Overview

This workshop provides an introduction to general linear structural equation models (SEMs). These models are sometimes referred to as “LISREL” or “covariance structure” models. The course provides an overview of and experience in constructing and estimating SEMs. The topics treated include: path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis, structural equations with observed variables, the incorporation of multiple indicators and measurement error into structural equations, alternative estimation procedures, and the assessment of model identification, fit, and modification.

My goal is to provide a firm basis for continued study and research with SEMs. It is your “follow-up” after the course that is most important to the eventual mastery of this material.

Prerequisites

Participants should have a good grasp of multiple regression and be familiar with basic matrix notation and matrix operations. Background in factor analysis or path analysis is helpful, but is not required.

Texts:


Optional:

If you already have access to a particular SEM package, you might want to purchase or bring a copy of the manual to the workshop. Our computer lab will have at least one or two SEM packages available for participant use.
Schedule

Monday to Thursday Schedule:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Lecture

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm  Lunch Break

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  Computer Lab

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  Question & Answer Session

Friday Schedule:

9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Lecture

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch Break

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Computer Lab

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Q & A Session

Note: On some days the lecture, lab, or Q&A session might run over the allotted time.

Topics and Readings

I. Preliminaries


Optional:


II. Classical Econometric Models and Random Measurement Error

Bollen, “Structural Equations with Observed Variables, Chapter 4 in SELV.

Optional:

III. Measurement Models and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Bollen, “Confirmatory Factor Analysis,” Chapter 7 in SELV.

Optional:


IV. Structural Equations with Latent Variables

Bollen, “The General Model: Part 1.” Chapter 8 in SELV.

Further readings:

During the workshop, participants will not be able to read much beyond the above readings and the relevant material from the software manuals. After the course, additional readings are available in several sources. Rick Hoyle’s (ed) Handbook of Structural Equation Modeling (2012, Guilford Press) is over 750 pages and it covers a number of topics. SEM software documents often have helpful bibliographies. The course text and Bollen and Long’s (1993) Testing Structural Equation Models (Sage) have additional references. The SEMNET listserv and its archives (http://bama.ua.edu/archives/semnet.html) and the journal Structural Equation Modeling are two other places to find more SEM readings.