprob;
    missflag = 9999;",
 OUTPUT = "tech1 tech15 svalues;",
 usevariables = colnames(lsay_data),
 rdata = lsay_data)
lta_inv_fit <- mplusModeler(lta_inv,</pre>
                 dataout=here("enum_LCA_time2", "lta.dat"),
                 modelout=here("LTA_models", "4-class-invariant.inp"),
                 check=TRUE, run = TRUE, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

Conduct Satorra-Bentler  $\chi^2$  difference testing

```
# one with more parameters is parent (non-invariant), one with fewer parameters is the nested model (in # *0 (null or nested model) & *1 (comparison model)

lta_models <- readModels(here("LTA_models"), quiet = TRUE)
```

```
T1 <- lta_models[["X4.class.non.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["ChiSqCategoricalLRT_Value"]]
T0 <- lta_models[["X4.class.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["ChiSqCategoricalLRT_Value"]]
c1 <- lta_models[["X4.class.non.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["LLCorrectionFactor"]]
c0 <- lta_models[["X4.class.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["LLCorrectionFactor"]]
d1 <- lta_models[["X4.class.non.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["ChiSqCategoricalLRT_DF"]]
d0 <- lta_models[["X4.class.invariant.out"]][["summaries"]][["ChiSqCategoricalLRT_DF"]]
df <- abs(d0-d1)

# Satora-Bentler scaled Difference test equations
cd <- (((d0*c0)-(d1*c1))/(d0-d1))
t <- (((T0*c0)-(T1*c1))/(cd))

# Chi-square and degrees of freedom
t
df

# Significance test
p_diff <- pchisq(t, df, lower.tail=FALSE)
```

**RESULT**: The Satorra-Bentler scaled  $\chi^2$  difference test comparing the invariant and non-invariant LTA models was, T(19) = 20.05, p = .39.

Alternate, less verbose way to run LTA with the createMixtures function.

```
data <- lsay_data %>% select(5:14) # select only the indicator variables

createMixtures(
classes = 4,
filename_stem = "sci_attitude",
model_overall = "c2 ON c1;",
model_class_specific = c(
   "[ab39m$1] (a{C}); [ab39t$1] (b{C}); [ab39u$1] (c{C}); [ab39w$1] (d{C}); [ab39x$1] (e{C});",
   "[ga33a$1] (a{C}); [ga33h$1] (b{C}); [ga33i$1] (c{C}); [ga33k$1] (d{C}); [ga33l$1] (e{C});"),
   rdata = data,
ANALYSIS = "PROCESSORS IS 10; STARTS = 500 100; PARAMETERIZATION = PROBABILITY;",
   VARIABLE = "CATEGORICAL = ab39m-ab39x ga33a-ga331;")

runModels(filefilter = "sci_attitude")

results <- readModels(filefilter = "sci_attitude")</pre>
```

Read invariance model and extract parameters (intercepts and multinomial regression coefficients)

```
lta_inv1 <- readModels(here("LTA_models","4-Class-Invariant.out" ), quiet = TRUE)

par <- as_tibble(lta_inv1[["parameters"]][["unstandardized"]]) %>%
    select(1:3) %>%
    filter(grepl('ON|Means', paramHeader)) %>%
    mutate(est = as.numeric(est))
```

Manual method to calculate transition probabilities. Although possible to extract transition probabilities directly from the output this exercise shows how the parameters are used to calculate each transition. This is useful for conducting advanced LTA model specifications such as making specific constraints to the transitions.

```
# Name each parameter individually to make the subsequent calculations more readable
a1 <- unlist(par[13,3]); a2 <- unlist(par[14,3]); a3 <- unlist(par[15,3]); b11 <- unlist(par[1,3]);
b21 <- unlist(par[4,3]); b31 <- unlist(par[7,3]); b12 <- unlist(par[2,3]); b22 <- unlist(par[5,3]);
b32 <- unlist(par[8,3]); b13 <- unlist(par[3,3]); b23 <- unlist(par[6,3]); b33 <- unlist(par[9,3])
# Calculate transition probabilities from the logit parameters
t11 \leftarrow \exp(a1+b11)/(\exp(a1+b11)+\exp(a2+b21)+\exp(a3+b31)+\exp(0))
t12 \leftarrow \exp(a2+b21)/(\exp(a1+b11)+\exp(a2+b21)+\exp(a3+b31)+\exp(0))
t13 \leftarrow \exp(a3+b31)/(\exp(a1+b11)+\exp(a2+b21)+\exp(a3+b31)+\exp(0))
t14 \leftarrow 1 - (t11 + t12 + t13)
t21 \leftarrow \exp(a1+b12)/(\exp(a1+b12)+\exp(a2+b22)+\exp(a3+b32)+\exp(0))
t22 \leftarrow \exp(a2+b22)/(\exp(a1+b12)+\exp(a2+b22)+\exp(a3+b32)+\exp(0))
t23 \leftarrow \exp(a3+b32)/(\exp(a1+b12)+\exp(a2+b22)+\exp(a3+b32)+\exp(0))
t24 \leftarrow 1 - (t21 + t22 + t23)
t31 < exp(a1+b13)/(exp(a1+b13)+exp(a2+b23)+exp(a3+b33)+exp(0))
t32 \leftarrow \exp(a2+b23)/(\exp(a1+b13)+\exp(a2+b23)+\exp(a3+b33)+\exp(0))
t33 \leftarrow \exp(a3+b33)/(\exp(a1+b13)+\exp(a2+b23)+\exp(a3+b33)+\exp(0))
t34 \leftarrow 1 - (t31 + t32 + t33)
t41 \leftarrow \exp(a1)/(\exp(a1) + \exp(a2) + \exp(a3) + \exp(0))
t42 \leftarrow \exp(a2)/(\exp(a1) + \exp(a2) + \exp(a3) + \exp(0))
t43 \leftarrow \exp(a3)/(\exp(a1) + \exp(a2) + \exp(a3) + \exp(0))
t44 \leftarrow 1 - (t41 + t42 + t43)
```

Create transition table

```
t_matrix <- tibble(
    "Time1" = c("C1=1","C1=2","C1=3","C1=4"),
    "C2=1" = c(t11,t21,t31,t41),
    "C2=2" = c(t12,t22,t32,t42),
    "C2=3" = c(t13,t23,t33,t43),
    "C2=4" = c(t14,t24,t34,t44))

t_matrix %>%
    gt(rowname_col = "Time1") %>%
    tab_header(
        title = md("**Student transitions from 7th grade (rows) to 10th grade (columns)**"),
        subtitle = md("&nbsp;")) %>%
    fmt_number(2:5,decimals = 2) %>%
    tab_spanner(label = "10th grade",columns = 2:5)
```

#### Student transitions from 7th grade (rows) to 10th grade (columns)

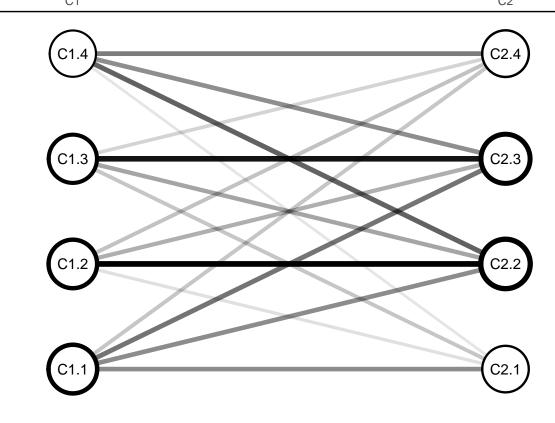
		10th grade						
	$\overline{\text{C}2=1}$	C2=2	C2=3	C2=4				
C1=1	0.27	0.27	0.32	0.15				

C1=2	0.09	0.56	0.19	0.16
C1=3	0.15	0.21	0.52	0.12
C1=4	0.08	0.35	0.27	0.30

## Plot LTA transitions

MplusAutomation::plotLTA(lta\_inv1)

C1 C2



# References: (INCOMPLETE)

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