

Structural Equation Modeling  
The SIMPLIS Command Language

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sem16.she

## The SIMPLIS Command Language

Stability of Alienation model

— Wheaton, Muthén, Alwin & Summers (1977)

Used to illustrate the different SIMPLIS commands

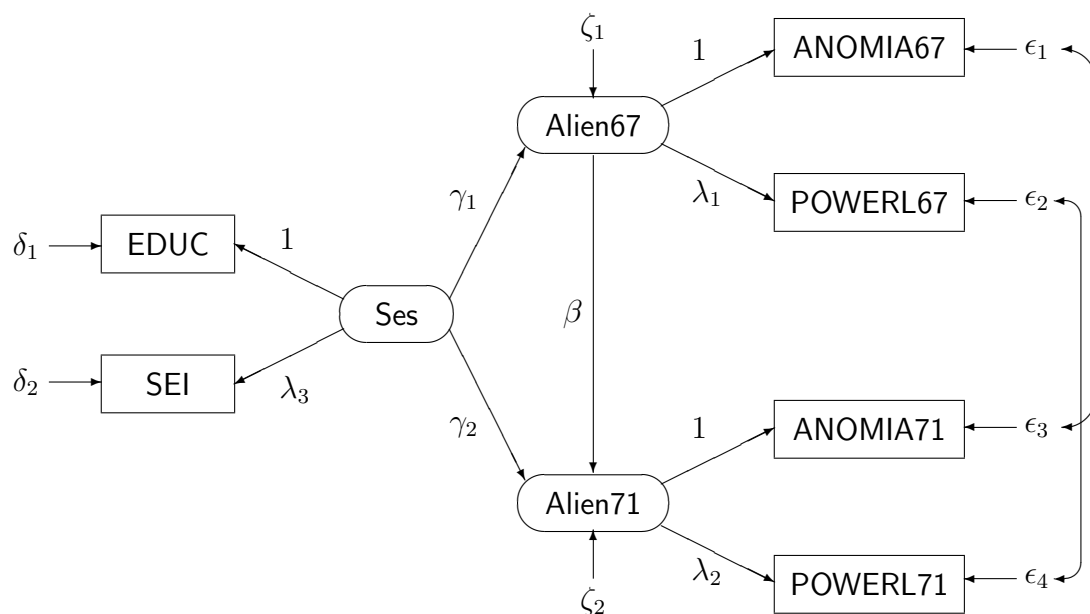


Figure 1.1. A Stability of Alienation model

# LISREL

## Linear Structural RELations

Integration of structural and measurement model

A structural model with measurement errors

Karl Jöreskog & Dag Sörbom

## The LISREL Model

1. Structural model for latent variables

$$\boldsymbol{\eta} = \mathbf{B}\boldsymbol{\eta} + \boldsymbol{\Gamma}\boldsymbol{\xi} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}$$

2. Measurement model for  $\mathbf{y}$ -variables

$$\mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_y\boldsymbol{\eta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

3. Measurement model for  $\mathbf{x}$ -variables

$$\mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_x\boldsymbol{\xi} + \boldsymbol{\delta}$$

# SIMPLIS Command Language

## Example Input File

```
[Title]
  ---
Observed Variables [from File filename]
  ---
Covariance Matrix [from File filename]
  ---
Sample Size

[Latent Variables [from File filename]]
  ---
Relationships
  ---
[Method = Generalized Least Squares]
[Number of Decimals = 3]
[Options: [RS WP AD=OFF]]
[LISREL Output]
[Path Diagram]

End of Problem
```

# Stability of Alienation Model

## SIMPLIS Input File

Observed Variables

ANOMIA67 POWERL67 ANOMIA71 POWERL71 EDUC SEI

Covariance Matrix from File EX06.COV

Sample Size 932

Latent Variables

Alien67 Alien71 Ses

Paths

Alien67 -> ANOMIA67 POWERL67

Alien71 -> ANOMIA71 POWERL71

Ses -> EDUC SEI

Alien67 -> Alien71

Ses -> Alien67 Alien71

Let Errors ANOMIA67 ANOMIA71 Correlate

Let Errors POWERL67 POWERL71 Correlate

End of Problem

# SIMPLIS Commands

## Title

Title of model under study

## Examples

### Title

Stability of Alienation

- Model D: Correlated Errors
- Standardized Solution

STAL -- Model D: Correlated Errors

### Notice

- Title Stability of Alienation (no analysis)
- Observed Variables or Labels (end Title)
- Possibilities for stacked input
- Multi-sample models (multiple groups)

# Observed Variables or Labels

Labels of observed variables in the model

Examples

Observed Variables

```
ANOMIA67 POWERL67 ANOMIA71 POWERL71 EDUC SEI
```

Observed Variables: Var1 - Var6

Observed Variables from File filename

Labels from File filename

Notice

- Header lines `Observed Variables` and `Labels` are synonymous
- Number and order of variables is set
- `File = filename` is also permitted

# Sample Data

## Options

- Raw Data
- Covariance Matrix
- Covariance Matrix and Means
- Correlation Matrix
- Correlation Matrix and Standard Deviations
- Correlation Matrix, Standard Deviations, and Means

## Examples

### Covariance Matrix

```
11.834
 6.947  9.364
 6.819  5.091 12.532
 4.783  5.028  7.495  9.986
-3.839 -3.889 -3.841 -3.625  9.610
-2.190 -1.883 -2.175 -1.878  3.552  4.503
```

### Covariance Matrix from File EX06.COV

### Raw Data from File EX06.RAW



# Sample Data

## Notice

- Asymptotic Covariance Matrix (ACOV)
- Asymptotic Variances (AVAR)
- Free format (comma, blank, <CR>)
- FORTRAN format, for example (6D13.6)
- Missing data; PRELIS
- Ordinal or non-normal data; PRELIS

## More examples

Means from File *filename*

Standard Deviations from File *filename*

Asymptotic Covariances from File *filename*

Asymptotic Variances from File *filename*

# Sample Size

Number of observations in raw data matrix  $\mathbf{X}$

Number of observations on which sample covariance matrix  $\mathbf{S}$ , or sample correlation matrix  $\mathbf{R}$ , is based

Examples

Sample Size 932

Sample Size

932

Sample Size = 932

# Latent Variables or Unobserved Variables

Labels of latent variables in the model

Examples

```
Latent Variables: Alien67  Alien71  Ses
```

Latent Variables

```
  Alien67  Alien71  Ses
```

Unobserved Variables

```
  Alien67  Alien71  Ses
```

Notice

- Header lines `Latent Variables`  
and `Unobserved Variables` are synonymous
- Do not use the same labels as for `Observed Variables`

# Relationships, Relations or Equations

## Syntax

### Relationships

dependent *varlist* = independent *varlist*

### Relationships

response *varlist* = explanatory *varlist*

## Example

### Relationships

ANOMIA67 POWERL67 = Alien67

ANOMIA71 POWERL71 = Alien71

EDUC SEI = Ses

Alien67 = Ses

Alien71 = Alien67 Ses

## Notice

- Header lines Relationships, Relations, and Equations are synonymous
- In specifying relationships, separate structural latent variable and measurement part!

# Paths

Specify relationships in terms of paths

## Syntax

*varlist -> varlist*

That is, FROM *varlist* TO *varlist*

## Example

### Paths

Alien67 -> ANOMIA67 POWERL67

Alien71 -> ANOMIA71 POWERL71

Ses -> EDUC SEI

Alien67 -> Alien71

Ses -> Alien67 Alien71

## Notice

- The 'direction' of Paths (FROM -> TO) is reverse to that of Relationships (cf. regression equation)
- In specifying paths, separate structural latent variable and measurement part!

# Scaling of Latent Variables

Origin and units of measurement of latent variables are arbitrary, and have to be defined

Origin: Assume zero mean

Unit of measurement: Two options

## 1. Direct standardization

Assume that they are **standardized**,  
i.e., have variance of one in the population

Unit of measurement of latent variable  
equals population standard deviation

For both Eta ( $\eta$ ) and for Ksi ( $\xi$ ), i.e.,  
for both response and explanatory latent variables

Result: **Standardized Solution (SS)**

Standardized Solution **by default**,  
if the second option is not chosen

# Scaling of Latent Variables

## 2. Indirect standardization

Fix a non-zero coefficient (usually to 1)  
in the relationship for one of the observed  
indicators of a latent variable

Unit of measurement of latent variable is  
related to one of the observed variables,  
the so-called **reference variable**

Standardized Solution can also be obtained  
now by putting **SS** or **SC** on the **LISREL** **OU**-line

### Example

#### Relations

```
ANOMIA67 = 1*Alien67
POWERL67 = Alien67
ANOMIA71 = 1*Alien71
POWERL71 = Alien71
EDUC      = 1*Ses
SEI       = Ses
```

### Notice

This *cannot* be done with **Paths** statements

## Starting Values

Usually generated by LISREL itself

If a good estimate of parameter  $\theta$  is a priori available, it is possible to specify so

Put starting value of a parameter in parentheses followed by an asterisk \* and then the name of a variable in a relationship

### Example

Relations

```
POWERL71 = (.90)*Alien71
```

### Notice

Difference between coefficients used for fixing parameters (ANOMIA71 = 1\*Alien71), and coefficients used as starting values for parameter estimation



# Error Variances and Covariances

## Distinguish

- Measurement errors in observed  $\mathbf{x}$ -variables
- Measurement errors in observed  $\mathbf{y}$ -variables
- Structural errors in structural  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ -equations

That is, errors in  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}$ , and  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ -equations, resp.

## 1. Fixed Error Variances

By default, variances of all error terms are free parameters to be estimated

Fix them as follows:

- Let the Error Variance of *varlist* be *c*
- Set the Error Variance of *varlist* to *c*

## Example

Let Error Variance EDUC be 0

# Error Variances and Covariances

## 2. Error Covariances

Possibilities of correlated errors

- between two **x**-variables
- between two **y**-variables
- between an **x**- and a **y**-variable
- between two  **$\eta$** -variables

Default: all error terms uncorrelated

Specify (un)correlated errors as follows:

- Let the Errors of *varlist* and *varlist* Correlate
- Set the Error Covariances between *varlist* and *varlist* Free
- Set the Error Covariances between *varlist* and *varlist* to 0

Example

Let Errors ANOMIA67 ANOMIA71 Correlate

Let Errors POWERL67 POWERL71 Correlate

## Uncorrelated Factors

By default, the explanatory latent variables ( $\xi$ - or  $K_{si}$ -variables) are freely correlated

That is, correlated or oblique factors

If explanatory latent variables should be uncorrelated (i.e., orthogonal factors), this can be done as follows:

- a. Set the Covariances of *Ksi-varlist* to 0
- b. Set the Correlations of *Ksi-varlist* to 0

Example

Set Correlations  $K_{si1} - K_{si3}$  to 0

# Equality Constraints

## 1. Equal Paths

A path coefficient (or parameter) can be specified to equal another path coefficient

This amounts to estimating one single free parameter rather than two 'independent' ones

This can be done as follows:

- a. Set Path from VarA to VarB equal to Path from VarC to VarD
- b. Set Path VarA  $\rightarrow$  VarB = Path VarC  $\rightarrow$  VarD
- c. Set VarA  $\rightarrow$  VarB = VarC  $\rightarrow$  VarD
- d. Let VarA  $\rightarrow$  VarB = VarC  $\rightarrow$  VarD

## Example

Let Alien67  $\rightarrow$  POWERL67 = Alien71  $\rightarrow$  POWERL71

# Equality Constraints

## 2. Equal Error Variances

Two or more error variances can be specified to be equal, as follows:

- a. Set the Error Variances of *varlist* Equal
- b. Let Error Variances of *varlist* be Equal
- c. Equal Error Variances: *varlist*

### Example

Equal Error Variances: ANOMIA67 ANOMIA71

Equal Error Variances POWERL67 POWERL71

# Freeing a Fixed Parameter, or Relaxing an Equality Constraint

Needed in multi-sample, or multi-group models

There, all model parameters are constrained to be equal across groups, unless specified otherwise

Fixed or constrained parameters can be set free under header line `Paths` or `Relationships`

## Example

If path `VarA -> VarB` is fixed or constrained, it can be freed in two ways:

`Paths: VarA -> VarB`

`Relationships: VarB = VarA`

# Options

Refers to printing the output file, and the request for additional information in that file

Some examples of possible options are:

- Wide Print	WP
- Print Residuals	RS
- Number of Decimals = 3	ND=3
- Method of Estimation = GLS	ME=GLS
- Admissibility Check = Off	AD=OFF
- Iterations = 50	IT=50
- Save Sigma in File <i>filename</i>	SI= <i>filename</i>

## Example

Options: RS ND=3 ME=GLS AD=OFF IT=50 SI= *filename*

# Options

## 1. Wide Print or WP

Default 80; maximum 132 characters per line

View: Path diagram; key D

*DISP output\_filename*

### Examples

Wide Print 100

Options: WP=100

## 2. Print Residuals or RS

Fitted and standardized residuals (matrices)

QQ-plot of standardized residuals

Fitted covariance or correlation matrix

### Examples

Print Residuals

Options: RS



# Options

## 3. Number of Decimals or ND

Default ND=2

Printed # decimals depends on # significant digits  $< n$

### Examples

Number of Decimals 5

Options: ND=5

## 4. Method of Estimation or ME

### Available methods

- Instrumental Variables (IV)
- Two-Stage Least Squares (TSLS, TS)
- Unweighted Least Squares (ULS, UL)
- Generalized Least Squares (GLS, GL)
- Maximum Likelihood (ML)
- Generally Weighted Least Squares (WLS, WL)
- Diagonally Weighted Least Squares (DWLS, DW)

# Options

## 4. Method of Estimation or ME

### Notice

- IV and TSLS: non-iterative and fast
- WLS requires estimate of asymptotic covariance matrix of sample covariances, or correlations (ACOV)
- DWLS requires estimate of asymptotic variances of sample variances, or correlations (AVAR)
- Estimate ACOV and AVAR with PRELIS
- If no ACOV or AVAR, then ML (default)
- If ACOV, then WLS (default)
- If AVAR, then DWLS (default)

### Examples

Method : Two-Stage Least Squares

Options: TS ! [STAL example: bug!]

Options: ME=GLS

# Options

## 5. Admissibility Check or AD

- Matrices  $\Lambda_x$  and  $\Lambda_y$  have full column rank, and no rows with only zeros
- All covariance matrices  $\Phi = E(\xi\xi')$ ,  $\Psi = E(\zeta\zeta')$ ,  $\Theta_\epsilon = E(\epsilon\epsilon')$ , and  $\Theta_\delta = E(\delta\delta')$  are positive definite

If, after 20 iterations (by default)  
the solution is inadmissible, the iteration process stops

### Examples

Admissibility Check 40

Options: AD=40

Admissibility Check OFF ! usually not recommended

Options: AD=OFF

# Options

## 6. Maximum Number of Iterations

Default: three times # independent parameters to be estimated in a model

### Examples

Iterations 100  
Options: IT=100

## 7. Save Sigma

The fitted, or model-implied covariance matrix  $\hat{\Sigma}$  can be saved to file

### Examples

Save Sigma in File SIGMA\_D  
Options: SI=SIGMA\_D

## Cross-validation

Bias-corrected single-sample cross-validation index of Browne and Cudeck (1989) can be calculated:

$$\text{CVI} = F(\mathbf{S}_v, \hat{\Sigma}_{c,j}) - \frac{k(k+1)}{2n_v}$$

- $F$  : discrepancy or fit function
- $\mathbf{S}_v$  : covariance matrix of validation sample
- $\hat{\Sigma}_{c,j}$  : implied covariance matrix fitted in calibration or exploration sample under Model  $j$
- $k$  : number of observed variables
- $n_v$  : sample size in validation sample

### Example

In two separate analyses (not in one!)

1. Save Sigma in File SIGMA\_D
2. Crossvalidate File SIGMA\_D

# Cross-validation

## Notice

- Output: cross-validation index CVI, and 90% confidence interval for population CVI
  - cf. Browne (1990), Browne & Cudeck (1989, 1992)
  
- Bad treatment and example of Jöreskog & Sörbom (1996a, p. 183)
  - Comparison with ECVI (p. 119)
  - **Sample Size** header missing
  - Suspect computation: negative CVI value
  
- Boomsma (2003) provides extensive treatment for LISREL applications

# LISREL Output

## Distinguish

- SIMPLIS Output: estimated model presented in **equation form** (default)  
Estimates, SE, TV, FIT, RS summary
- LISREL Output: estimated model presented in **matrix form**  
(with, or without additional information)

## Examples

LISREL Output

LISREL Output ALL [missing MI occurs]

LISREL Output: SS SC EF RS VA FS PC PT

SS Standardized solution

SC Completely standardized solution

EF Total and indirect effects,  
their standard errors, and *t*-values

RS Residuals

VA Variances and covariances of latent variables

FS Factor scores regression

PC Correlations of parameter estimates

PT Technical information

MI Modification index

STABILITY OF ALIENATION MODEL

SIMPLIS OUTPUT FILE

The following lines were read from file EX06d.sim:

Stability of Alienation - Model D: Correlated Errors  
 - Standardized Solution

Observed Variables

ANOMIA67 POWERL67 ANOMIA71 POWERL71 EDUC SEI

Covariance Matrix

11.834					
6.947	9.364				
6.819	5.091	12.532			
4.783	5.028	7.495	9.986		
-3.839	-3.889	-3.841	-3.625	9.610	
-2.190	-1.883	-2.175	-1.878	3.552	4.503

Sample Size 932

Latent Variables Alien67 Alien71 Ses

Paths

Alien67 -> ANOMIA67 POWERL67  
 Alien71 -> ANOMIA71 POWERL71  
 Ses -> EDUC SEI  
 Alien67 -> Alien71  
 Ses -> Alien67 Alien71

Let the Errors of ANOMIA67 and ANOMIA71 Correlate  
 Let the Errors of POWERL67 and POWERL71 Correlate

Print Residuals

Path Diagram

End of Problem

Sample Size = 932

Stability of Alienation - Model D: Correlated Errors

COVARIANCE MATRIX TO BE ANALYZED

	ANOMIA67	POWERL67	ANOMIA71	POWERL71	EDUC	SEI
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
ANOMIA67	11.83					
POWERL67	6.95	9.36				
ANOMIA71	6.82	5.09	12.53			
POWERL71	4.78	5.03	7.50	9.99		
EDUC	-3.84	-3.89	-3.84	-3.63	9.61	
SEI	-2.19	-1.88	-2.17	-1.88	3.55	4.50



Number of Iterations = 22

LISREL ESTIMATES (MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD)

ANOMIA67 = 2.66\*Alien67, Errorvar.= 4.74 , R2 = 0.60  
(0.13) (0.45)  
20.71 10.43

POWERL67 = 2.61\*Alien67, Errorvar.= 2.57 , R2 = 0.73  
(0.13) (0.40)  
20.02 6.36

ANOMIA71 = 2.85\*Alien71, Errorvar.= 4.40 , R2 = 0.65  
(0.14) (0.52)  
20.20 8.54

POWERL71 = 2.63\*Alien71, Errorvar.= 3.07 , R2 = 0.69  
(0.13) (0.43)  
20.19 7.07

EDUC = 2.61\*Ses, Errorvar.= 2.81 , R2 = 0.71  
(0.12) (0.51)  
20.94 5.52

SEI = 1.36\*Ses, Errorvar.= 2.65 , R2 = 0.41  
(0.079) (0.18)  
17.22 14.59

Error Covariance for ANOMIA71 and ANOMIA67 = 1.62  
(0.31)  
5.17

Error Covariance for POWERL71 and POWERL67 = 0.34  
(0.26)  
1.30

Alien67 = - 0.56\*Ses, Errorvar.= 0.68, R2 = 0.32  
(0.051)  
-11.11

Alien71 = 0.57\*Alien67 - 0.21\*Ses, Errorvar.= 0.50, R2 = 0.50  
(0.055) (0.046)  
10.27 -4.51

CORRELATION MATRIX OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Ses  
-----  
1.00

COVARIANCE MATRIX OF LATENT VARIABLES

	Alien67 -----	Alien71 -----	Ses -----
Alien67	1.00		
Alien71	0.68	1.00	
Ses	-0.56	-0.53	1.00

GOODNESS OF FIT STATISTICS

CHI-SQUARE WITH 4 DEGREES OF FREEDOM = 4.73 (P = 0.32)  
 ESTIMATED NON-CENTRALITY PARAMETER (NCP) = 0.73  
 90 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR NCP = (0.0 ; 10.53)

MINIMUM FIT FUNCTION VALUE = 0.0051  
 POPULATION DISCREPANCY FUNCTION VALUE (FO) = 0.00079  
 90 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR FO = (0.0 ; 0.011)  
 ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR OF APPROXIMATION (RMSEA) = 0.014  
 90 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR RMSEA = (0.0 ; 0.053)  
 P-VALUE FOR TEST OF CLOSE FIT (RMSEA < 0.05) = 0.93

EXPECTED CROSS-VALIDATION INDEX (ECVI) = 0.042  
 90 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVAL FOR ECVI = (0.041 ; 0.052)  
 ECVI FOR SATURATED MODEL = 0.045  
 ECVI FOR INDEPENDENCE MODEL = 2.30

CHI-SQUARE FOR INDEPENDENCE MODEL  
 WITH 15 DEGREES OF FREEDOM = 2131.40  
 INDEPENDENCE AIC = 2143.40  
 MODEL AIC = 38.73  
 SATURATED AIC = 42.00  
 INDEPENDENCE CAIC = 2178.42  
 MODEL CAIC = 137.97  
 SATURATED CAIC = 164.58

ROOT MEAN SQUARE RESIDUAL (RMR) = 0.057  
 STANDARDIZED RMR = 0.0074  
 GOODNESS OF FIT INDEX (GFI) = 1.00  
 ADJUSTED GOODNESS OF FIT INDEX (AGFI) = 0.99  
 PARSIMONY GOODNESS OF FIT INDEX (PGFI) = 0.19

NORMED FIT INDEX (NFI) = 1.00  
 NON-NORMED FIT INDEX (NNFI) = 1.00  
 PARSIMONY NORMED FIT INDEX (PNFI) = 0.27  
 COMPARATIVE FIT INDEX (CFI) = 1.00  
 INCREMENTAL FIT INDEX (IFI) = 1.00  
 RELATIVE FIT INDEX (RFI) = 0.99

CRITICAL N (CN) = 2611.90

FITTED COVARIANCE MATRIX

	ANOMIA67	POWERL67	ANOMIA71	POWERL71	EDUC	SEI
ANOMIA67	11.83					
POWERL67	6.95	9.36				
ANOMIA71	6.82	5.08	12.53			
POWERL71	4.79	5.03	7.50	9.99		
EDUC	-3.91	-3.83	-3.92	-3.61	9.61	
SEI	-2.04	-2.00	-2.05	-1.89	3.55	4.50

FITTED RESIDUALS

	ANOMIA67	POWERL67	ANOMIA71	POWERL71	EDUC	SEI
ANOMIA67	0.00					
POWERL67	0.00	0.00				
ANOMIA71	0.00	0.01	0.00			
POWERL71	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00		
EDUC	0.07	-0.06	0.08	-0.01	0.00	
SEI	-0.15	0.12	-0.13	0.01	0.00	0.00

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR FITTED RESIDUALS

SMALLEST FITTED RESIDUAL = -0.15  
 MEDIAN FITTED RESIDUAL = 0.00  
 LARGEST FITTED RESIDUAL = 0.12

STANDARDIZED RESIDUALS

	ANOMIA67	POWERL67	ANOMIA71	POWERL71	EDUC	SEI
ANOMIA67	0.00					
POWERL67	0.09	0.00				
ANOMIA71	-0.09	0.09	0.00			
POWERL71	-0.09	0.09	-0.09	0.00		
EDUC	0.92	-1.01	0.98	-0.15	0.00	
SEI	-1.43	1.58	-1.18	0.09	0.00	0.00

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR STANDARDIZED RESIDUALS

SMALLEST STANDARDIZED RESIDUAL = -1.43  
 MEDIAN STANDARDIZED RESIDUAL = 0.00  
 LARGEST STANDARDIZED RESIDUAL = 1.58

STEMLEAF PLOT

- 1|420  
 - 0|21110000000  
 0|11119  
 1|06

# Path Diagram

With LISREL and SIMPLIS path diagrams  
on the screen, and to the printer

Looking at the screen for information  
about the model in path diagrams

Model modification in path diagrams  
at run time, by adding or deleting  
paths in the diagram

Statistical pitfalls; cross-validation

See Chapter 3 of SIMPLIS manual  
Jöreskog & Sörbom (1996a)

# Path Diagram

## Changing significance levels

1. for  $t$ -values; default 5.0%, i.e.,  $t$ -value 1.96
2. for modification indices; default 0.5%,  
i.e., MI-value 7.88

## Syntax

Path Diagram TV= $n\%$  MI= $n\%$

## Example

Path Diagram TV=1 MI=10

## Notice

Put header Path Diagram after Observed Variables,  
and before End of Problem

# Path Diagram

## Saving path diagrams

- All graphical information in ASCII file *input\_filename*.PDM
- To produce path diagrams execute program PATHDIAG *input\_filename*
- PATHDIAG only for viewing and printing, not for model modification

## Example

```
PATHDIAG EX06D1
```

# Stability of Alienation Model

## Path Diagram of Basic Model

Below, the basic model display of the LISREL Path Diagram option is shown

The numbers refer to the maximum likelihood estimates of model parameters associated with the paths

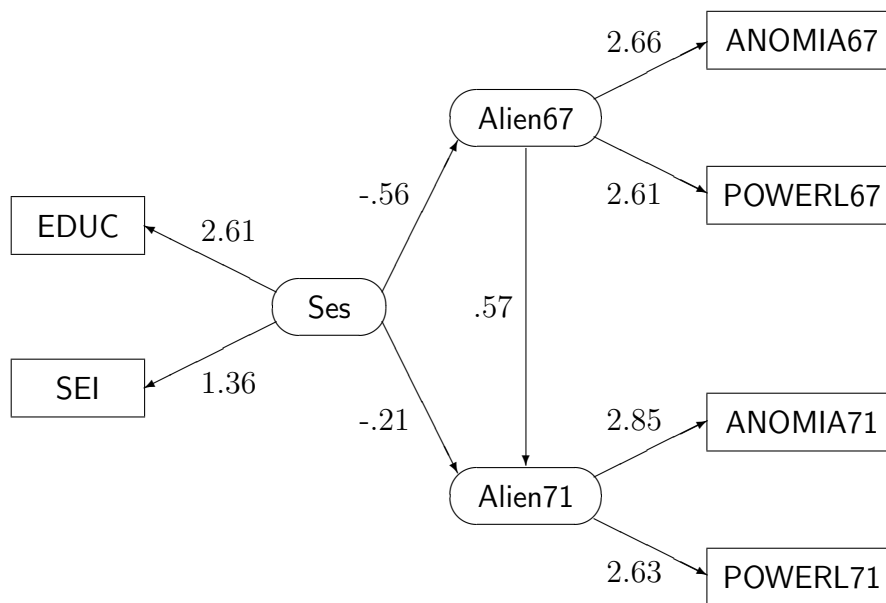


Figure 1.2. Parameter Estimates of Stability of Alienation Model

## End of Problem

Optional in theory; in practice not

For multiple models stacked together

For multi-sample problems, only after the last group

Example

End of Problem



Alle rechten voorbehouden. Niets in deze uitgave mag worden verveelvoudigd, opgeslagen in een geautomatiseerd gegevensbestand, en/of openbaar gemaakt, in enige vorm of op enige wijze, hetzij elektronisch, mechanisch, door fotocopie, microfilm of op enige andere manier, zonder voorafgaande schriftelijke toestemming van de auteur.

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