

Consequences of measurement error and how to deal with it

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- 1 Basics of measurement error
- 2 Measurement-error in regression when reliabilities are known
- 3 Multiple Indicator Multiple Cause Model, MIMIC
- 4 Measurement error + method effect: MTMM
- 5 Early work on shock-error models and Frisch's (1934) idea of IVs
- 6 The Jöreskog's SEM approach to measurement error and unobservables
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- 9 IV-SEM
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Basics of theory and practice of measurement error

The simple measurement error model

A universe of units $u_i \in \mathcal{U}$ and a continuous variable X measured with error

$$X(u_i) = x(u_i) + \epsilon(u_i)$$

$$X_i \equiv X(u_i); x_i \equiv x(u_i); \epsilon_i \equiv \epsilon(u_i)$$

From one observed variable X , we get three vars. connected by equality:

$$\text{Observed} = \text{True} + \text{Error}$$

Not yet a model; just a tautology, since

$$\epsilon_i = X_i - x_i \tag{1}$$

In population notation, we assume

$$X = x + \epsilon$$

ϵ is random (not determined, as in (1)), of zero mean and uncorrelated with the true value x ($E\epsilon | x = 0$); or, a more strong assumption, ϵ is independent of x . We could also assume ϵ is normally distributed.

Reliability and validity of a measure X

Assume ϵ is a centered random variable with variance σ_ϵ^2 and distribution free of x . In the population \mathcal{U} , variation of X is due: to xs and to ϵs .

$$\text{var}(X) = \text{var}(x) + \text{var}(\epsilon) = \sigma_x^2 + \sigma_\epsilon^2$$

The *Reliability* of X , is the ratio of two variances

$$k_X = \sigma_x^2 / \sigma_X^2$$

i.e., the ratio of variation of the true values xs (in the population) divided by the variation of the observed X . Note that $0 \leq k_X \leq 1$, $\sigma_X = \sqrt{k_X} \sigma_x$ and that k_X is a population (\mathcal{U}) dependent measure.

The *Validity* of X is the correlation between the observed X and the true x :

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cor}(X, x) &= \text{cov}(x + \epsilon, x) / (\sigma_X \sigma_x) \\ &= \text{var}(x) / (\sigma_X \sigma_x) = \sigma_x / \sigma_X = k_X^{1/2}\end{aligned}$$

1

¹In psychometrics, validity and reliability are close-related concepts. In survey statistics: validity is associated with ϵ centered (free of *bias*, equality of expected values of X and x); reliability is associated with the *variance* of ϵ .

$k \neq 1$ do not bias estimation of the mean

Population parameter of interest is

$$\mu \equiv \sum_i x_i / N$$

N is the size of the population. and a variables $X = x + \epsilon$ contaminated with error. Consider a *random sample of n units* from \mathcal{U} We want to assess the estimation of μ using

$$\bar{X} \equiv \sum_i X_i / n$$

Note

$$\bar{X} = \bar{x} + \bar{\epsilon}$$

Cero mean, finite variance and independence of the ϵ_i s, and the *Law of Large Numbers* ensures $\bar{\epsilon} \rightarrow 0$; thus, $\bar{x} \rightarrow \mu$ and \bar{X} is consistent for μ The normality assumption on ϵ_i s is not required, only independence across of the ϵ_i s.

Consistency of \bar{X} as estimator of μ holds even under measurement error.

$k \neq 1$ do not bias estimation of a covariance; it bias estimation of the variance

$$X = x + \epsilon_X$$

$$Y = y + \epsilon_Y$$

Reliability of X is $k_X \equiv \sigma_{xx}/\sigma_{XX}$. Clearly estimation of the variance of X (and of Y) is affected by measurement error :

$$\sigma_{XX} = \sigma_{xx} + \sigma_{\epsilon_X \epsilon_X} = \sigma_{xx} + (1 - k_X)\sigma_{xx} \neq \sigma_{xx}$$

Estimation of covariance is free of k when the covariance of the errors is zero:

$$\sigma_{XY} = \sigma_{xy} + \sigma_{\epsilon_X \epsilon_Y} = \sigma_{xy}$$

Measurement error does not affect the consistency of $s_{XY} = \sum_i (X_i - \bar{X})(Y_i - \bar{Y})/n$ as estimator of $\sigma_{x,y}$. This result is robust to non-normality.

$k \neq 1$ do bias estimation of the correlation

From the definition of a correlation

$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\sigma_{XY}}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

and the results $\sigma_X = \sigma_x / \sqrt{k_X}$, $\sigma_Y = \sigma_y / \sqrt{k_Y}$ We obtain

$$\rho_{XY} = \rho_{xy} \times \sqrt{k_X k_Y}$$

Attenuation effect on the correlation when either (or both) k_X and k_Y are strictly smaller than 1 (assuming errors ϵ_X and ϵ_Y are uncorrelated).

$k \neq 1$ do bias estimation of the regression coefficient

The regression coefficient

$$\beta_{X \rightarrow Y} \equiv \frac{\sigma_{XY}}{\sigma_X^2} = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_x^2/k_X} = k_X \times \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_x^2} = k_X \times \beta_{x \rightarrow y}$$

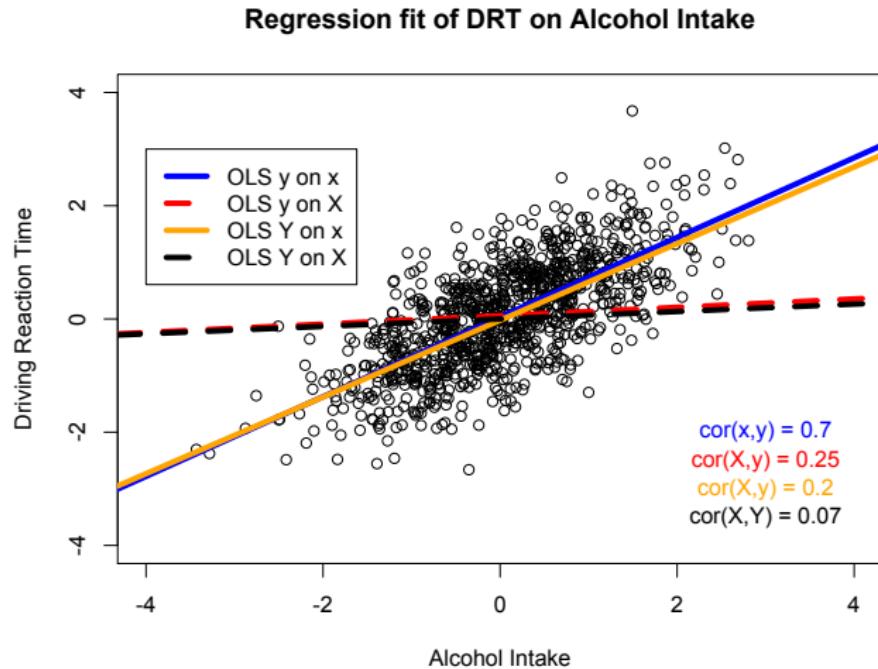
Thus, the (true) regression coefficient $\beta_{x \rightarrow y}$ is attenuated by the measurement error on X . It can be dis-attenuated by

$$\beta_{x \rightarrow y} = \beta_{X \rightarrow Y} / k_X$$

No attenuation effect when measurement error is on Y .

Illustration: regression of DRT on AI

Reliabilities: $k_Y = .1$; $k_X = .1$



Measurement-error in regression when reliabilities are known

An example: Fuller's (1987) Farms Operators

An example: Fuller's (1987) Farms Operators

Regression with error-in-variables

Ex. 3.1.2 of Fuller (1987)

Data from a sample of Iowa farm operators

$$Y = \ln(\text{farm size})$$

$$y = \alpha + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + u$$

$$X_1 = \ln(\# \text{ years experience})$$

$$Y = y + e_1$$

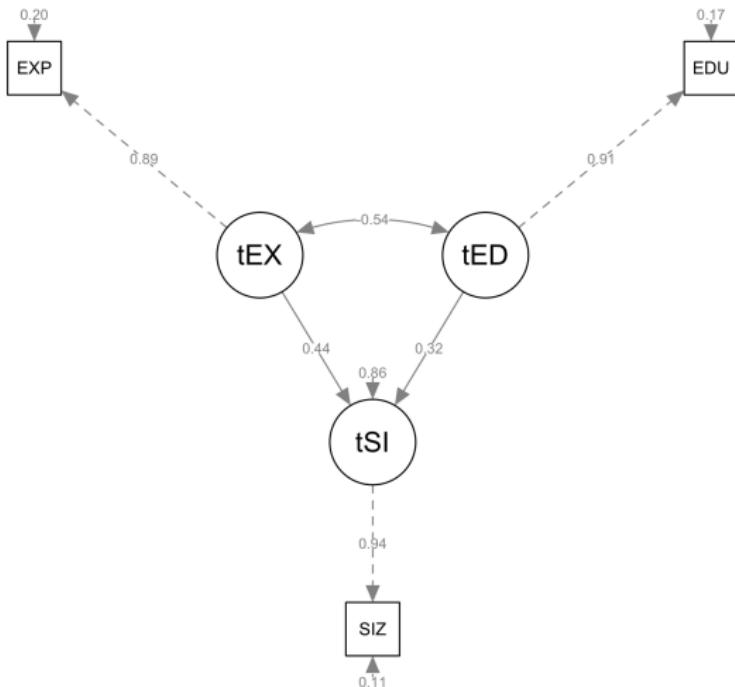
$$X_2 = \ln(\# \text{ years education})$$

$$X_1 = x_1 + e_2$$

$$X_2 = x_2 + e_3$$

(to protect confidentiality,
random error was added to each variable)

Farms Operators Example: Fitted model (standardized)



SEM sintaxis of Farm Operators Example

Covariances: "SIZE", "EXPERIENCE", "EDUCAT"

```
.9148  
.2129 1.006  
.0714 -.449 1.039
```

reliabilities: .891,.800,.826

variances of errors: 0.0997132, 0.2012000, 0.1807860

```
=c(.9148,1.006,1.039)*(1- c(.891,.800,.826))
```

model1:

latent: tSIZE=~SIZE;tEXPER=~EXPERIENCE;tEDUC=~EDUCAT

regress: tSIZE ~ tEXPER + tEDUC

variances of errors: SIZE ~~ 0.0997*SIZE

EXPERIENCE ~~ 0.2012*EXPERIENCE

EDUCAT ~~ 0.1807*EDUCAT

Parameter Estimates

	lhs	op	rhs	est	se	z	pvalue	std.all
4	tSIZE	~	tEXPER	0.440	0.112	3.923	0.000	0.437
5	tSIZE	~	tEDUC	0.314	0.107	2.936	0.003	0.322
6	tEXPER	~~	tEXPER	0.799	0.107	7.494	0.000	1.000
7	tEDUC	~~	tEDUC	0.852	0.110	7.740	0.000	1.000
8	tEXPER	~~	tEDUC	-0.446	0.084	-5.335	0.000	-0.541
9	SIZE	~~	SIZE	0.100	0.000	NA	NA	0.110
10	EXPERIENCE	~~	EXPERIENCE	0.201	0.000	NA	NA	0.201
11	EDUCAT	~~	EDUCAT	0.181	0.000	NA	NA	0.175

Accounting for uncertainty on the estimate of error variances

- Erik Meijer, Edward Oczkowski, Tom Wansbeek (2021) *How measurement error affects inference in linear regression*. **Empirical Economics**, **60**, pp. 131–155
- Daniel Oberski and Albert Satorra (2013) *Measurement Error Models With Uncertainty About the Error Variance*, **Structural Equation Modeling**, **20**, pp. 409–428

When reliability is not known: bring in multiequation models

MIMIC model

Mimic model

Joreskog & Goldberger, JASA (1979)

y = social participation

X1 = Income

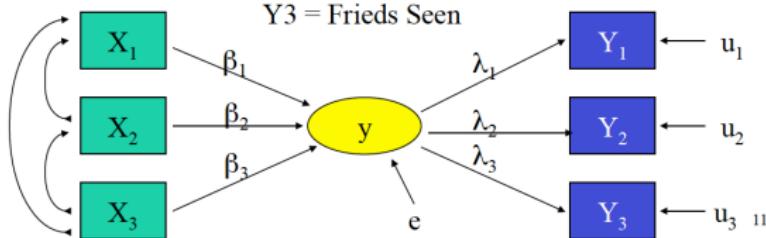
X2 = Occupation

X3 = Education

Y1 = Church attendance

Y2 = Membership

Y3 = Frieds Seen



MIMIC model: ML estimates

ML estimates:

$$y = .269 X_1 + .114 X_2 + .386 X_3 + u$$
$$(0.066) \quad (0.065) \quad (0.070)$$

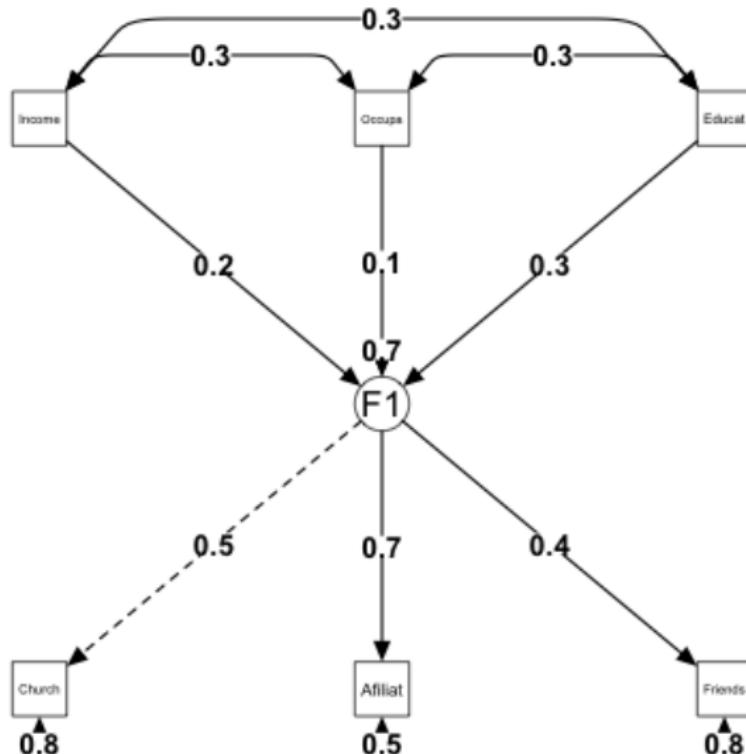
$$Y_1 = .402 y + e_1$$
$$(0.046)$$

$$Y_2 = .634 y + e_2$$
$$(0.060)$$

$$Y_3 = .346 y + e_3$$
$$(0.046)$$

6 overidentifying restrictions. The corresponding chi2 is 12.36 with “P-VALUE” 0.052.

Path diagram of fitted model

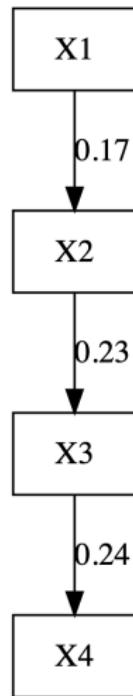


Longitudinal data: accounting for measurement error
multiple equations. No information on reliabilities.

Testing a Markovian assumption.

Measurement error in longitudinal research

Longitudinal data: no account of measurement error



Markovian assumption is rejected. Model fit is $\text{chisq} = 102.351$, $\text{df} = 3$,
 $p\text{-value} = 0.000$

Autorregressive parameter: pop. val is .4

We use a large sample size n to ensure the visibility of bias.

Regressions:

	Estimate	Std.Err	z-value	P(> z)
X2 ~ X1	0.174	0.005	34.306	0.000
X3 ~ X2	0.231	0.008	28.520	0.000
X4 ~ X3	0.243	0.013	18.835	0.000

Number of observations 200000

Model Test User Model:

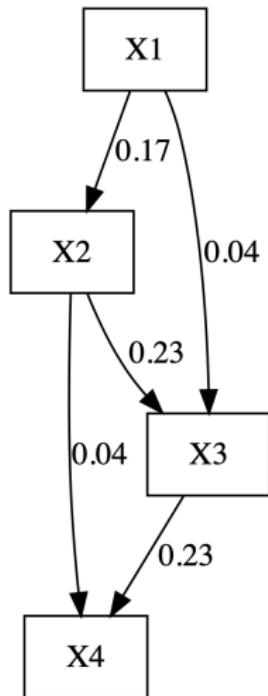
	Standard	Robust
Test Statistic	550.335	102.351
Degrees of freedom	3	3
P-value (Chi-square)	0.000	0.000
Scaling correction factor		5.377
Satorra-Bentler correction		

modindices (LM tests)

lhs	op	rhs	mi	epc
X4	~	X2	327.176	0.045
X2	~	X4	282.610	0.035
X2	~	X3	210.934	-0.203
X3	~	X1	210.934	0.039
X1	~	X3	210.934	0.028
X4	~	X1	35.655	0.016

...

Longitudinal data: no account of measurement error (model modified to fit)



All regression parameters are significant. Deviation from a Markovian



No account for measurement error, model modified to fit

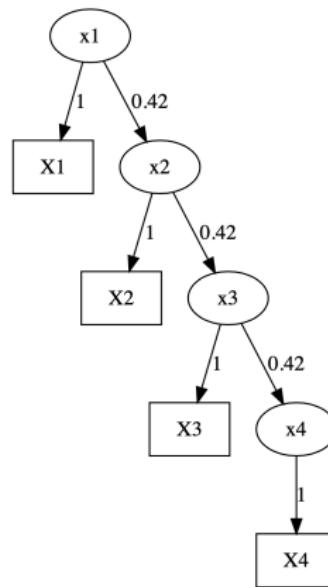
Regressions:

	Estimate	Std.Err	z-value	P(> z)
X2 ~ X1	0.174	0.005	34.306	0.000
X3 ~ X2	0.225	0.008	28.296	0.000
X4 ~ X3	0.234	0.012	18.717	0.000
X2	0.045	0.007	6.005	0.000
X3 ~ X1	0.039	0.005	7.857	0.000

Model Test User Model:

	Standard	Robust
Test Statistic	11.847	3.338
Degrees of freedom	1	1
P-value (Chi-square)	0.001	0.068
Scaling correction factor		3.549
Satorra-Bentler correction		

Longitudinal data with account for measurement error (using the simplex model)



Markovian model (Simplex) is accepted. (SB-scaled) Chi² = 1.749, df=4, p-value = 0.782.

Autorregressive parameter: pop. val is .4

Regressions:

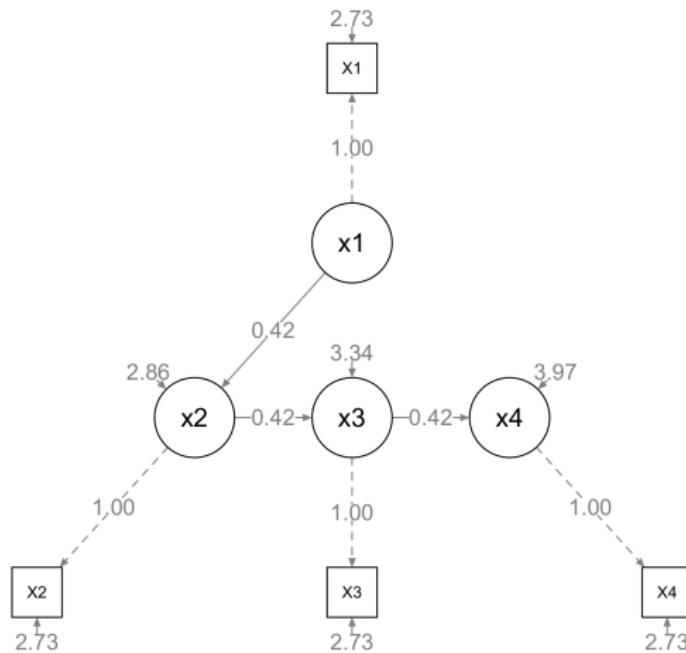
		Estimate	Std.Err	z-value	P(> z)
x2 ~					
x1	(a)	0.422	0.027	15.835	0.000
x3 ~					
x2	(a)	0.422	0.027	15.835	0.000
x4 ~					
x3	(a)	0.422	0.027	15.835	0.000

Number of observations 200000

Model Test User Model:

	Standard	Robust
Test Statistic	15.626	1.749
Degrees of freedom	4	4
P-value (Chi-square)	0.004	0.782
Scaling correction factor		8.932
Satorra-Bentler correction		

Longitudinal data: Simplex model (do account for measurement error)



See Section 6.2(Ability scores over time) of Dunn, Everitt and Pickles (1993)

Measurement error + method effect: MTMM

Multi-Trait and Multi-Method (MTMM)

- The multitrait-multimethod (MTMM) design (Campbell and Fiske 1959) is probably the best known social science procedure for uncovering systematic measurement error (Bollen and Paxton, 1998)
- Each test or task employed for measurement purposes is a trait method unit a **union of** a particular trait content with **measurement procedures no specific to that content** (Campbell and Fiske 1959)

MTMM: Reliability of Y_{ij}

Convergent and discriminant validity of different methods was first assessed in a systematic way by the MTMM design (Campbell and Fiske, 1959), a design where a response or measured variable Y_{ij} associated to trait i (T_i) and method j (M_j) decomposes as

$$Y_{ij} = t_{ij} T_i + m_{ij} M_j + u_{ij} \quad \text{trait } i, \text{ method } j$$

with u_{ij} being the random error associated to lack of reliability when measuring $S_{ij} = t_{ij} T_i + m_{ij} M_j$, the part of the response that would be stable across identical repetitions of the measurement process of trait i and method j (Saris and Andrews, 1991, call this the *true score*). In accordance to this,

$$k_{ij} \equiv \text{Reliability}(Y_{ij}) = \frac{\text{var}(S_{ij})}{\text{var}(Y_{ij})} = \frac{t_{ij}^2 \text{var}(T_i) + \text{var}(M_j)}{\text{var}(Y_{ij})}$$

We assumed $m_{ij} = 1$ across traits and methods. Its square root, $k_{ij}^{1/2}$, is called the *Validity coefficient*.

MTMM with empirical data

Here is the variables being used in the empirical example

trait factors are:

tas:The leader monitors whether progress at work is sufficient

dev:The leader is on the lookout for efforts that can be praised

rol:The leader shows respect for others

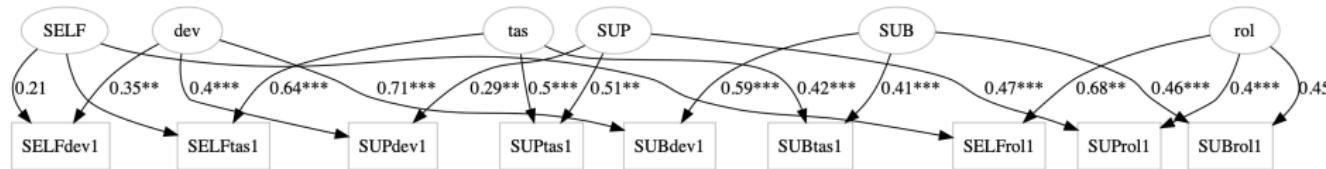
Assessed by SELF, SUP, SUB.

Number of observations 239

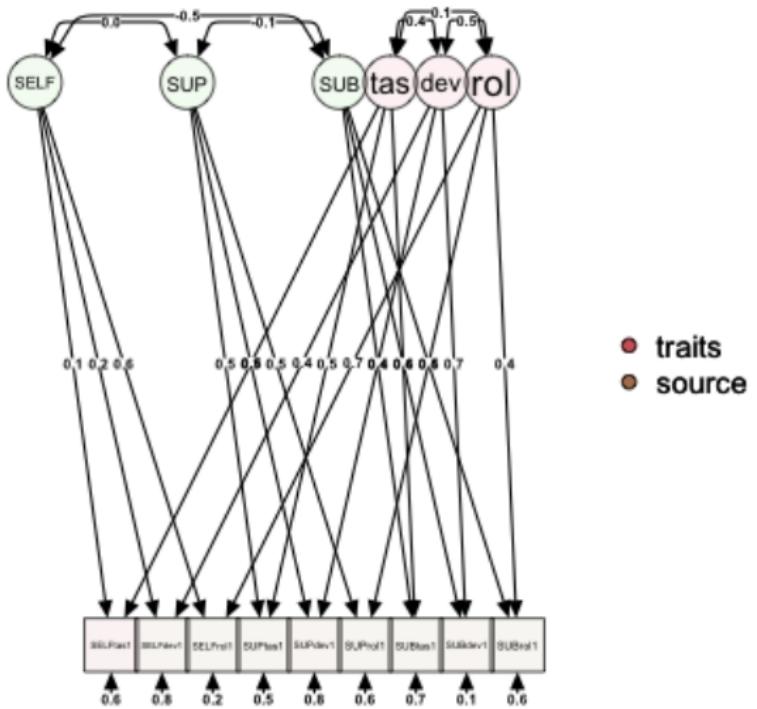
Model Test User Model:

	Standard
Test Statistic	8.161
Degrees of freedom	12
P-value (Chi-square)	0.772

Path diagram A: MTMM fit empirical data (std solution)

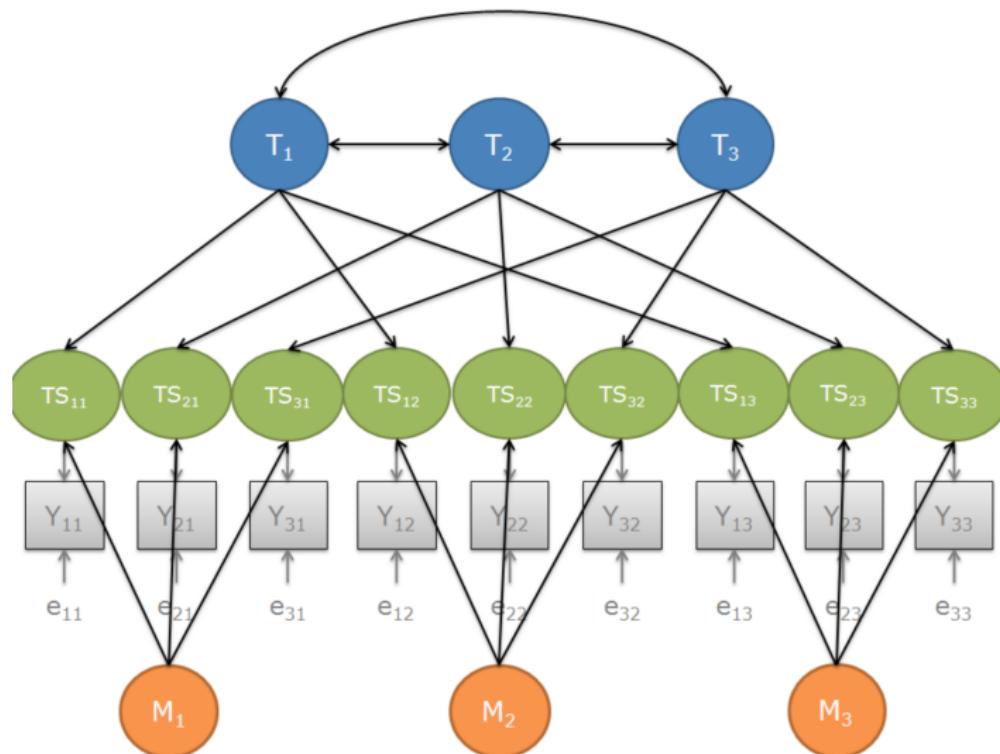


Path diagram B: MTMM fit empirical data (std solution)

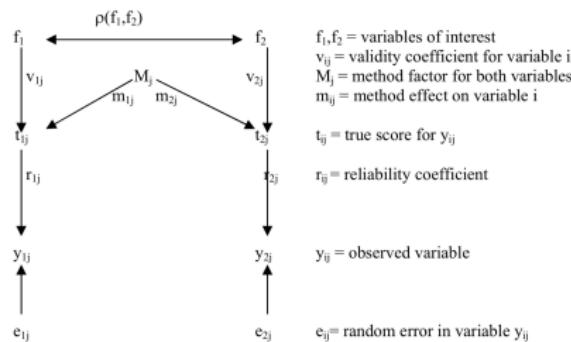


MTMM: True Score Model

Saris and Andrews (1991)



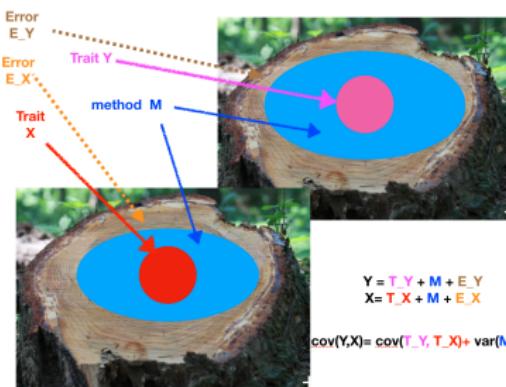
Common variation due to method: source of endogeneity (confounding) in the practice of $Y = \alpha + \beta X + \epsilon$



f_1, f_2 = variables of interest
 v_{ij} = validity coefficient for variable i
 M_j = method factor for both variables
 m_{ij} = method effect on variable i

t_{ij} = true score for y_{ij}
 r_{ij} = reliability coefficient

y_{ij} = observed variable
 e_{ij} = random error in variable y_{ij}



Besides measurement error there is the **method effects**: a common component of variation due to sharing the same method when measuring X and Y .

Early work on shock-error models and Frisch's (1934) idea
of IVs

Regression with measurement error

“System” of equations:

$$Y_t = y_t + \epsilon_{Yt}; \quad X_t = x_t + \epsilon_{Xt}; \quad y_t = \beta' x_t + d_t$$

In matrix form:

$$\eta_t = B\eta_t + \zeta_t$$

$$z_t = I_q \eta_t + \epsilon_t$$

where: $z_t \equiv (Y_t, X_t')'$ ($1 \times q$); $\eta_t \equiv \begin{pmatrix} y_t \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$; $B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \beta' \\ 0 & I_q \end{pmatrix}$; $\zeta_t \equiv \begin{pmatrix} d_t \\ x_t \end{pmatrix}$;
 $\epsilon_t \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{Yt} \\ \epsilon_{Xt} \end{pmatrix}$.

More compactly:

$$z = \xi_t + \epsilon_t; \quad \alpha' \xi_t = d_t$$

where

$$\alpha \equiv (1, -\beta')'; \quad \xi_t \equiv (I_{q+1} - B)^{-1} \zeta_t.$$

Frisch (1934), Reiersøl (1941), Haavelmo (1943)

Ragnar Frisch's (1934) set-up²

$$z = \xi_t + \epsilon_t$$

The ξ_t and ϵ_t are stationary of zero mean with $\mathcal{E} \xi_t \epsilon_{t'}' = 0$ for all t and t' . Frisch is concerned with the following linear relationships in the systematic part

$$\alpha' \xi_t = 0$$

In our case, $z \equiv (Y_t, X_t')'$, $\xi_t \equiv (y_t, x_t')'$, and $\epsilon_t \equiv (\epsilon_Y, \epsilon_X')$ are *serially independent measurement error*,

$$\alpha' \xi_t = d_t$$

where $\alpha \equiv (1, -\beta)'$. Let $M_{\xi\xi} \equiv \mathcal{E} \xi_t \xi_t'$, and $M_{zz} \equiv \mathcal{E} z_t z_t'$, then

$$M_{zz} = M_{\xi\xi} + \Omega$$

where $\Omega \equiv \mathcal{E} (\epsilon_t \epsilon_t')$. This is precisely the simpler set-up of the “Frisch model” (see Aldrich, 1993 for more details on the history of “Frisch model” and the birth of the IV approach).

²Original notation is slightly modified

Ragnar Frisch, 1934: β is not identified from second-order moments

Frisch (and Gini) noted that (see Aldrich, 1993) in the case of simple regression

$$b_{X \rightarrow Y} = \frac{m_{12}}{m_{22}} \leq \beta \leq \frac{m_{11}}{m_{12}} = 1/b_{Y \rightarrow X}$$

- Only bounds, not consistent estimator, of β . β is not identified from second moments of the observable variables.
- Jerzy Neyman (1937) conjectured that for a non-normal regressor consistent estimation in the classical errors-in-variables model could be achieved by using third-order moments.
- PAL, M. (1980) provides a consistent estimator of β based on third order moments. See below

Estimation of β using higher-order moments

Jennrich and Satorra (2015): Let X and Y be two unobserved random variables with

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X$$

Assume X and Y can only be observed with error as

$$x = X + d \quad \text{and} \quad y = Y + e$$

where d and e have mean zero, are independent among themselves and independent also of X and Y . Let $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$ be a sample from the joint distribution of (x, y) . It is shown by PAL (1980, p.352) that if the third central moment of X is nonzero, then

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2(y_i - \bar{y})}$$

is a consistent estimator of β . We will show how to use IJK methods to show not only this, but also to show that $\hat{\beta}$ is asymptotically normal and to provide a standard error for $\hat{\beta}$. For each data set, we computed $\hat{\beta}$ and the IJK estimate of the asymptotic variance of $\hat{\beta}$. Let $\text{avar}^{IJK}(\hat{\beta})$ be the IJK estimate of the $\text{avar}(\hat{\beta})$. Then

IV idea: Frisch (1934)

To estimate the β in the regression $\alpha' \xi_t = 0$, where: $\alpha \equiv (1, -\beta')'$, $\xi_t \equiv (y_t, x_t')'$, $z_t = \xi_t + \epsilon_t$, $\epsilon_t = (\epsilon_{Yt}, \epsilon'_{Xt})'$, and z_t is the only observable, Frisch assumes: (a) for any t, t' , $\mathcal{E} \xi_t' \epsilon_{t'} = 0$; and, (b) for $t \neq t'$, $\mathcal{E} \epsilon_t' \epsilon_{t'} = 0$, and uses z_{t-s} (the s -lagged variable z_t , s positive or negative) as *instrument* to identify β from the data. The reasoning is:

$$M_{z_t z_{t-s}} \equiv \mathcal{E}(z_t z_{t-s}') = \mathcal{E}(\xi_t \xi_{t-s}') + \mathcal{E}(\epsilon_t \epsilon_{t-s}') = \mathcal{E}(\xi_t \xi_{t-s}') \equiv M_{\xi_t \xi_{t-s}}$$

since $\mathcal{E} \xi_{t-s}' \epsilon_t = 0$. This implies

$$\alpha' \begin{pmatrix} m_{Y_t Y_{t-s}} & m_{Y_t X_{t-s}} \\ m_{X_t Y_{t-s}} & m_{X_t X_{t-s}} \end{pmatrix} = \alpha' \begin{pmatrix} m_{y_t y_{t-s}} & m_{y_t x_{t-s}} \\ m_{x_t y_{t-s}} & m_{x_t x_{t-s}} \end{pmatrix} = (0 \quad 0)$$

since $\alpha' M_{\xi_t \xi_{t-s}} = 0$, $\alpha' M_{z_t, X_{t-s}} = m_{Y_t X_{t-s}} - \beta' m_{X_t X_{t-s}} = 0$, Frisch then deriving the consistent estimator of β :

$$b_{IV} \equiv m_{Y_t X_{t-s}} m_{X_t X_{t-s}}^{-1}$$

Frisch uses as the IV of X_t the lagged X_{t-s} (s positive or negatives).

Trygve Haavelmo (1943): shocks in the equations

Equations for consumption u and investment v (or their sum r) [[thinking structural, causal modeling](#)]:

$$u_t = \alpha r_t + \beta + x_t$$

$$v_t = \kappa(u_t - u_{t-1}) + y_t$$

$$r_t = u_t + v_t$$

with observable variables (u_t, r_t) , $t = 1, 2, \dots, N$. Haavelmo refers to the joint probability law of exogenous random disturbance terms

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N)$$

that determine—up to certain number of unknown parameters (such as the κ , α , σ_x or σ_y above)—the distribution of the observable variables

$$(u_1, r_1, u_2, r_2, \dots, u_n, r_N)$$

[Disturbances \(shocks\) in equations vs. measurement errors.](#) The footnote in the paper of Koopmans and Hood (1953).

Errors of observations vs. disturbances, Koopmans and Hood (1953), p. 117:

That errors of observations are disregarded in this chapter does not imply an a priori judgment that such errors are less important, in their effects on the choice of estimates and on the quality of these estimates, than disturbances in economic behaviour.³ This must be regarded as an empirical question, to be settled by methods of inference based on models recognizing errors of observation as well as disturbances in behaviour. The emphasis on disturbances in this and other chapters of this volume must be regarded rather as matter of tactics. “Shock-error models” are complicated.

“Shock-error models” + latent variables cleared up by Karl G. Jöreskog’s LISREL approach.

³It might be thought that with gradual improvement in the methods of data collection, errors of observation would after a lapse of time be less important than the random elements intrinsic to economic behaviour. However, as Reiersøl as pointed out to one of the authors, as observation improve in accuracy and coverage, it will be possible to introduce more explanatory variables in each equation, thus reducing the variance of “unexplained” disturbances in behavior.

Sewall Wright's 1934, method of path coefficients

A paper not to miss on the history of the development of structural equation models in economics and social sciences is the *Econometrica* paper Goldberger (1972). It gives an account of the people who first mapped the territory of SEM. It points to the prominent role of Sewall Wright with his method of path analysis. It points also the relevance of the emerging work of Karl G. Jöreskog (in intensive progress at the time, 1971, of Goldberger's Schultz Lecture). Fifty years later, now, it is more than evident the breakthrough contribution of Jöreskog in brushing up the landscape of SEM with his creation, the tool kit LISREL.

The Jöreskog's SEM approach to measurement error and unobservables

SEM (LISREL)

Jöreskog, K. G. (1970, ...) develop ML estimation and testing for a general shock-error-latent variable model + producing (with Dag Sörbom) the software LISREL to serve practitioners.

An exact relation $\eta = B\eta$ is contaminated by shocks

$$z = \Lambda\eta + \epsilon$$

$$\eta = B\eta + \zeta$$

with $\Psi := E\epsilon\epsilon'$ and $\Phi := E\zeta\zeta'$. Denote $\xi \equiv \Lambda(I - B)^{-1}\zeta$; then, we can write:

$$z = \Lambda(I - B)^{-1}\zeta + \epsilon = \xi + \epsilon$$

The matrices B , Λ , Ψ and Φ are functions of θ , the fundamental parameters of the model. The moment structure for the observable vector z is

$$\Sigma_{zz} = \Lambda(I - B)^{-1}\Phi(\Lambda(I - B)^{-1})^T + \Psi = \Sigma_{zz}(\theta)$$

where θ is the vector of free parameters of the coefficient matrices.⁴

⁴Proprietary software: LISREL, EQS, Mplus, CALIS, sem of Stata, AMOS, Free software: sem, lavaan, OpenMx, all in R,

K. G. Jöreskog's LISREL: the SEM approach

LISREL (SEM):

- ① (a unifying) general “shocks-errors-latent variables” variable model. It encompasses regression, simultaneous equations, factor analysis, and combinations of the three.
- ② ML estimation and testing of the general model, multiple group, robust se and test statistics (applicable to any subfamily of models)
- ③ Software for routinary practitioners use (not necessarily statisticians/econometricians) Nowadays: LISREL, EQS, MPlus, sem of Stata, sem and lavaan of free software R, LISREL was pioneering in the 70s.

A **unifying** tool for comparative empirical research. As in classical OLS regression, a variety of SEM software producing identical numerical results on a variety of models.

Endogeneity in regression with errors in variables

Measurement error and endogeneity in regression

Consider the (SEM) system:

$$Y = \alpha + \beta x + \epsilon; \quad X = x + u \quad (2)$$

where ϵ and u are centered variables, and x , u and ϵ are mutually uncorrelated. System (2) do imply the regression equation

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X + \delta \quad (3)$$

where δ has mean zero, but is correlated with the regressor X .

Indeed: $Y = \alpha + \beta(X - u) + \epsilon = \alpha + \beta X + \delta$; $\delta = \epsilon - \beta u$. Thus $\text{cov}(\delta, X) = \text{cov}(\epsilon - \beta u, x + u) = \beta \text{var}(u) \neq 0$. The covariance is zero only when β or $\text{var}(u)$ (or both) are zero. It is easy to see that the asymptotic limit of the OLS regression coefficient $\sigma_{XY}/\sigma_X^2 = \beta k_X$; $k_X = \sigma_x^2/\sigma_X^2$. In (3), due to the nature of δ generally, $E(Y | X) \neq \alpha + \beta X$; or, equivalently, $E(\delta | X) \neq 0$.

Since $\text{cov}(\delta, X) \neq 0$ it is said the regression (3) **suffers of endogeneity** of X ; so OLS will usually be an asymptotically biased estimator of β . In fact, OLS will consistently estimate $\beta \times k$ where k is the reliability of X as a measure of the true x . So, **OLS regression attenuates** the true regression coefficient, β , when $k_X \leq 1$.

When $X = x + u$, X is endogenous in the regression

$$Y = \alpha + \beta X + \delta$$

Let Z correlate with x but is uncorrelated with u and the disturbance term ϵ of (2) (so, it is uncorrelated with the disturbance term δ of (3)). This implies that Z is – in the Frisch-Reiersøl-Haavelmo and Sargan (1958) sense – an instrumental variable (IV) for X in the regression (3). Note that Z could be simply a repeated measure of x .

Regression with multiple indicators of x

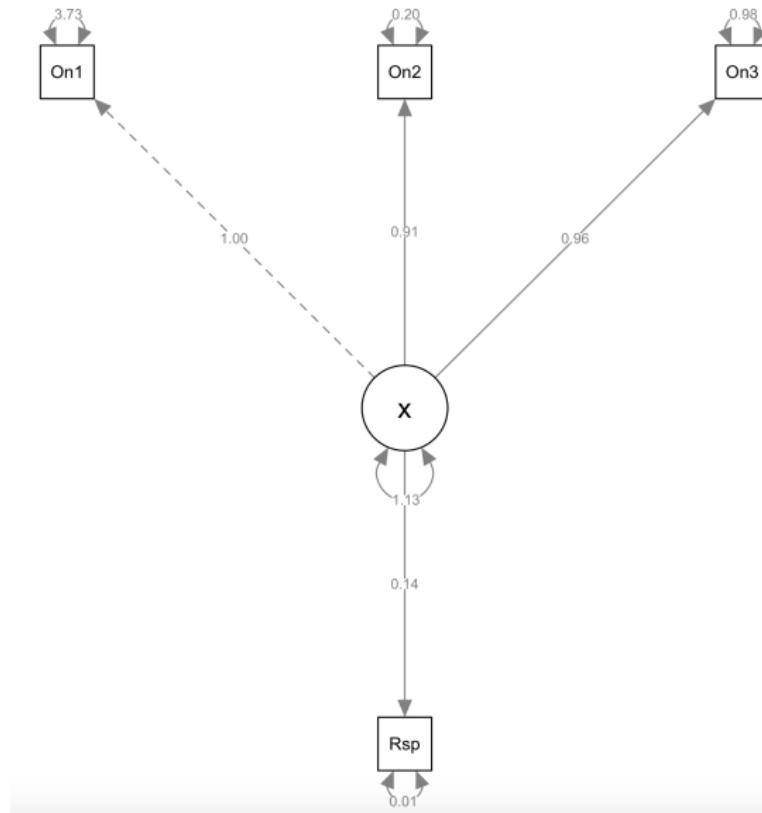
We consider data as

```
head(data)
  Resp Ointake1 Ointake2 Ointake3
1 9.90    11.25    10.12     9.21
2 9.99    10.07    10.64    12.48
3 9.96     5.53    11.08     9.72
4 9.93    12.49     9.34    10.45
5 9.80     8.23     9.12     8.20
6 9.75    11.77     9.10    10.58
....
```

```
## SEM
```

```
model <- "x =~ Ointake1+ Ointake2 + Ointake3; Resp ~ x; x"
fit <- sem(model, estimator="MLM", data = data, auto.var = TRUE)
semPaths(fit, "est", weighted = FALSE)
```

SEM fit of a regression with latent factor x



SEM fit of a regression with latent factor x

```
parameterestimates(fit, ci=FALSE, standardized=TRUE)[1:5,c(1:7,9)]
```

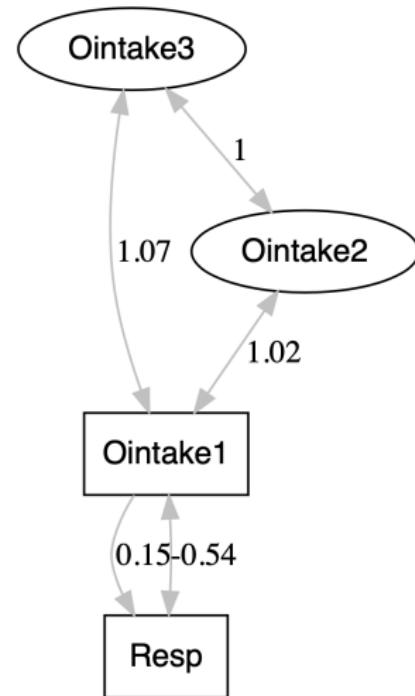
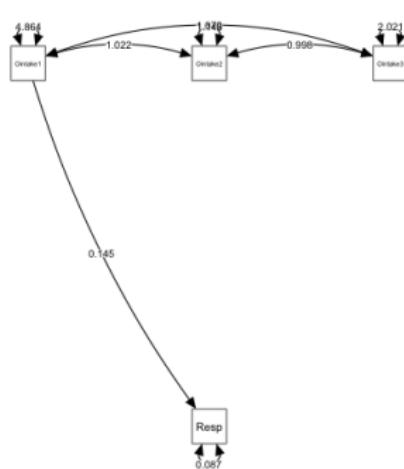
lhs	op	rhs	est	se	z	pvalue	std.all	
1	x	=~	Ointake1	1.000	0.000	NA	NA	0.482
2	x	=~	Ointake2	0.914	0.060	15.146	0	0.907
3	x	=~	Ointake3	0.962	0.069	13.912	0	0.719
4	Resp	~	x	0.144	0.010	15.000	0	0.842
5	x	~~	x	1.131	0.151	7.475	0	1.000

Model Test User Model:

	Standard	Robust
Test Statistic	3.284	3.179
Degrees of freedom	2	2
P-value (Chi-square)	0.194	0.204
Scaling correction factor		1.033
Satorra-Bentler correction		

IV -SEM

IV-SEM Fit of regression with two IVs



Sintaxis and fit of IV-SEM regression with two IVs

```
## IV_SEM

model <- "Resp ~ Ointake1;    Resp ~~ Ointake1;
Ointake1 ~~ Ointake2+Ointake3;
Ointake2 ~~ Ointake3"
fit <- sem(model, data = data, estimator="MLM", auto.var = TRUE)

lavaanPlot(name = "plot1", model = fit, coefs = TRUE, stand = FALSE, covs = TRUE,
           digits = 2, stars = FALSE, edge_options = list(color = "grey"), node_options = list(shape = "box",
           fontname = "Helvetica"))

parameterestimates(fit, ci=FALSE, standardized=TRUE)[1:5,c(1:7,9)]
   lhs op      rhs     est      se     z pvalue std.all
1   Resp ~ Ointake1  0.145  0.010  14.736     0  1.765
2   Resp ~~ Ointake1 -0.540  0.047 -11.390     0 -0.829
3 Ointake1 ~~ Ointake2  1.022  0.084  12.122     0  0.432
4 Ointake1 ~~ Ointake3  1.070  0.095  11.293     0  0.341
5 Ointake2 ~~ Ointake3  0.998  0.059  16.784     0  0.655
```

Model Test User Model:

	Standard	Robust
Test Statistic	2.339	2.546
Degrees of freedom	1	1
P-value (Chi-square)	0.126	0.111
Scaling correction factor		0.919
Satorra-Bentler correction		

IV approach using ivpack

```
library(ivpack)
iv1 <- ivreg(Resp ~ Ointake1 | Ointake2 + Ointake3 , data = data)
summary(iv1, vcov = sandwich, diagnostics = TRUE)
```

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	8.550189	0.098566	86.75	<2e-16 ***
Ointake1	0.143836	0.009783	14.70	<2e-16 ***

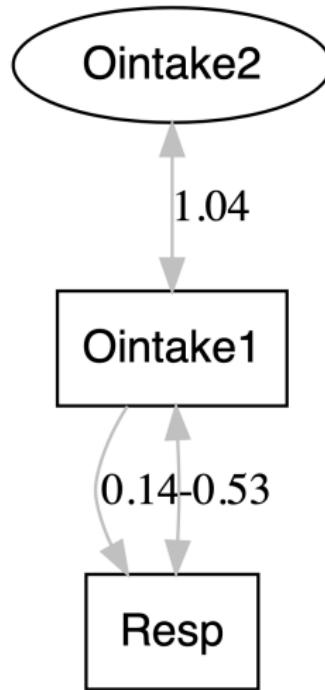
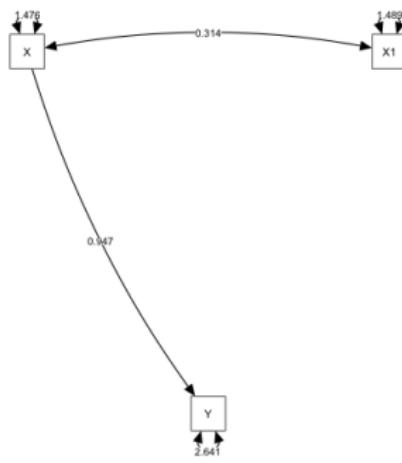
Diagnostic tests:

	df1	df2	statistic	p-value
Weak instruments	2	859	113.678	<2e-16 ***
Wu-Hausman	1	859	887.597	<2e-16 ***
Sargan	1	NA	2.358	0.125

Sargan's test and the test for Weak Instruments

In the case of 2 IV, a chi-square difference test with $df=2$ is a test of Weak instruments; and Sargan's test (testing if there is a correlation of disturbance term with X) has $df =1$. In our data, both tests reject the null. Both tests are asymptotically equal to the SEM chi-square (model or difference) tests. Sargan's test is equivalent to the chi-square goodness of fit for the fitted IV-SEM model (in SEM, we robustify this test to non-normality)

Path diagrams of IV-SEM



IV-SEM regression with one IV

IV-SEM

```
model <- "Resp ~ Ointake1;    Resp ~~ Ointake1;
          Ointake1 ~~ Ointake2 "
fit <- sem(model, data = data, estimator="MLM", auto.var = TRUE)

parameterestimates(fit, ci=FALSE, standardized=TRUE)[1:5,c(1:7,9)]
   lhs op      rhs     est      se      z pvalue std.all
1  Resp ~ Ointake1  0.143 0.010  14.578      0  1.731
2  Resp ~~ Ointake1 -0.526 0.047 -11.134      0 -0.822
3 Ointake1 ~~ Ointake2  1.040 0.085  12.165      0  0.440
4  Resp ~~      Resp  0.084 0.011   7.596      0  2.550
5 Ointake1 ~~ Ointake1  4.864 0.238  20.474      0  1.000

Model Test User Model:
                                Standard      Robust
Test Statistic                      0.000      0.000
Degrees of freedom                      0          0
```

ivpack with one IV

```
library(ivpack)
iv1 <- ivreg(Resp ~ Ointake1 | Ointake2 , data = data)
summary(iv1, vcov = sandwich, diagnostics = TRUE)
```

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	8.562503	0.098581	86.86	<2e-16 ***
Ointake1	0.142608	0.009783	14.58	<2e-16 ***

Diagnostic tests:

	df1	df2	statistic	p-value
Weak instruments	1	860	220.4	<2e-16 ***
Wu-Hausman	1	859	841.6	<2e-16 ***
Sargan	0	NA	NA	NA

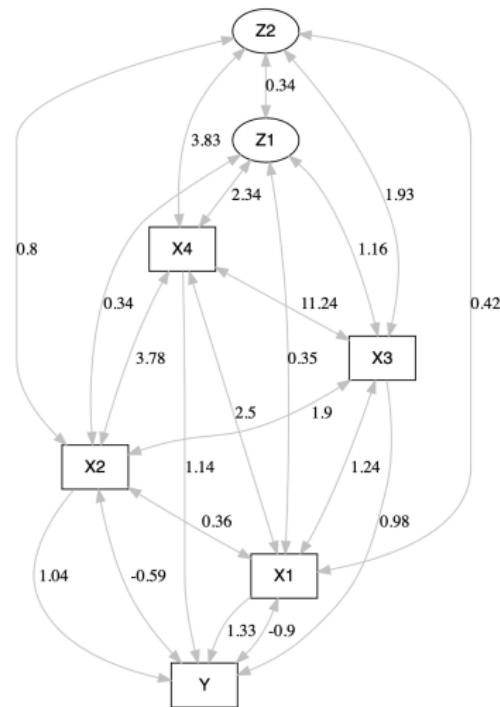
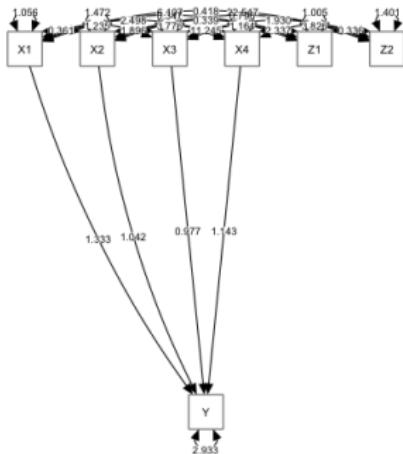
Estimates in multiple regression, comparison of OLS, ivreg, IV-SEM

Linear regression model

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon$$

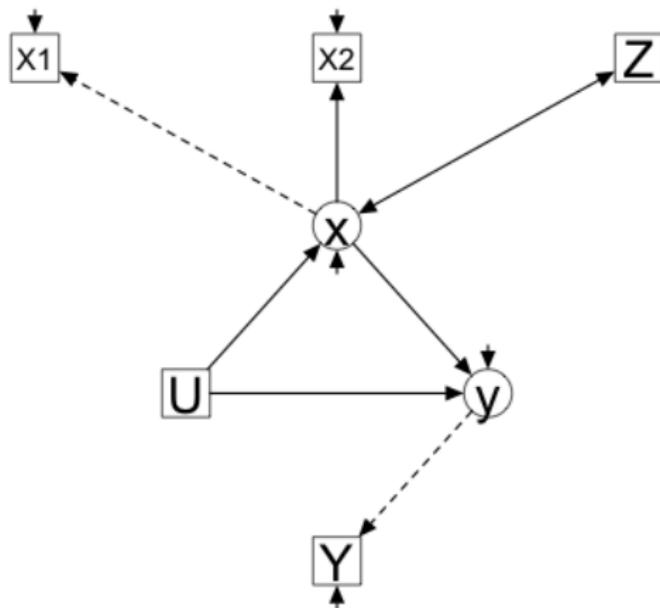
Regressors X_1 and X_2 suffer from endogeneity due to measurement error.
Two indicators Z_1 and Z_2 of respectively the true value of X_1 and X_2 serve as IV. Simulated data with $\beta_j = 1, j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $n = 2000$

OLS		ivreg		IV-SEM		IV-SEMrob		
	Est	se	Est	se	Est	se	Est	se
X1	0.120	0.030	1.333	0.397	1.333	0.397	1.333	0.392
X2	0.261	0.029	1.042	0.218	1.042	0.218	1.042	0.217
X3	0.971	0.037	0.977	0.055	0.977	0.055	0.977	0.055
X4	1.411	0.020	1.143	0.072	1.143	0.072	1.143	0.074

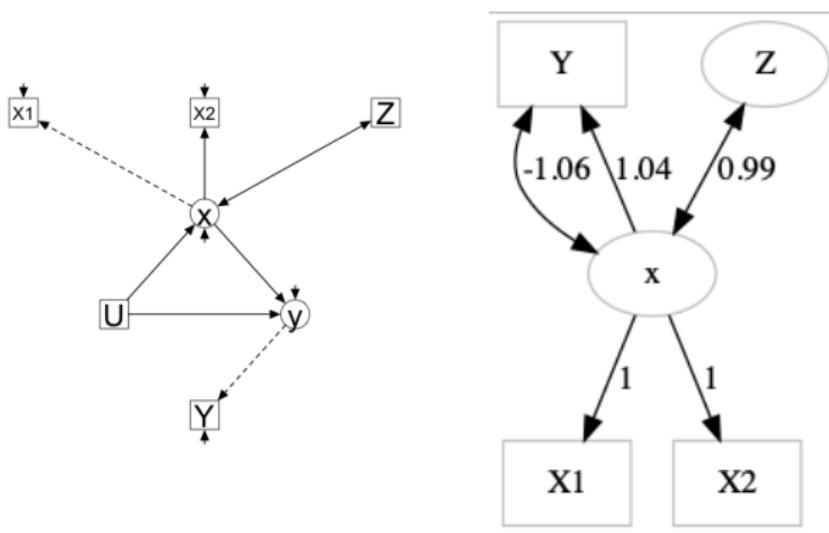


Sources of endogeneity (shocks vs. errors) and latent variables: the SEM approach

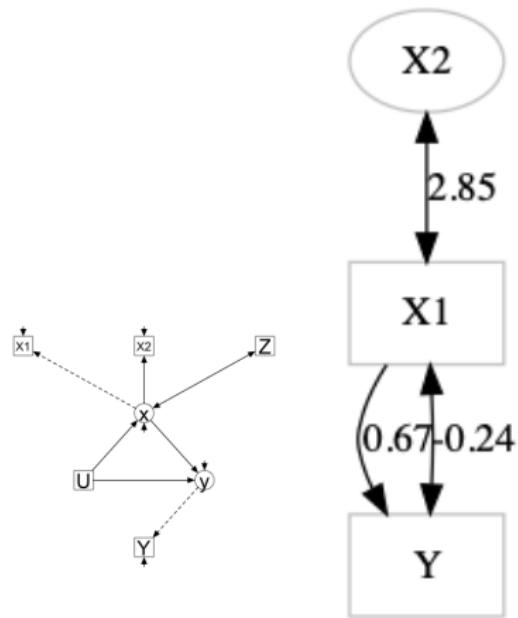
Sources of endogeneity: shocks vs. errors: e.g., the true value target is $\beta_{x \rightarrow y} = 1.0$



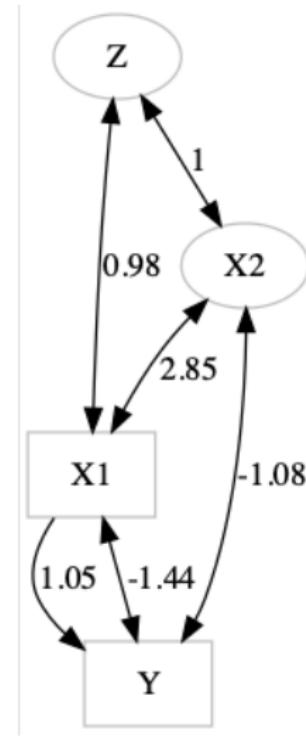
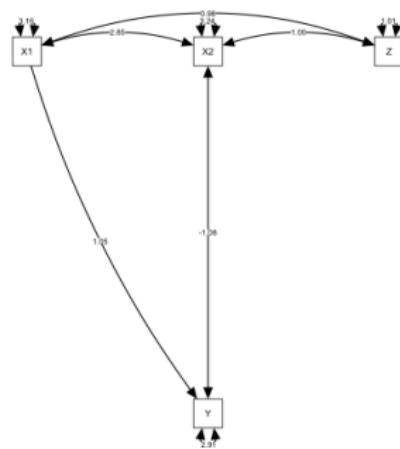
Estimation of $\beta_{X \rightarrow Y}$ using a latent variable model (M0):
1.039(0.031)



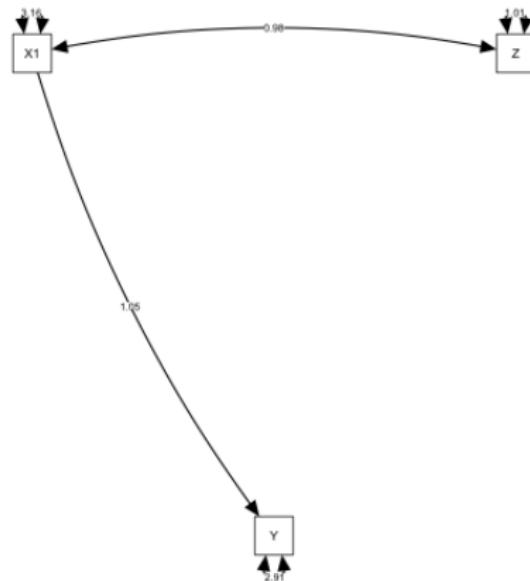
Estimation of $\beta_{X \rightarrow Y}$ with X2 the IV of X1 (M1):
0.673(0.017)



Estimation of $\beta_{X_1 \rightarrow Y}$ with X2 and Z the IVs of X1 (M2):
1.051(0.032)



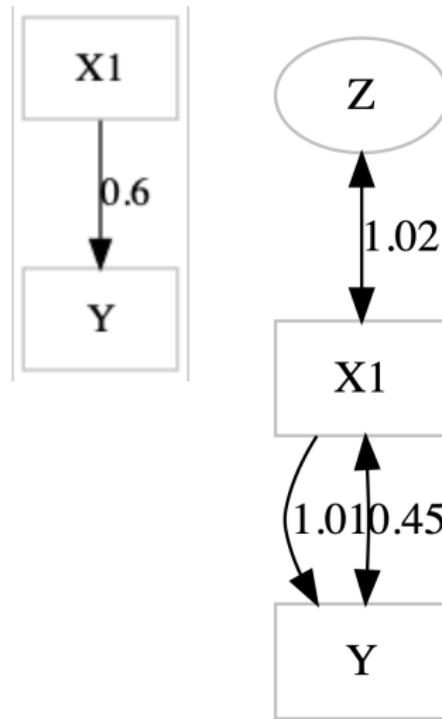
Estimation of $\beta_{X \rightarrow Y}$ with Z the IV of X1 (M3):
1.051(0.032)



Simple regression vs regression with Z as IV: true

$$\beta_{X \rightarrow Y} = 1$$

Left-side graph: Simple regression estimate is: 0.596 (0.015)



Discussion (cont.)

- Karl G. Jöreskog's LISREL (early 70s): (a) a general model that encompass shocks, errors, and latent variables, (b) ML estimation and testing methods (c) A computer package for practitioners. Now: LISREL, EQS, Mplus, AMOS, sem of Stata, ... ; free software: sem, lavaan, ...

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- Impressive Norway contribution to “founding fathers” of psychometrics/econometric methods: ... Ragnar Frisch (1895-1973, Oslo); Olav Reiersøl (1908 – 2001, Oslo); Trygve Haavelmo (Skedsmo, 1911 - Oslo, 1999, Nobel Laureate 1989), Karl B. Jöreskog (affiliation with BI, Oslo).

Thank You!

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This talk here: <http://www.econ.upf.edu/satorra/GatheringOslo2022.pdf>