Multi-level LCA Demo

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This example of Multi-level Latent Class Analysis (MLCA) replicates the models described in Henry & Muthén (2010)

Note: In order to reduce computational estimation time for this example 7 indicators were chosen and dichotomized. For the same reason the 4-class solution was used in all MLCA models.

References

Henry, K. L., & Muthén, B. (2010). Multilevel latent class analysis: An application of adolescent smoking typologies with individual and contextual predictors. Structural Equation Modeling, 17(2), 193-215.

Hallquist, M. N., & Wiley, J. F. (2018). MplusAutomation: An R Package for Facilitating Large-Scale Latent Variable Analyses in Mplus. Structural equation modeling: a multidisciplinary journal, 25(4), 621-638.

install packages

loading packages...

```
library(tidyverse)
library(haven)
library(MplusAutomation)
library(rhdf5)
```

```
library(here)
library(glue)
library(stargazer)
library(kableExtra)
library(janitor)
library(semPlot)
library(reshape2)
library(cowplot)
```

read spss >>> write csv >>> read csv

```
data_spss <- read_spss(here("data", "teacher_discip_strat_data.sav")) %>%
    clean_names()

# write a CSV datafile (to remove labels)
write_csv(data_spss, here("data", "teach_discip_data.csv"))

# read the unlabeled data back into R
mlca_data <- read_csv(here("data", "teach_discip_data.csv"), na = c("9999"))</pre>
```

```
# view data with labels and labeled-levels
sjPlot::view_df(data_spss)
```

prepare data for MplusAutomation

```
# remove columns with strings
mlca_mplus <- mlca_data %>%
   select(-id, -districtname, -schoolname)
```

shorten names to be < 8 characters

make summary descriptives table

```
lca_summary <- mlca_mplus %>%
   select(53:67)

stargazer(as.data.frame(lca_summary), type="latex", header = FALSE, digits=1)
```

look at some descriptives (grouped by school code)

Table 1:

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Pctl(25)	Pctl(75)	Max
pun_1	5,087	1.8	0.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
pos_1	5,087	3.2	0.6	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
sel_1	5,087	3.1	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
pun_2	5,087	2.2	0.7	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
pos_2	5,087	3.0	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
sel_2	5,087	3.0	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
pun_3	5,087	1.9	0.6	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
pos_3	5,087	3.2	0.5	1.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
sel_3	5,087	3.1	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
pun_4	5,087	2.0	0.7	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0
pos_4	5,087	3.0	0.7	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
sel_4	5,087	2.9	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
pun_5	5,087	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.0	2.0	4.0
pos_5	5,087	3.0	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
sel_5	5,087	3.1	0.6	1.0	3.0	3.0	4.0

7 indicators used in LCA demonstration

- 1. $pos_1 = Students$ are praised often.
- 2. pos_3 = Teachers often let students know when they are being good.
- 3. $pos_2 = Students$ are often given rewards for being good.
- 4. pos 4 =Classes get rewards for good 1 behavior.
- $5. \text{ sel}_{5} = \text{Students}$ are taught they should care about how others feel.
- 6. sel 2 =Students are taught to understand how others think and feel.
- 7. $sel_1 = Students$ are taught to feel responsible for how they act.

convert indicators to be dichotomous

```
mlca_mplus <- mlca_mplus %>%
 mutate(
   pos_1b = case_when(
                          # disagree, responses 1 & 2
   pos_1 < 3 \sim 0,
   pos_1 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>% # agree, responses 3 & 4
 mutate(
   pos_3b = case_when(
   pos_3 < 3 \sim 0,
   pos_3 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>%
 mutate(
   pos_2b = case_when(
   pos_2 < 3 \sim 0,
   pos_2 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>%
 mutate(
   pos_4b = case_when(
   pos_4 < 3 \sim 0,
   pos_4 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>%
 mutate(
   sel_5b = case_when(
   sel_5 < 3 ~ 0,
   sel_5 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>%
 mutate(
   sel_2b = case_when(
   sel_2 < 3 ~ 0,
   sel_2 >= 3 ~ 1)) %>%
 mutate(
   sel_1b = case_when(
   sel_1 < 3 ~ 0,
   sel_1 >= 3 ~ 1))
table(mlca_mplus$sel_1)
##
##
     1
        2 3
##
    81 659 3190 1157
table(mlca_mplus$sel_1b)
##
##
    0 1
## 740 4347
```

model 00: LCA enumeration (fixed effect model)

```
lca_k1_6 <- lapply(1:6, function(k) {</pre>
  lca_enum <- mplusObject(</pre>
    TITLE = glue("C{k}_mlca_enum_demo"),
    VARIABLE =
  glue(
    "categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
     usevar = pos 1b-sel 1b;
     classes = c({k});"),
  ANALYSIS =
   "estimator = mlr;
    type = mixture;
    starts = 500 100;",
  MODEL = "",
  OUTPUT = "",
  PLOT =
    "type = plot3;
    series = pos_1b-sel_1b(*);",
  usevariables = colnames(mlca_mplus),
  rdata = mlca mplus)
lca_enum_fit <- mplusModeler(lca_enum,</pre>
                              dataout=glue(here("enum_mplus", "c_{k}_mlca_enum.dat")),
                             modelout=glue(here("enum mplus", "c {k} mlca enum.inp")) ,
                              check=TRUE, run = TRUE, hashfilename = FALSE)
})
output_enum <- readModels(here("enum_mplus"))</pre>
```

Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_1_mlca_enum.out Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_2_mlca_enum.out Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_3_mlca_enum.out Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_4_mlca_enum. Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_5_mlca_enum.out Reading model: /Users/agarber/github/project-site/enum_mplus/c_6_mlca_enum.out

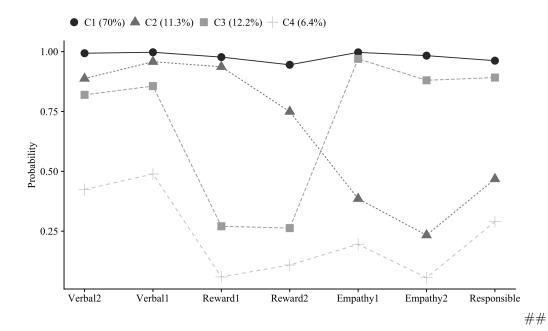
Title	LL	BIC	aBIC
C1_mlca_enum_demo	-13867.62	27794.98	27772.73
C2_mlca_enum_demo	-11348.33	22824.67	22777.01
$C3$ _mlca_enum_demo	-10971.08	22138.45	22065.36
$C4$ _mlca_enum_demo	-10671.22	21607.00	21508.50
$C5$ _mlca_enum_demo	-10628.89	21590.62	21466.69
C6_mlca_enum_demo	-10600.19	21601.50	21452.15

plot 4-class LCA probability plot

```
library(extrafont)
library(gridExtra)
library(scales)
library(relimp)
# extract posterior probabilities
pp1 <- as.data.frame(output_enum[["c_4_mlca_enum.out"]]</pre>
                                  [["gh5"]]
                                  [["means_and_variances_data"]]
                                  [["estimated_probs"]]
                                  [["values"]]
                                  [seq(2, 14, 2),]) #seq("from","to","by")
# extract model estimated class sizes
c_size <- as.data.frame(output_enum[["c_4_mlca_enum.out"]]</pre>
                                     [["class_counts"]]
                                     [["modelEstimated"]]
                                     [["proportion"]])
colnames(c_size) <- paste0("cs")</pre>
c_size <- c_size %>% mutate(cs = round(cs*100, 1))
colnames(pp1) <- paste0("C", 1:4, glue(" ({c_size[1:4,]}%)"))</pre>
pp1 <- cbind(Var = paste0("U", 1:7), pp1)</pre>
# choose the order of indicators & label
pp1$Var <- factor(pp1$Var,</pre>
                  levels = c("U1","U2","U3","U4","U5", "U6", "U7"),
                  labels = c("Verbal2", "Verbal1", "Reward1", "Reward2",
                              "Empathy1", "Empathy2", "Responsible"))
pd_long <- melt(pp1, id.vars = "Var")</pre>
# plot data
ggplot(pd_long, aes(as.integer(Var), value, shape = variable,
                    colour = variable, lty = variable)) +
  geom_point(size = 4) + geom_line() +
  scale_x_continuous("", breaks = 1:7, labels = pp1$Var) +
  scale_y_continuous("Probability") +
  scale_colour_grey() +
  theme_cowplot() +
  theme(text=element_text(family="Times New Roman", size=12),
```

```
legend.key.width = unit(.5, "line"),
legend.text = element_text(family="Times New Roman", size=12),
legend.title = element_blank(),
legend.position = "top")
```

```
ggsave(here("figures","C4_LCA_MLCA.png"), dpi=300, height=5, width=8, units="in")
```



model00: Compute intra-class correlations (type = basic; w/ analysis = TWOLEVEL;)

```
# ICC: in this example the ICC's are zero because items are dichotomous

mlca_00 <- mplusObject(

   TITLE = "model00_basic__ICC_mlca",

   VARIABLE =
    "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;

   cluster = schlcode;
   within = pos_1b-sel_1b;",

ANALYSIS =
   "estimator = mlr;
   type = basic twolevel; ! ask for ICC curves
   processors = 10;",

MODEL = "",

OUTPUT = "sampstat;",

PLOT = "",</pre>
```

Compare Multi-level parametric & non-parametric models described in Henry & Muthen (2010)

model01: parametric random effects model (4-class)

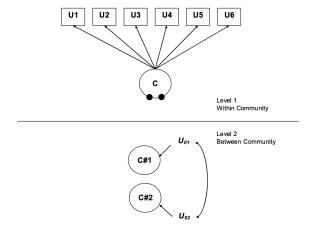


Figure 1. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
# warning, run-time is very slow

mlca_01 <- mplusObject(

    TITLE = "model01_parametric_mlca",

    VARIABLE =
        "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
        categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
        classes = c(4);

    cluster = schlcode;         ! level 2 units are schools
        within = pos_1b-sel_1b;",

ANALYSIS =
    "estimator = mlr;
        type = mixture twolevel;</pre>
```

```
integration=montecarlo(1000);
    starts = 100 50;
    processors = 10;",
  MODEL =
    "%WITHIN%
     %OVERALL%
     %BETWEEN%
     %OVERALL%
     C#1;
     C#2;
     C#3;
     C#1 WITH C#2;
     C#3 WITH C#1 C#2; ",
  OUTPUT = "TECH8;",
  PLOT =
    "type = plot3;
    series = pos_1b-sel_1b(*);",
  usevariables = colnames(mlca_mplus),
  rdata = mlca_mplus)
mlca_01_fit <- mplusModeler(mlca_01,</pre>
                             dataout=here("mlca_mplus", "model01_parametric.dat"),
                            modelout=here("mlca_mplus", "model01_parametric.inp"),
                             check=TRUE, run = FALSE, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

model02: parametric model with 2nd level factor

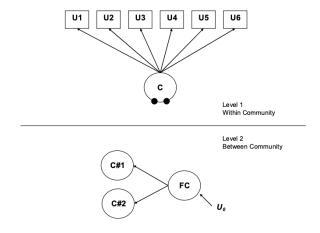


Figure 2. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
mlca_02 <- mplusObject(</pre>
   TITLE = "model02_parametric_mlca",
   VARIABLE =
   "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
    categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
    classes = c(4);
     cluster = schlcode;
                            ! level 2 units are schools
    within = pos_1b-sel_1b;",
  ANALYSIS =
   "estimator = mlr;
   type = mixture twolevel;
   starts = 20 10;
   processors = 10;",
 MODEL =
    "%WITHIN%
    %OVERALL%
    %BETWEEN%
    %OVERALL%
    FC by C#1 C#2 C#3;",
  OUTPUT = "TECH8;",
 PLOT =
   "type = plot3;
   series = pos_1b-sel_1b(*);",
 usevariables = colnames(mlca_mplus),
 rdata = mlca_mplus)
mlca_02_fit <- mplusModeler(mlca_02,</pre>
                            dataout=here("mlca_mplus", "model02_parametric.dat"),
                            modelout=here("mlca_mplus", "model02_parametric.inp"),
                            check=TRUE, run = FALSE, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

model03: non-parametric model

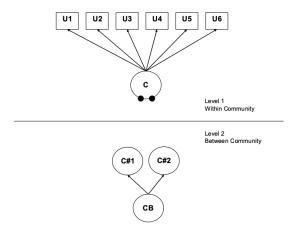


Figure 3. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
mlca_03 <- mplusObject(</pre>
  TITLE = "model03_non_parametric_mlca",
  VARIABLE =
  "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
  categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
   classes = CB(3) c(4);
   cluster = schlcode;
                            ! level 2 units are schools
   within = pos_1b-sel_1b;
  between = CB;",
ANALYSIS =
 "estimator = mlr;
 type = mixture twolevel;
  starts = 20 10;
  processors = 10;",
MODEL =
  "%WITHIN%
  %OVERALL%
  %BETWEEN%
   %OVERALL%
  C on CB;
  MODEL C:
   %WITHIN%
  %C#1%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#2%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#3%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#4%
```

model04: parametric model with 2nd level factor on random latent class indicators

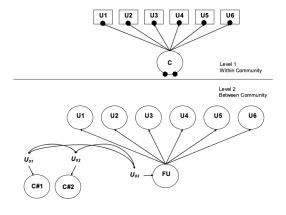


Figure 4. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
mlca_04 <- mplusObject(

TITLE = "model04_parametric_mlca",

VARIABLE =
    "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
    categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
    classes = c(4);

cluster = schlcode; ",

ANALYSIS =
    "estimator = mlr;
    type = mixture twolevel;
    starts = 20 10;
    processors = 10;",</pre>
```

```
MODEL =
    "%WITHIN%
     %OVERALL%
     %BETWEEN%
     %OVERALL%
     FU by pos_1b-sel_1b;
     [FU@0];
     FU WITH C#1 C#2 C#3;
     C#1;
     C#2;
     C#3;
     C#1 WITH C#2;
     C#3 WITH C#1 C#2;
     %C#1%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#2%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#3%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#4%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1]; ",
  OUTPUT = "TECH8;",
  PLOT =
    "type = plot3;
    series = pos_1b-sel_1b(*);",
  usevariables = colnames(mlca_mplus),
  rdata = mlca_mplus)
mlca_04_fit <- mplusModeler(mlca_04,</pre>
                             dataout=here("mlca_mplus", "model04_parametric.dat"),
                            modelout=here("mlca_mplus", "model04_parametric.inp"),
                             check=TRUE, run = F, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

model05: parametric model with 2nd level factor on random latent class intercepts &

2nd level factor on random latent class indicators

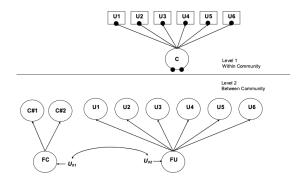


Figure 5. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
mlca_05 <- mplusObject(</pre>
  TITLE = "model05_parametric_mlca",
  VARIABLE =
  "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
  categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
   classes = c(4);
   cluster = schlcode; ",
ANALYSIS =
 "estimator = mlr;
 type = mixture twolevel;
  starts = 20 10;
  processors = 10;",
MODEL =
  "%WITHIN%
  %OVERALL%
  %BETWEEN%
   %OVERALL%
   FU by pos_1b-sel_1b;
   [FU@0];
  FC BY C#1 C#2 C#3;
  FC WITH FU;
  %C#1%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#2%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
  %C#3%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#4%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1]; ",
OUTPUT = "TECH8;",
```

model06: non-parametric model with level-2 factor on latent class indicators

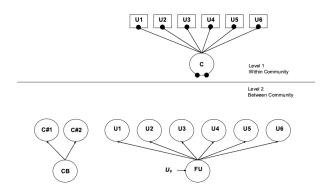


Figure 3. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

```
mlca_06 <- mplusObject(</pre>
  TITLE = "model06_non_parametric_mlca",
  VARIABLE =
  "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b;
   categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
   classes = CB(2) c(4);
                            ! level 2 units are schools
   cluster = schlcode;
   between = CB;",
ANALYSIS =
 "estimator = mlr;
  type = mixture twolevel;
  starts = 20 10;
  processors = 10;",
MODEL =
  "%WITHIN%
  %OVERALL%
```

```
%BETWEEN%
     %OVERALL%
     FU BY pos_1b-sel_1b;
     [FU@0];
     C on CB;
     MODEL CB:
     %BETWEEN%
     %CB#1%
     [FU@0];
     %CB#2%
     [FU];
     MODEL C:
     %BETWEEN%
     %C#1%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#2%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#3%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
     %C#4%
     [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1]; ",
  OUTPUT = "TECH8;",
  PLOT =
    "type = plot3;
    series = pos_1b-sel_1b(*);",
  usevariables = colnames(mlca_mplus),
  rdata = mlca_mplus)
mlca_06_fit <- mplusModeler(mlca_06,</pre>
                             dataout=here("mlca_mplus", "model06_non_parametric.dat"),
                            modelout=here("mlca_mplus", "model06_non_parametric.inp"),
                             check=TRUE, run = FALSE, hashfilename = FALSE)
```

model07: parametric model with 2nd level factor on random latent class intercepts &

2nd level factor on random latent class indicators

with one individual-level covariate & two school-level covariates

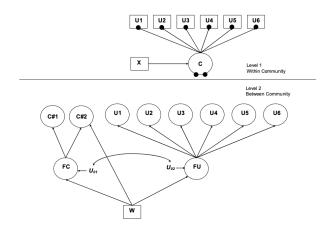


Figure 7. Picture adapted from, Henry & Muthen 2010

school-level covariates

```
# table(mlca_mplus$level) # 2836 elementary school students
# table(mlca_mplus$d_middle) # 1174 middle school students
# table(mlca_mplus$d_high) # 1084 high-school students
```

```
mlca_07 <- mplusObject(</pre>
  TITLE = "model07_parametric_mlca",
  VARIABLE =
  "usevar = pos_1b-sel_1b d_middle d_high d_female;
  categorical = pos_1b-sel_1b;
   classes = c(4);
   cluster = schlcode;
   between = d_middle d_high;
   within = d_female;
ANALYSIS =
 "estimator = mlr;
  algorithm = integration;
  type = mixture twolevel;
  starts = 20 10;
  processors = 10;",
MODEL =
  "%WITHIN%
  %OVERALL%
   C#1-C#3 on d_female;
  %BETWEEN%
```

```
%OVERALL%
   FU BY pos_1b@1;
  FU BY pos_3b (F_pos_3b);
  FU BY pos_2b (F_pos_2b);
  FU BY pos_4b (F_pos_4b);
  FU BY sel_5b (F_sel_5b);
  FU BY sel_2b (F_sel_2b);
  FU BY sel_1b (F_sel_1b);
   [FU@0];
  FC BY C#1 (FC_C1);
  FC BY C#2 (FC_C2);
  FC BY C#3 (FC_C3);
  FU WITH FC;
  C#2 ON d_middle (C2_mid);
  C#2 ON d_high (C2_hs);
  FC ON d_middle (FC_mid);
  FC ON d_high (FC_hs);
  FU ON d_middle (FU_mid);
  FU ON d_high (FU_hs);
  %C#1%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
  %C#2%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
   %C#3%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1];
  %C#4%
   [pos_1b$1-sel_1b$1]; ",
MODELCONSTRAINT =
  "NEW(MID_EV MID_pos3 MID_pos2 MID_pos4 MID_sel5 MID_sel2 MID_sel1
  HS_EV HS_pos3 HS_pos2 HS_pos4 HS_sel5 HS_sel2 HS_sel1
  C2_MIDSC C2_HIGHS);
    MID_EV = FU_mid;
  MID_pos3 = FU_mid*F_pos_3b;
  MID_pos2 = FU_mid*F_pos_2b;
  MID_pos4 = FU_mid*F_pos_4b;
  MID_sel5 = FU_mid*F_sel_5b;
  MID_sel2 = FU_mid*F_sel_2b;
  MID_sel1 = FU_mid*F_sel_1b;
    HS_EV = FU_hs;
  HS_{pos3} = FU_{hs*F_{pos_3b}};
  HS_pos2 = FU_hs*F_pos_2b;
  HS_pos4 = FU_hs*F_pos_4b;
  HS_sel5 = FU_hs*F_sel_5b;
  HS_sel2 = FU_hs*F_sel_2b;
  HS_sel1 = FU_hs*F_sel_1b;
```

Table of model fit

```
output_mlca <- readModels(here("mlca_out"))</pre>
```

 $\label{localized Reading Model: $$ /Users/agarber/github/project-site/mlca_out/model02_par_L2_3D.out Reading model: $$ /Users/agarber/github/project-site/mlca_out/model03_non_par.out Reading model: $$ /Users/agarber/github/project-site/mlca_out/model06_non_par.out Reading model: $$ /Users/agarber/github/project-site/mlca_out/model06_non_par.out Reading model: $$ /Users/agarber/github/project-site/mlca_out/model07_par_final.out $$$

Title	Parameters	LL	BIC	aBIC
model01_parametric_mlca	37	-9928.028	20171.83	20054.26
$model02_parametric_mlca$	34	-10025.484	20341.14	20233.10
model03_non_parametric_mlca	39	-10018.788	20370.42	20246.49
$model05_parametric_mlca$	42	-9832.084	20022.62	19889.15
model06_non_parametric_mlca	43	-9847.624	20062.23	19925.59
$model 07_parametric_mlca$	51	-9768.308	19971.87	19809.81

create a path diagram of the final model

Between

