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Measurement invariance within and between individuals: A distinct problem in testing the equivalence of intra- and inter- individual model structures.

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Abstract

We address the question of equivalence between modeling results obtained on intra-individual and inter-individual levels of psychometric analysis. Our focus is on the concept of measurement invariance and the role it may play in this context. We discuss this in general against the background of the latent variable paradigm, complemented by an operational demonstration in terms of a linear state-space model, i.e., a time series model with latent variables. Implemented in a multiple-occasion and multiple-subject setting, the model simultaneously accounts for intra-individual and inter-individual differences. We consider the conditions – in terms of invariance constraints – under which modeling results are generalizable (a) over time within subjects, (b) over subjects within occasions, and (c) over time and subjects simultaneously thus implying an equivalence-relationship between both dimensions. Since we distinguish the measurement model from the structural model governing relations between the latent variables of interest, we decompose the invariance constraints into those that involve structural parameters and those that involve measurement parameters and relate to measurement invariance. Within the resulting taxonomy of models, we show that, under the condition of measurement invariance over time and subjects, there exists a form of structural equivalence between levels of analysis that is distinct from full structural equivalence, i.e., ergodicity. We demonstrate how measurement invariance between and within subjects can be tested in the context of high-frequency repeated measures in personality research. Finally, we discuss problems of measurement variance in relation to problems of non-ergodicity as currently discussed and approached in the literature.

1 Introduction

Population heterogeneity exists when multiple distinct statistical models are required to adequately describe a population (Muthén, 1989). Statistical approaches to investigate and ac-

43 commodate heterogeneity include, for instance, multi-group modeling (e.g., Jöreskog, 1971;
44 Muthén, 1989), multi-level modeling (e.g., Hox, 2002), and structural equation mixture mod-
45 eling (e.g., Dolan 2009). In each of these modeling approaches a heterogeneous population is
46 stratified into subpopulations whose members adhere to the same models and differences
47 within are separated from differences between subpopulations (Muthén, 1989). But how
48 small is the smallest subgroup? One could think of a scenario in which breaking up a hetero-
49 geneous population into ever smaller subpopulations leads to the smallest subpopulation that
50 is empirically realizable. This is the individual person (Millsap, 2011). Consider, for instance,
51 the five-factor-model (FFM) which states that the dimensions Extraversion, Neuroticism,
52 Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience are the major sources of inter-
53 individual differences in personality (McCrae & John, 1992). A researcher studying popula-
54 tion heterogeneity can now well question, whether the five-factor-model is generally inter-
55 pretable in the sense that it holds for each individual member of the overall population by
56 addressing “universal” determinants of human behavior (Hamaker, Dolan, & Molenaar,
57 2005).

58 Questions of this kind have indeed been posed recently and have been addressed by means
59 of single subject ($N = 1$) modeling based on the analysis of repeated measurements over oc-
60 casions (Cattell, 1952; Gregson, 1983; Molenaar, 1985). By contrasting intra-individual with
61 inter-individual difference data, it has been shown that inter-individual modeling results do
62 usually not generalize to the level of the individual. Rather, individual specifics, which re-
63 main undetected in standard large sample modeling techniques, seem to be the rule, not the
64 exception (e.g., Brose, Voelkle, Lövdén, Lindenberger, & Schmiedek, in press; Brose,
65 Schmiedek, Lövdén, Molenaar, & Lindenberger, 2010; Hamaker et al., 2005; Hamaker, Nes-
66 selroade, & Molenaar, 2007; Keldermann & Molenaar, 2007; Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar &
67 Campbell, 2009; Molenaar, Huizenga, Nesselroade, 2003; Nesselroade, 2010; Schmiedek,
68 Lövdén, & Lindenberger, 2009). The increasing interest in individual modeling techniques
69 therefore emphasizes the conceptual continuity between approaches to heterogeneous popula-
70 tions and to the individual. Explicitly stated, single subject modeling accommodates popula-
71 tion heterogeneity in its most extreme sense as it does not necessarily involve the generaliza-
72 tion of results to other individuals or subpopulations of individuals. Each individual can thus
73 potentially represent a system that is quantitatively or qualitatively unique (Molenaar, 2004).

74 We have so far conceived of heterogeneity as heterogeneity between individuals, but one
75 may just as well conceive of heterogeneity as heterogeneity within individuals. That is, an
76 individual’s system characteristics may display (higher order) stability or variability over
77 time (Molenaar, 2004). To illustrate this, suppose a researcher aims at describing a person
78 with respect to a certain attribute over time. One may now think of an intra-individual distri-
79 bution of states rather than of a single trait score. Considered over a representative set of situ-
80 ations, this distribution may have relatively stable characteristics over time, e.g., stable mean
81 and variance. These may then be used to differentiate among people and may thus themselves
82 be regarded as personality characteristics (Fleeson, 2001; Hamaker et al., 2007). However,
83 also within individuals, homogeneity cannot be taken for granted but constitutes a (restricted-
84 ly) testable assumption. Similarly to questioning to what extent population models generalize
85 to individual population members, one could question to what extent an individual time series
86 model generalizes to (subsets of) single occasions.

87 The reorientation towards the individual in differential psychology has been motivated by
88 and motivates an integrative consideration of the within- and the between-subject perspective.
89 It therefore provides an optimal setting to address the following guiding questions: Under
90 what conditions are modeling results generalizable (a) over occasions within subjects, (b)
91 over subjects within occasions, and (c) over occasions and subjects simultaneously? Question
92 (c) refers to the conditions that establish a systematic relationship, i.e., equivalence between

93 the structure of intra- and the structure of inter-individual data (given large N and T). Bor-
94 rowing terminology from statistical mechanics, this situation is termed *ergodicity* in the psy-
95 chometric literature (e.g., Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar & Campbell, 2009; Molenaar et al.
96 2003). In the present context, ergodicity is referred to as a situation in which the statistical
97 behavior of a time series observed for a single subject is the same as the statistical behavior
98 of a sample of multiple subjects, obtained at a few occasions (i.e., the definition of an ergodic
99 process according to Molenaar, 2004, p. 208).

100 Psychological attributes, however, are often represented as latent variables, the study of
101 which requires psychometric measurement. In the context of latent variable modeling the
102 conditions for an ergodic process decompose into invariance constraints on the structural part
103 of the model and invariance constraints on the measurement model. The latter constraints
104 relate to the concept of measurement invariance (MI; Mellenbergh, 1989; Meredith, 1993;
105 Millsap, 2011). In this paper, we discuss how MI ties into the integrated within- and between-
106 subject context. Specifically, we focus on how the concept is to be considered when one is
107 interested in investigating the generalizability of latent variable modeling results along the
108 dimensions time and subject.

109 The outline of the paper is as follows. Based on the definition as provided by Mellenbergh
110 (1989), we elaborate on MI in the between- and within-subject context, in general terms and
111 operationally in the linear factor model which lends itself well to integrated modeling, i.e.,
112 simultaneous modeling of intra- and inter-individual differences. We then proceed to address
113 our guiding questions using a bottom-up approach. That is, in a multiple-subject, multiple-
114 occasion setting, we set up a linear multi-subject latent variable time series model that ac-
115 counts for intra-individual and inter-individual variability and we implement the model con-
116 straints that imply generalizability of results along the dimensions time and subject. We con-
117 sider these constraints separately at the level of the measurement process and at the level of
118 the latent psychological process. The result is a taxonomy of differently restrictive models
119 ranging from full heterogeneity to full homogeneity between and within individuals. It can be
120 considered a taxonomy of problems¹ a researcher will potentially face when simultaneously
121 modeling intra- and inter-individual variation. We show that MI holding simultaneously over
122 time and subject can be interpreted as constituting a mode of structural equivalence between
123 the intra- and the inter-individual level of analysis that is distinct from full structural equiva-
124 lence. Using a real data illustration on intra-individual variability in the personality domain
125 (Borkenau & Ostendorf, 1998), we show how researchers can test for MI over subjects and
126 time. In the discussion, we reconsider the assumptions underlying MI testing and review al-
127 ternative interpretations of and potential approaches to measurement variance within and be-
128 tween subjects.

129 **2 Measurement invariance between and within subjects**

130 **2.1 General definition of measurement invariance**

131 The present focus on MI is motivated by the latent variable paradigm which informs con-
132 ceptual thinking in modern psychology (Bollen, 2002; Borsboom 2008; Borsboom, Mellen-
133 bergh, & van Heerden, 2003; Millsap, 2011). Although not directly observable, an attribute
134 such as agreeableness can be conceptualized as manifesting in terms of observable behaviors
135 or reportable attitudes, in this case along the interpersonal dimensions warmth, kindness, ap-

¹ This useful notion was suggested by an anonymous reviewer.

136 appreciation, and consideration (McCrae & John, 1992; Graziano & Tobin, 2009). However,
 137 inferences about latent variables on basis of observed indicators are subject to relatively large
 138 uncertainty (Borsboom, 2008). MI is one of the psychometric concepts addressing this uncer-
 139 tainty.

140 A general formal definition of MI in the latent variable paradigm was given by Mellen-
 141 bergh (1989). Suppose we have a set of indicators Y that together form a psychometric in-
 142 strument designed to measure a given latent variable Z , and suppose we have a variable X . MI
 143 of the indicators with respect to X is defined as independence of the indicators and X condi-
 144 tional on the latent variable, i.e.,

$$f(\mathbf{Y}|Z = z) = f(\mathbf{Y}|Z = z, X = x) \quad (1)$$

145 for all values of Z and X , in which $f(\cdot)$ denotes the probability distribution function. Under
 146 MI, any effect of X on the indicators is indirect, i.e., mediated through the latent variable
 147 (Lubke, Dolan, Kelderman, & Mellenbergh, 2003b). Consequently, significant differences in
 148 observed indicator scores are attributable to differences in the targeted latent variable (Z)
 149 across units selected on basis of X , e.g., across persons (e.g., Horn & McArdle, 1992; Lubke
 150 et al., 2003b; Mellenbergh 1989; Millsap, 2011; van der Sluis et al., 2006, Wicherts & Dolan,
 151 2010).

152 To illustrate this, imagine we attempted to measure agreeableness (Z) in a given sample
 153 using questionnaire Y . Let X be the tendency to respond in a socially desirable manner (Holt-
 154 graves, 2004; Paulhus & Reid, 2004). If Y was measurement invariant with respect X , any
 155 two individuals from the sample having the same level of agreeableness would attain the
 156 same score on each item (apart from measurement error effects). Importantly, they would do
 157 so independent of their potentially different tendencies to respond in a socially desirable
 158 manner. Y would then be considered unbiased with respect to X . On the contrary, if Y was
 159 measurement variant or biased with respect to X , for instance due to item contents triggering
 160 socially desirable responding, differences in individual's responses would not necessarily be
 161 interpretable as differences in agreeableness. They may as well be interpretable as differences
 162 in socially desirable responding. Measurement variance or bias thus refers to a replicable dif-
 163 ference in item scores which is not due to the targeted latent variable Z (Millsap, 2011).
 164 Meaningful comparisons in terms of the targeted latent variable are thus not guaranteed on
 165 basis of biased item scores (e.g., Dolan, Roorda, & Wicherts, 2004; Hamaker, 2007; Raykov,
 166 Marcoulides, & Li, 2012).

167 Moreover, biased items can lead to biased estimates of parameters pertaining to the latent
 168 variable (Mellenbergh, 1989; Wicherts & Dolan, 2010). The interpretation of the latent varia-
 169 ble is then rendered problematic. The converse argument would be that, if MI across persons
 170 selected on basis of X holds, the interpretation of the latent variable is the same across these
 171 persons (e.g., Borsboom & Dolan, 2007; Dolan et al., 2004; Horn & McArdle, 1992; Lubke,
 172 Dolan, Kelderman, & Mellenbergh, 2003a; Mellenbergh, 1989; Nesselroade Gerstorf, Hardy,
 173 & Ram, 2007; Raykov et al., 2012; Wicherts & Dolan, 2010). This notion of MI as *theoreti-*
 174 *cal invariance*, as compared to the above notion of *unbiasedness*, can mainly be found for
 175 operationalizations of MI in the linear factor model. It is argued that the interpretation of the
 176 factor is determined by its relation to the observed indicators (the factor loadings) and that it
 177 is unlikely that different factors are related to a fixed set of indicators in exactly the same way
 178 (Lubke et al., 2003a).

179 Regardless of which interpretational notion is employed, in applying the concept of MI,
 180 one has to rely on premises which may appear more or less sensible depending on the con-
 181 text. We get back to this in more detail in the discussion.

182 2.2 Conceptualization of measurement invariance between and within subjects

183 MI has been investigated extensively in the context of multi-group factor analysis, with
184 groups defined by nominal between-subject variables, such as sex or ethnic background (e.g.,
185 van der Sluis, Posthuma, Dolan, de Geus, Colom, & Boomsma, 2006; Wicherts & Dolan,
186 2010). Mellenbergh's definition, however, is a general one. It is neutral with respect to the
187 nature and format of the potentially biasing variable, the indicator variables, and latent varia-
188 bles, and is thus independent of the psychometric model that relates the indicators to the la-
189 tent variables (Lubke et al., 2003a; Mellenbergh, 1989; Meredith, 1993; Wicherts & Dolan,
190 2010). We can therefore draw two conclusions in the present context. First, Mellenbergh's
191 definition should be equally applicable at the between-subject and at the within-subject level
192 (Borsboom & Dolan, 2007). MI can also be considered with respect to time-varying variables
193 relevant within subjects, such as mood or work pressure. For instance, a questionnaire sup-
194 posed to assess intra-individual fluctuations in the state agreeableness over time may be bi-
195 ased with respect to mood. Then, a person's series of responses over time would reflect not
196 only variations in the state agreeableness but additionally variations in mood. The second
197 conclusion based on Mellenbergh's general definition is, that it is possible to take a more
198 general perspective and consider MI with respect to subject and time (index) itself. This re-
199 lates back to our introductory questions.²

200 2.3 Operationalization of measurement invariance between and within subjects

201 Mellenbergh's general MI definition gives rise to testable model constraints when imple-
202 mented in the context of a concrete latent variable model. The latent variable modeling
203 framework explicitly distinguishes between a (reflective) measurement model, in which the
204 observed indicators are modeled as a function of the latent variables of psychological interest,
205 and a structural model, which concerns the latent variables and their interrelationships. The
206 linear factor model may be viewed as a proper measurement model in which multiple contin-
207 uous indicators are linearly regressed upon a single continuous latent variable (e.g., Mellen-
208 bergh, 1994). In the linear factor model, MI has been associated with the constraints of strict
209 factorial invariance (strict FI; Meredith, 1993) for the standard between-subject context.
210 However, this measurement model features not only in structural equation modeling at the
211 between-subject level (SEM) but also in state-space modeling of time series data at the with-
212 in-subject level (SSM; Chow, Ho, Hamaker, & Dolan, 2010; Oud, van den Bercken, & Es-
213 sers, 1990). We argue that strict FI should be equally applicable at the inter-individual and
214 the intra-individual level. That is, strict FI over (subsets of) subjects within occasions, i.e.,
215 subject invariant measurement parameters such as factor loadings, intercepts and residual
216 variances should almost certainly imply MI over subjects within occasions. In addition, strict
217 FI over (subsets of) occasions or time within subjects, i.e., time-invariant measurement pa-

² The shift in perspective from MI with respect to specific variables to MI over subjects or time has interesting implica-
tions (cf. Meredith, 1993, p. 529, theorem 3). MI over subjects implies MI with respect to any variable that varies exhaust-
ively over subjects within the population considered. Equivalently, and under the assumption of an appropriate sampling
rate over time, MI over time implies MI with respect to any variable that varies exhaustively within the period of time
considered. Hence, by taking this perspective, one automatically accounts for all measured or unmeasured (discrete and
finite) background variables that vary along the dimensions time and subject (cf. Lubke et al., 2003b).

rameters, should almost certainly imply MI over time within subjects for the given sampling rate.³

3 A bottom-up approach from full heterogeneity to ergodicity

3.1 The baseline model

We now demonstrate the relation between ergodicity and MI in the context of linear stochastic time series models in state-space format (Chow et al., 2010; Durbin & Koopman, 2001; Hamaker & Dolan, 2009; Hamilton, 1994; Harvey, 1989; Oud, et al., 1990). Such models primarily account for intra-individual variation over time. However, by specifying them within many subjects simultaneously we can extend them to multi-subject models. The conditions under which modeling results are generalizable over time, over subjects, and over time and subjects simultaneously may then be expressed in terms of specific invariance constraints. Furthermore, the state-space format incorporates a measurement model and a latent process model which allows distinguishing among constraints that apply to the measurement parameters and constraints that apply to latent parameters. In the following, subscript i and t refer to subject and discrete time, respectively. We assume equidistant measurement occasions throughout.

The latent process model is formulated as

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t}\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t}$ is a $q \times 1$ vector of latent variables, the states, which are regressed on themselves at the previous time point, $\mathbf{B}_{i,t}$ is a $q \times q$ matrix of latent regression parameters capturing the auto- and cross-lagged regression relationships among the states over time, and $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t}$ is a $q \times 1$ vector of latent regression intercepts. The vector $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ is a $q \times 1$ vector of latent residuals which are assumed to be multivariate normally distributed with mean zero and covariance matrix $\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t}$. The latent residuals are uncorrelated over time and uncorrelated with $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1}$. The model-implied mean vector of the latent states, $\mathbf{v}_{i,t}$, can be expressed as a function of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t}$, $\mathbf{B}_{i,t}$, and $\mathbf{v}_{i,t-1}$. The model-implied covariance-matrix of the latent states, $\mathbf{P}_{i,t}$, can be expressed as a function of $\mathbf{B}_{i,t}$, and $\mathbf{P}_{i,t-1}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t}$. Note that although the formal process is driven by a vector autoregressive process of first order, the actual psychological process needs not obey this structure. This so-called single lag structure renders the model fitting process technically convenient. However, any uni- or multivariate autoregressive moving average model can be accommodated (i.e., reformulated in terms of a first order vector autoregressive process) by extending the state vector by the relevant process components (e.g., Hamaker & Dolan, 2009; Harvey, 1989; Shumway & Stoffer, 2011).

The measurement model is formulated as

$$\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i,t}\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{y}_{i,t}$ is a $p \times 1$ vector of manifest indicators, $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i,t}$ is a $p \times q$ matrix of factor loadings and $\boldsymbol{\tau}_{i,t}$ is a $p \times 1$ vector of measurement intercepts. The $p \times 1$ vector $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ contains measurement

³Under the assumptions that multivariate normality holds, it is unlikely that variation in measurement error variance and variation in specific factor variance cancel each other out across occasions and subjects respectively, and it is unlikely that variation in measurement intercepts and variation in specific factor means cancel each other out across occasions and subjects respectively (cf. Lubke et al. 2003a; Lubke et al., 2003b; Meredith, 1993).

253 residuals, ideally measurement errors, which are assumed to be multivariate normally distrib-
 254 uted with mean zero and covariance matrix $\Theta_{i,t}$. The measurement residuals are uncorrelated
 255 over time and uncorrelated with $\eta_{i,t}$ and $\zeta_{i,t}$. Here, we additionally assume zero correlations
 256 among the measurement residuals, i.e., $\Theta_{i,t}$ is diagonal, satisfying the assumption of local
 257 independence. The model-implied mean vector of the indicators, $\mu_{i,t}$ can be expressed as a
 258 function of $\tau_{i,t}$, $\Lambda_{i,t}$, and $\nu_{i,t}$. The model-implied covariance-matrix of the indicators, $\Sigma_{i,t}$,
 259 can be expressed as a function of $\Lambda_{i,t}$, and $\mathbf{P}_{i,t}$ and $\Theta_{i,t}$. As noted, this measurement model is
 260 equivalent to the linear factor model as it features in standard between-subject SEM (Chow et
 261 al., 2010; Oud et al., 1990).

262 The model in equations (2) and (3) is our baseline model. Note that the model is complete-
 263 ly unrestricted with respect to time and subject, meaning that all model parameters can vary
 264 in value over time and subjects, but also that the model structure can be subject- and time-
 265 dependent. This concerns the dimensionality of the state vector, the pattern of factor loadings,
 266 and in the pattern of interrelationships among latent states and latent residuals. As a conse-
 267 quence, the model-implied covariance matrix, and the model-implied mean vector are sub-
 268 ject- and time-dependent. Theoretically, the model does thus accommodate full heterogeneity
 269 within and between subjects. We now impose increasingly restrictive invariance constraints
 270 relating to the dimensions time and subject. We first consider the model constraints that lead
 271 from total heterogeneity to MI over time and subjects. We then consider the additional model
 272 constraints that eventually result in full invariance over time and subjects, i.e., an ergodic
 273 process, as discussed by Molenaar and colleagues (e.g., Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar & Camp-
 274 bell, 2009). The different models are organized in form of a taxonomy. **Figure 1** represents
 275 this taxonomy in terms of model equations and verbal terms. As we are interested in the con-
 276 ditions that establish equivalence between the intra- and inter-individual level of analysis, we
 277 focus on those models in which we impose constraints simultaneously within and between
 278 subjects.

279 3.2 Modes of equivalence between the intra- and inter-individual level of analysis

280 We first consider the baseline model as a reference. As presented in equations (2) and (3)
 281 neither the measurement model nor the latent process model is restricted over time or over
 282 subjects. Note that, technically, the model is not identified until some sort of time-related
 283 pattern is imposed. Assuming some pattern would also be indicated from a theoretical per-
 284 spective. This needs however not involve constraining (measurement) model parameters to be
 285 time-invariant. There is thus no equivalence relationship between the intra- and the inter-
 286 individual level. A model based on pooled data over occasions and subjects would address a
 287 process that is a mixture over time and subjects unconditional and conditional on the latent
 288 process (cf. Muthén, 1989). Applying the interpretation of MI as unbiasedness results in the
 289 following conclusions. The absence of MI over time within subjects due to time-varying
 290 measurement parameters indicates that within any given person there is systematic observed
 291 variability over time that is not attributable to the targeted latent variables in $\eta_{i,t}$. Since MI
 292 over subjects within time points does also not hold due to person-specific measurement pa-
 293 rameters there is systematic observed variability between persons that is not attributable to
 294 the targeted latent variables. Different time- and subject-varying variables may cause meas-
 295 urement variance and these associations may be person- and indicator-specific and may
 296 change over time. As long as these (unknown) variables and their effects on the indicators are
 297 not accounted for, the interpretation of the latent variables as they develop over time and dif-
 298 fer over subjects remains complicated. This is in accordance with the notion of MI as theoret-
 299 ical equivalence which holds that the latent variables in $\eta_{i,t}$ are not necessarily interpretable
 300 in an invariant sense over time or subjects. That would become directly apparent in an ex-

301 treme case, in which the measurement model would display different factor loading patterns
 302 over time or subjects. In the discussion, we elaborate on recently suggested strategies to han-
 303 dle and explore such a situation.

304 By constraining all parameters to be invariant over time and subjects we obtain the ex-
 305 treme opposite. The measurement and process model reduce to

$$\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \quad (4)$$

306 and

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \mathbf{B} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \quad (5)$$

307 with

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}),$$

$$\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}).$$

308 An additional requirement ensuring stationarity of the latent process, i.e. time-invariant
 309 process characteristics, is that all eigenvalues of matrix \mathbf{B} are less than one in absolute value
 310 (Hamilton, 1994; Molenaar, 2004). Note that the model-implied distributions of observed and
 311 latent variables are now independent of subject and time. This model thus represents an oper-
 312 ationalization an ergodic process under the assumption of normality (Molenaar, 2004, p.
 313 208). Under these conditions one (intra-individual) process model generalizes across the en-
 314 tire time span and across all subjects in the population considered, i.e., the individual state-
 315 space time series models coincide with a standard between-subject longitudinal factor model
 316 based on at least two occasions (Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar et al., 2003). Consequently, the
 317 between-subject model provides a description of the intra-individual dynamics of each indi-
 318 vidual in the population and over the entire period of time considered (e.g., Hamaker et al.
 319 2005; Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar & Campbell, 2009).⁴ Pooling over persons and time points
 320 is feasible as modeling results are fully generalizable between and within subjects.

321 Between these two extreme variants is the model in which the invariance constraints only
 322 concern the measurement model. Strict FI imposed simultaneously with respect to time and
 323 subject implies MI with respect to time and subject and results in the model

$$\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \quad (6)$$

324 and

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \quad (7)$$

325 with

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}),$$

⁴ If we compared a strictly cross-sectional between-subject structural equation model to an intra-individual state-space time series model, the structural model parameters would necessarily be non-equivalent as soon as lagged relationships are present within the subject (cf. Voelkle, Brose, Schmiedek, & Lindenberger, 2014). Clearly, these can only be estimated based on longitudinal data. However, the model-implied overall covariance and mean-structures of the indicators can still be the same for a cross-sectional between-subject model and a within-subject model.

$$\zeta_{i,t} \sim N(0, \Psi_{i,t}).$$

326 Note that the conditions for MI over time and subjects concern only the measurement pro-
 327 cess, that is, invariance of the model parameters over time and subjects conditional on the
 328 latent process. Simultaneous MI over time and subjects thus represents a form of structural
 329 equivalence between levels of analysis that still allows for substantial heterogeneity with re-
 330 spect to the latent variables and their interrelations over time and over subjects. Consequent-
 331 ly, we propose to distinguish between two *modes* of structural equivalence. That is, a mode of
 332 measurement equivalence, which involves MI over time and subjects but does not include
 333 equivalence of the interrelations among the latent variables and latent residuals, and a distinct
 334 mode of full equivalence, which is ergodicity. A model based on data pooled over occasions
 335 or subjects would imply a latent process that is a mixture over time and subjects whereas
 336 modeling results regarding the measurement process would be generalizable over time and
 337 subjects.

338 Interpreting MI as biasedness of the indicators, this model implies that systematic ob-
 339 served intra-individual as well as inter-individual variability is attributable to the targeted
 340 latent variables in $\eta_{i,t}$. The interpretation as theoretical invariance holds that the same latent
 341 variables are measured within and between subjects. Systematic within- and between-subject
 342 variation can be viewed as variation on the same set of latent variables (cf. Lubke et al.,
 343 2003a). The model would thus capture intra-individual dynamics and inter-individual differ-
 344 ences therein with respect to the targeted latent variables (cf. Hamaker et al., 2007). In this
 345 sense, measurement equivalence could be considered a necessary condition for studying in-
 346 tra- and inter-individual differences pertaining to the latent variables of interest.

347 4 Illustration

348 4.1 Purpose of illustration, data description and selection

349 We show how measurement invariance can be investigated (a) over subjects and (b) over
 350 time within a given subject. As we use a modeling approach for stationary time series data we
 351 shall limit our illustration to time series models which we assume to be invariant with respect
 352 to time. We demonstrate below, that these models allow us to incorporate measurement vari-
 353 ance over time to a limited extent.

354 We use data from Borkenau and Ostendorf (1998) that consist of individual time series of
 355 self-ratings on personality items. On 90 successive days, 22 students indicated the degree to
 356 which 30 adjectives applied to their daily state. Standard between-subject factor analysis
 357 showed that the items measure the inter-individual difference traits Neuroticism, Extraver-
 358 sion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience (e.g., Borkenau & Os-
 359 tendorf, 1990; Borkenau & Ostendorf, 1998; McCrae & John, 1992). The response format
 360 was a 7 point scale with high scores indicating high correspondence between described and
 361 perceived state.

362 For our present illustration, we consider a subset of items and subjects with approximately
 363 continuously and normally distributed responses, and the absence of obvious mean-level-
 364 trends or variability-changes in the series over time⁵. We focus on three individuals (subjects

⁵ We selected subjects based on visual inspection of the frequency distributions and time series plots of their respons-
 es. Although the five factor marker items may be considered discrete, they are often treated as continuous in the literature
 (e.g., Borkenau & Ostendorf, 1998; Hamaker, Dolan, & Molenaar, 2005; Hamaker, Nesselroade, & Molenaar, 2007;
 Rammstedt & John, 2005). Indeed, Dolan (1994) demonstrated, that treating indicators with at least 7 ordered response

365 7, 13, and 22), and their responses to the extraversion (“dynamic”, “sociable”, “shy”, “silent”,
 366 “lively”, “reserved”) and agreeableness marker items (“selfish”, “good-natured”, “domineer-
 367 ing”, “helpful”, “obstinate”, “considerate”). The individual data and descriptive figures are
 368 available as supplementary materials.

369 4.2 Determining the individual state-space time series models

370 To set up the individual models, we imposed a two-factor measurement model on each in-
 371 dividual’s data, such that the extraversion marker items load on one, the agreeableness mark-
 372 er items on a second factor. Note that there is no guarantee that the two-factor model, which
 373 would be expected to fit the data in standard inter-individual factor analysis, will fit the indi-
 374 vidual time series data (e.g., Hamaker et al., 2005; Molenaar, 2004; Molenaar & Campbell,
 375 2009). By means of exploratory factor analysis, one could identify individual factor solutions
 376 that would potentially be person-specific (regarding sets of factors and factor loading pat-
 377 terns) and then conduct within-person fit comparisons between the individual models and the
 378 two-factor model (e.g., Hamaker et al., 2005; Hamaker et al., 2007). Here, we assume con-
 379 figural invariance over individuals, that is, an invariant number of factors and an invariant
 380 factor loading pattern (Meredith, 1993).

381 We determined the individual process models by modeling the auto- and cross-lagged rela-
 382 tionships among the factors using the Fortran program MKF (Dolan, 2010)⁶. This program
 383 can fit linear stochastic time series models in state-space format to stationary time series data
 384 via the linear, time-invariant Kalman filter algorithm. For correctly specified state-space
 385 models the Kalman filter provides optimal estimates of the latent variable states over time
 386 and gives rise to ML estimates of the model parameters. Detailed explanations of the estima-
 387 tion procedure can for instance be found in the econometric (e.g., Durbin & Koopman, 2001;
 388 Hamilton, 1994; Harvey, 1989) and psychometric literature (e.g., Chow et al., 2010; Oud et
 389 al. 1990). Within each individual we contrasted vector auto-regressive processes of first order
 390 (VAR(1)), second order (VAR(2)) and of order zero (VAR(0)). In the last case, the factors do
 391 not display lagged relationships. We pruned models by fixing to zero non-significant rela-
 392 tionships in $\mathbf{B}_{i,t}$ and $\mathbf{\Psi}_{i,t}$ (overall- $\alpha=.05$). We imposed scaling by fixing the latent intercepts
 393 to zero and the latent residual variances to one. The information criteria BIC (Schwarz, 1978)
 394 and AIC (Akaike, 1974) served as main indicators for relative model fit but we also conduct-
 395 ed Log-Likelihood difference tests where models were nested ($\alpha=.05$). **Table 1** provides an
 396 overview of the results and **Figure 2** shows path diagrammatic representations of the individ-
 397 ual models.

398 According to AIC and BIC, subjects 7 and 22 both display a latent process that involves
 399 lagged relationships among the factors. For subject 7 there is only one auto-regressive effect
 400 of first order for the agreeableness factor, for subject 22 there is the full set of first- and sec-
 401 ond-order auto- and cross-lagged regression effects. In case of subject 13 the latent process
 402 does not contain any lagged effects among the factors. Within occasions, both factors are
 403 correlated within each of the three subjects.

categories as continuous, does not affect standard errors and overall test statistics of normal theory maximum likelihood estimation - if the distribution of each indicator is not too skewed. Lubke and Muthén (2004) investigated problematic effects of skewed indicator distributions of pseudo-continuous items in standard confirmatory factor analysis.

⁶ The program (including documentation) is available by request from c.v.dolan@vu.nl. All MKF in- and output files for the models fitted are available as supplementary materials. These also include R-code to set up data and input files for MKF, execute MKF, and read MKF output files.

404 With respect to the individual measurement models, the loadings relating the extraversion
 405 indicators to the corresponding factor seem to be relatively homogeneous and reasonably
 406 large within each individual (although the measurement residual variances are consistently
 407 large). This is different for the agreeableness indicators which are associated not only with
 408 more heterogeneous loadings but also with loadings close to zero as in case of the item “help-
 409 ful”. Especially for subject 7 it is questionable whether one coherent dimension underlies his
 410 or her responses to the agreeableness indicators. However, to test this we would have to em-
 411 ploy a more explorative approach as outlined above. Note that the loading signs suggest that
 412 the factors are inverted in some cases.

Table 1. Comparison of different process models within individuals

| Process model | npars | -2LogL | AIC | BIC | χ^2 -increase (relative to) | df | p |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------|--------|----------------------------------|----|-------|
| Subject 7 | | | | | | | |
| VAR(0) | 37 | 1089 | 1163 | 1255 | 10.377(VAR(1)) | 4 | .035 |
| | | | | | 6.993(VAR(1)*) | 1 | .008 |
| VAR(1) | 41 | 1079 | 1161 | 1263 | | | |
| <i>VAR(1)*</i> | 38 | 1082 | 1158 | 1253 | 3.384(VAR(1)) | 3 | .336 |
| VAR(2) | 45 | 1095 | 1185 | 1297 | | | |
| Subject 13 | | | | | | | |
| <i>VAR(0)</i> | 37 | 1522 | 1596 | 1689 | 5.221(VAR(1)) | 4 | 0.265 |
| VAR(1) | 41 | 1517 | 1599 | 1702 | | | |
| VAR(2) | 45 | 1515 | 1605 | 1718 | | | |
| Subject 22 | | | | | | | |
| VAR(0) | 37 | 1212 | 1286 | 1378 | 23.655(VAR(1)) | 4 | .000 |
| VAR(0)* | 36 | 1214 | 1286 | 1376 | 1.815(VAR(0)) | 1 | .178 |
| VAR(1) | 41 | 1188 | 1270 | 1373 | | | |
| VAR(1)* | 37 | 1202 | 1276 | 1368 | 13.366 (VAR(1)) | 4 | .010 |
| <i>VAR(2)</i> | 45 | 1161 | 1251 | 1363.7 | | | |
| VAR(2)* | 39 | 1189 | 1267 | 1364.1 | 27.390 (VAR(2)) | 6 | .000 |

Note. Model variants denoted with an asterisk are pruned with respect to simultaneous and lagged relationships. The relatively best fitting model according to AIC and BIC is set in italics. χ^2 -differences are reported for nested models.

413 4.3 Addressing MI over subjects

414 To address MI over subjects we made use of the multi-group modus in MKF treating each
 415 individual as a group. FI was then tested via pairwise comparisons between all three subjects.
 416 Since we scaled in the latent space by standardizing the conditional latent states, all factor
 417 loadings and measurement intercepts are freely estimated and can thus all be subjected to a
 418 test of invariance across groups (Raykov et al., 2012). In order to not confound FI constraints
 419 with invariance constraints pertaining to the latent level, we freely estimated the latent resid-

420 ual variances in one of the subjects whenever the factor loadings were constrained to equali-
 421 ty. Equivalently, we freed the latent intercepts in one of the models, whenever the measure-
 422 ment intercepts were constrained to equality (Raykov et al., 2012; Wicherts & Dolan, 2010).

423 **Table 2** provides an overview of the results.

424 For all pairwise comparisons between subjects, the AIC and the BIC favored the weakly
 425 factorial invariant model. Note that a χ^2 -difference-test for instance between the configurally
 426 invariant and the strictly factorial invariant model cannot be conducted as the models are not
 427 nested. This is due to the freely estimated latent parameters in the strictly factorial invariant
 428 model (Raykov et al.; 2012). The finding of subject-invariant factor loadings suggests that the
 429 same dimensions underlie the variation within each of the three individuals (Hamaker et al.,
 430 2007). These are however not necessarily the dimensions underlying the differences between
 431 individuals (Lubke et al., 2003a; Hamaker, 2007) as, according to the fit indices used, uni-
 432 form bias is likely to be present for at least some of the items. Meaningful comparisons be-
 433 tween subjects can be considered feasible as long as they refer to differences in the structure
 434 of latent intra-individual variation only. The extent and nature of potential uniform bias be-
 435 tween individuals could be the subject of subsequent analyses.

Table 2. Multi-group models with measurement parameters constrained over groups

| Measurement models | npars | -2LogL | AIC | BIC | χ^2 -increase (relative to) | df | p |
|---|-------|--------|------|------|----------------------------------|----|------|
| Comparison between subjects 7 and 13 | | | | | | | |
| Configural invariance | 75 | 2604 | 2754 | 2942 | | | |
| <u>Weak FI</u> (Λ invariant) | 65 | 2621 | 2751 | 2913 | | | |
| Strong FI (Λ, τ invariant) | 55 | 2797 | 2907 | 3044 | | | |
| Strict FI (Λ, τ, Θ invariant) | 43 | 2863 | 2949 | 3056 | 66.087(Strong FI) | 12 | .000 |
| Comparison between subjects 7 and 22 | | | | | | | |
| Configural invariance | 83 | 2242 | 2408 | 2616 | | | |
| <u>Weak FI</u> (Λ invariant) | 73 | 2255 | 2401 | 2583 | | | |
| Strong FI (Λ, τ invariant) | 63 | 2474 | 2600 | 2757 | | | |
| Strict FI (Λ, τ, Θ invariant) | 51 | 2516 | 2618 | 2745 | 42.156(Strong FI) | 12 | .000 |
| Comparison between subjects 13 and 22 | | | | | | | |
| Configural invariance | 82 | 2684 | 2848 | 3053 | | | |
| <u>Weak FI</u> (Λ invariant) | 72 | 2701 | 2845 | 3025 | | | |
| Strong FI | 62 | 2787 | 2911 | 3066 | | | |

(Λ , τ invariant)

Strict FI 50 6162 6262 6387 3374.630(Strong FI) 12 .000

(Λ , τ , Θ invariant)

Note. The relatively best fitting model according to AIC and BIC is set in italics. χ^2 -differences are reported for nested models.

436 4.4 Addressing MI over time

437 Strict FI over occasions cannot be tested directly, as we confined this illustration to time-
438 invariant models. However, we can investigate whether strict FI over time is violated in a
439 specific sense. We do this by testing for uniform bias of the indicators with respect to a se-
440 lected time-varying variable X . This can be cast in terms of a main-effect of X on the indica-
441 tors additionally to the latent variables (Lubke et al., 2003b).

442 We extend the time-invariant model for a given individual $i = i^*$ to

$$443 \mathbf{y}_{i^*,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{i^*} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i^*}\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i^*,t} + \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{i^*}\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i^*,t} \quad (8)$$

443 and

$$444 \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i^*,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i^*,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i^*,t}\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i^*,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{i^*}\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i^*,t} \quad (9)$$

444 where $\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t}$ is a $r \times 1$ vector of (manifest) variables and $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{i^*}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{i^*}$ are $p \times r$ and $q \times r$ matri-
445 ces of regression coefficients. If there is a significant effect of at least one variable in $\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t}$ on
446 at least one of the indicators, measurement invariance over time would be violated, as - re-
447 turning to Mellenbergh's definition - the distribution of the indicators is dependent on $\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t}$
448 conditional on the latent variables (Lubke et al., 2003b). However, the absence of uniform
449 bias with respect to $\mathbf{x}_{i^*,t}$ implies neither MI with respect to this variable (which may still in-
450 troduce non-uniform bias or be associated with varying measurement residual variances), nor
451 MI with respect to other time-varying variables, let alone MI with respect to time.

452 We focused on the neuroticism marker item “bad tempered” as a mood indicator and po-
453 tentially biasing variable in subject 7. The results are shown in **table 3** and the path diagram-
454 matic representation of the corresponding model is displayed in **figure 3**.

455 The BIC which is more responsive to parsimony than the AIC (Hamaker et al., 2005) fa-
456 vors the model without direct effect of the mood indicator on all indicators and the agreea-
457 bleness indicators respectively. Both AIC and χ^2 -difference test suggest that uniform bias is
458 present for at least one of the indicators. In a given modeling application one could investi-
459 gate whether uniform bias can be accounted or controlled for also with respect to other poten-
460 tially biasing covariates. Ultimately however, one needs to decide whether one is willing to
461 discard other forms of bias over time as unlikely or whether actually a modeling approach
462 that incorporates time-varying parameters is the more valid and more interesting alternative.
463 Fitting the “wrong” model to intra-individual data which could be a measurement-invariant or
464 more generally a time-invariant model, will also affect the quality of between-person compar-
465 isons. We briefly outline modeling approaches to time-varying dynamics in the discussion.

Table 3. Comparison of models incorporating a potentially biasing variable x for subject 7

| Model | npars | -2LogL | AIC | BIC | χ^2 -increase (relative to) | df | p |
|---|-------|--------|------|------|--|----|------|
| $\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\eta}$ on \mathbf{x} | 52 | 1010 | 1114 | 1244 | | | |
| $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ on \mathbf{x} | 40 | 1044 | 1124 | 1224 | 34.250 ($\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\eta}$ on \mathbf{x}) | 12 | .001 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|------|------|------|--------|---|--------|
| $\mathbf{y}(a), \boldsymbol{\eta}(a)$ on \mathbf{x} | 45 | 1034 | 1124 | 1237 | | | |
| $\boldsymbol{\eta}(a)$ on \mathbf{x} | 39 | 1049 | 1127 | 1225 | 15.061 | $(\mathbf{y}(a), \boldsymbol{\eta}(a)$ on $\mathbf{x})$ | 6 .020 |

Note. $\mathbf{y}(a)$ denotes the agreeableness marker items, and $\boldsymbol{\eta}(a)$ denotes the agreeableness factor. We allowed for direct effects of \mathbf{x} on the latent variables but did not establish whether these were significant. χ^2 -differences are reported for nested models.

466 5 Discussion

467 In this paper, we showed how MI (e.g., Mellenbergh, 1989), if present, may facilitate or, if
 468 absent, may complicate the generalizability of modeling results within and between subjects.
 469 Tying into the ergodicity debate (e.g., Molenaar, 2004), we clarified the relationship between
 470 the concepts of MI and ergodicity in the context of general latent variable modeling as well as
 471 in a linear multi-subject state-space time series model. We concluded that MI holding simul-
 472 taneously over time and subjects implies a mode of structural equivalence between the intra-
 473 and the inter-individual level of analysis that is distinct from full structural equivalence, i.e.,
 474 ergodicity. That is, measurement equivalence is a mode of structural equivalence conditional
 475 on the latent process. Following common interpretations of measurement invariance, the
 476 mode of measurement equivalence could be considered an important condition for integrative
 477 latent variable modeling of intra- and inter-individual differences (cf. Ellis & van den Wol-
 478 lenberg, 1993, who stress the importance of local homogeneity in IRT-modeling which is
 479 tantamount to measurement equivalence; cf. Millsap, 2011). Using intra-individual time se-
 480 ries data from three individuals on daily personality states, we investigated the tenability of
 481 MI constraints over subjects and over time. Although strict FI over subjects was absent, the
 482 presence of weak FI suggested that between-subject comparisons were feasible with respect
 483 to the structure of latent intra-individual variation. We were limited in investigating MI over
 484 time due to the time-invariant models we employed. Consequently, we could test for specific
 485 MI violations but we did not address unbiasedness with respect to time.

486 The results of our illustration are in line with a growing body of empirical work investigat-
 487 ing potential relationships between the structures of intra- and inter-individual variation and
 488 means. So, although we presented measurement equivalence as a less restrictive mode of
 489 equivalence between levels of analysis than full structural equivalence, we acknowledge that
 490 even this weaker form of structural equivalence may be overly restrictive. We can therefore
 491 only stress that the problem of non-ergodicity must in part be viewed as a measurement prob-
 492 lem since the violation of measurement invariance with respect to time and subject is a source
 493 of heterogeneity within and between individuals (cf. Borsboom, Kievit, Cervone, & Hood,
 494 2009; Nesselroade et al., 2007; Nesselroade et al., 2009). It was the aim of this paper to show
 495 that the investigation of measurement related heterogeneity within and between individuals in
 496 latent variable modeling qualifies as a problem which is related to but also distinct from the
 497 problem of ergodicity.

498 Regarding a closer examination of measurement related heterogeneity, the presented tax-
 499 onomy is clearly an abstraction. In practice, the finding of untenable MI constraints is not
 500 necessarily the end of an investigation. Modeling application situations falling in the baseline
 501 model category and associated problems of measurement variance can be of very different
 502 nature. For instance, it may be possible to interpret measurement variance substantively
 503 against a given theoretical background (Kelderman & Molenaar, 2007; Millsap & Hartog,
 504 1988). As an example, consider developmental or interventional effects over time, which may
 505 manifest as quantitative changes in given parameters, and, more importantly, in changes in
 506 the nature or meaning of the psychological entities of interest (Kelderman & Molenaar, 2007,
 507 Millsap & Hartog, 1988; Molenaar, 2004; Schmiedek et al., 2009). Also, even if measure-

508 ment variance is considered a nuisance factor, only a few indicators may display measure-
509 ment variance. Subsequent analyses may then locate the MI violation in the model and estab-
510 lish whether the number of unbiased indicators is sufficient to proceed with meaningful latent
511 variable modeling, as we have indicated in the illustration (Byrne, Shavelson & Muthén,
512 1989; Wicherts & Dolan, 2010). Likewise, not all subjects within a sample and not all occa-
513 sions within a period of time may be affected by measurement variance. It may then be pos-
514 sible to identify intra- or inter-individual variables that explain measurement variance (Mel-
515 lenbergh, 1989). In the present context, this relates to the concept of conditional equivalence
516 introduced by Voelkle and colleagues (Voelkle et al., 2014). In a simulation study these au-
517 thors show that full equivalence between inter- and intra-individual model structures can easi-
518 ly be obscured by incorporating single factors that introduce subject- and time-related hetero-
519 geneity, e.g., linear mean trends over time, differences between groups of individuals. Con-
520 versely, it might be possible to identify such factors for certain constructs and control for
521 them in order to establish conditional equivalence, that is, equivalence for subgroups of indi-
522 viduals and occasions. In case equivalence is well hidden or absent, one can still explore the
523 various types of less restrictive (unconditional) relationships that may arise between intra-
524 individual and inter-individual model characteristics (cf. Brose et al., in press; Kuppens, Al-
525 len, & Sheeber, 2010; Montpetit, Bergeman, Deboeck, Tiberio, & Boker, 2010).

526 These approaches to the links between levels of analysis have yet to be utilized to specifi-
527 cally address measurement variance within and between individuals. To further emphasize
528 why these approaches could be both interesting and necessary given measurement related
529 heterogeneity within and between individuals, let us return to the assumptions, upon which
530 MI is predicated. These concern the existence of the latent variables of interest and the ap-
531 propriateness of the observed variables as indicators. The first premise holds, that the indica-
532 tors are – although possibly imperfect, i.e., biased - valid in principle (cf. Meredith, 1964;
533 Meredith, 1993). That is, the indicators are to some extent measuring the variable they were
534 designed to measure (Millsap, 2011) and these psychometric qualities should hold absolutely
535 true or at least hold true for the units of analysis we wish to compare, say, a sample of indi-
536 viduals (Nesselroade, Ram, Gerstorf, & Hardy, 2009). This in turn requires the assumption
537 that the targeted latent variable is indeed given (Mellenbergh, 1989) or a theoretically sensi-
538 ble construct across the selected individuals. As noted by Byrne and Campbell (1999) these
539 premises may be questionable, for instance in applying a measurement instrument in a set-
540 ting, other than the setting in which it was developed. The setting may be determined by the
541 cultural background of the examinees or the dimension of analysis, e.g., the intra-individual
542 dimension. Hence, a violation of MI with respect to differing setting conditions can be indica-
543 tive in the following regard. First, it may be that the given test is not valid under some condi-
544 tions although the latent variable is - on an abstract level - existent or theoretically sensible.
545 The latent variable simply manifests differently under different conditions (e.g., Byrne &
546 Campbell, 1999). Nesselroade and colleagues (2007; 2009) pointed out that a targeted con-
547 struct (e.g., athletic performance) may be a sensible choice for comparing different individu-
548 als – but may require the use of individual-specific indicators (“How well do you play tennis
549 vs. golf?”). Second, a given test may be invalid under certain conditions because the con-
550 struct is not conceptually sensible across conditions. To label these two scenarios, Byrne and
551 Campbell (1999) refer to the term *construct bias* as opposed to item bias which indicates that
552 the problem has shifted from an “operational” to a “theoretical” problem (Kelderman & Mo-
553 lenaar, 2007, p. 451). The concept of construct bias seems to be highly interesting when con-
554 trasting intra- and inter-individual variation. In the light of increasing empirical evidence in
555 favor of substantive individual specifics (e.g., Hamaker et al., 2005; Brose et al., 2010) it
556 raises the following question: To what extent are traditional psychological constructs (and
557 according measurement instruments) that were derived in a between-subject context applica-

558 ble to intra-individual differences? This is arguably a philosophical question, which has been
559 addressed intensively by Borsboom and colleagues (Borsboom et al., 2003; Borsboom et al.,
560 2009) and by Cervone (2004, 2005). These authors argue that between-subject constructs like
561 extraversion and agreeableness do well in describing inter-individual differences, but are
562 problematic at the level of the individual, where they lack “causal force” (e.g., Cervone,
563 2004; p. 184). That is, per se, they do not map onto specific psychological mechanisms or
564 processes within the individual, and are thus not suitable to feature as explaining factors in a
565 within-subject model of psychological functioning (Borsboom et al., 2009; van der Maas,
566 Dolan, Grasman, Wicherts, Huizenga, & Raijmakers, 2006). Borsboom et al. (2009) con-
567 jecture that there are “infinitely many ways” (p. 88) to achieve a certain outcome on a standard
568 between-subject dimension. The associated constructs thus may lack coherence from an indi-
569 vidual-driven perspective, in that they emerge as abstract aggregates only at the level of the
570 population. However, this pessimistic prospect regarding the meaningful application of inter-
571 individual level constructs to the individual can be probed empirically. Millsap employs the
572 term *differential item functioning* rather than the term bias to indicate that “the researcher is
573 unable or unwilling to clearly define the targeted attribute” (Millsap, 2011; p.9). This can be
574 turned into a positive message, namely to explore measurement variance – be it within or
575 between individuals – as a potentially meaningful phenomenon.

576 An explorative empirical approach to person- and time-related heterogeneity at the level of
577 measurement using the above described strategies and principles can enlighten how meas-
578 urement instruments that were constructed in the between-subject context function at the
579 within-subject level. This in turn can inform (and be informed by) the elaboration of individ-
580 ual-level concepts and theories (e.g., Cervone, 2005) as well as their implementation in em-
581 pirical research in terms of operationalizations, measurement devices, and modeling tech-
582 niques (e.g., Schmiedek et al., 2009). In this sense, it could contribute to building up the theo-
583 retical and conceptual foundation that is needed for a true reorientation towards the individual
584 in differential psychology (Molenaar, 2004).

585 The presented modeling approach has the following limitations, however, that would re-
586 strict such an explorative endeavor. First, we based our modeling on the linear, time-invariant
587 Kalman filter and ML estimation which led to time-invariant time series models. Time-
588 varying model parameters can – to some extent – be accommodated using the extended Kal-
589 man filter (e.g., Chow & Zhang, 2013; Chow, Zu, Shifren, & Zhang, 2011) or a Bayesian
590 approach (e.g., Del Negro & Otrok, 2008). Second, we employed a multi-group approach,
591 i.e., a two-step procedure to address inter-individual differences in intra-individual dynamics.
592 Inter-individual differences in intra-individual model parameters can be quantified and mod-
593 eled directly using a Bayesian multi-level approach (e.g., Lodewyckx, Tuerlinckx, Kuppens,
594 Allen, & Sheeber, 2011). Note, however, that multi-group modeling is in principle less re-
595 strictive than hierarchical modeling. In the present context, it did not impose any restrictions
596 across individuals apart from applying the same modeling framework to each individual’s
597 data. That is, within individuals, we assumed continuous, normal variables, at the manifest
598 and latent level, which were linearly related to each other. Our reliance on the linear factor
599 model here is expedient, although we are satisfied linear modeling of 7 point scales is ade-
600 quate. Generalized linear modeling of intra-individual time series to accommodate discrete
601 indicators is possible (cf. van Rijn, Dolan, & Molenaar, 2010), but at present depends on
602 software development. Non-normally distributed continuous indicators (due to nonlinear ef-
603 fects) can be approximated by mixtures of (un-)conditional normal distributions (e.g., Klein
604 & Moosbrugger, 2010). Note that in our case of single-subject models, mixture models return
605 us to time-varying models (Hunter, 2014), which are increasingly discussed in the psycho-
606 metric literature.

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822 **8 Conflict of interest statement**

823 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or
 824 financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest

825 **9 Figure legends**

826 **Figure 1. Model taxonomy in terms of model equations and verbalized form.**

827 **Figure 2. Relatively best fitting models for subjects 7, 13 and 22.** Paths fixed to zero are
 828 not drawn. Note that these include the regression parameters of the vector eta on the constant,
 829 i.e., vector alpha, which are fixed to zero for scaling purposes. Paths fixed to one are dashed.
 830 These include the latent residual variances in order to provide a latent metric. Freely estimat-
 831 ed paths are drawn in black and parameter point estimates are provided. Items denoted with e
 832 are extraversion marker items, whereas items denoted with a are agreeableness marker items.
 833 The numerical ordering of the items employed here corresponds to the ordering of the items
 834 as given in the data description section. Index i is dropped as the models describe single indi-
 835 viduals.

836 **Figure 3. Individual model for subject 7 including the neuroticism marker item “bad**
 837 **tempered” as a fixed regressor.** According to this representation, the neuroticism item
 838 possibly affects the agreeableness marker items above the potential effect it through the
 839 agreeableness factor.

Figure 1.JPEG

Dimension person / between-subject level

| | | No restrictions | Invariance constraints on the measurement model | Invariance constraints on the measurement and latent model |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Dimension time / within-subject level | No restrictions | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}_{i,t})$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t})$ <p>No invariance over time and subjects</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_t + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}_t)$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t})$ <p>No invariance over time Measurement invariance over subjects</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_t + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_t \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{B}_t \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}_t)$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t)$ <p>No invariance over time Measurement invariance and process invariance over subjects</p> |
| | Invariance constraints on the measurement model | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_i + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_i \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}_i)$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t})$ <p>No invariance over subjects Measurement invariance over time</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i,t} + \mathbf{B}_{i,t} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta})$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{i,t})$ <p>Measurement invariance over time and subjects</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_t + \mathbf{B}_t \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta})$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_t)$ <p>Measurement invariance over time Measurement invariance and process invariance over subjects</p> |
| | Invariance constraints on the measurement and latent model | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau}_i + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_i \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \mathbf{B}_i \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta}_i)$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_i)$ <p>No invariance over subjects Measurement invariance and process invariance over time</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha}_i + \mathbf{B}_i \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta})$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_i)$ <p>Measurement invariance over subjects Measurement invariance and process invariance over time</p> | $\mathbf{y}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\tau} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t} = \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \mathbf{B} \boldsymbol{\eta}_{i,t-1} + \boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t}$ $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Theta})$ $\boldsymbol{\zeta}_{i,t} \sim N(0, \boldsymbol{\Psi})$ <p>Measurement invariance and process invariance over time and subjects</p> |

Figure 2.JPEG

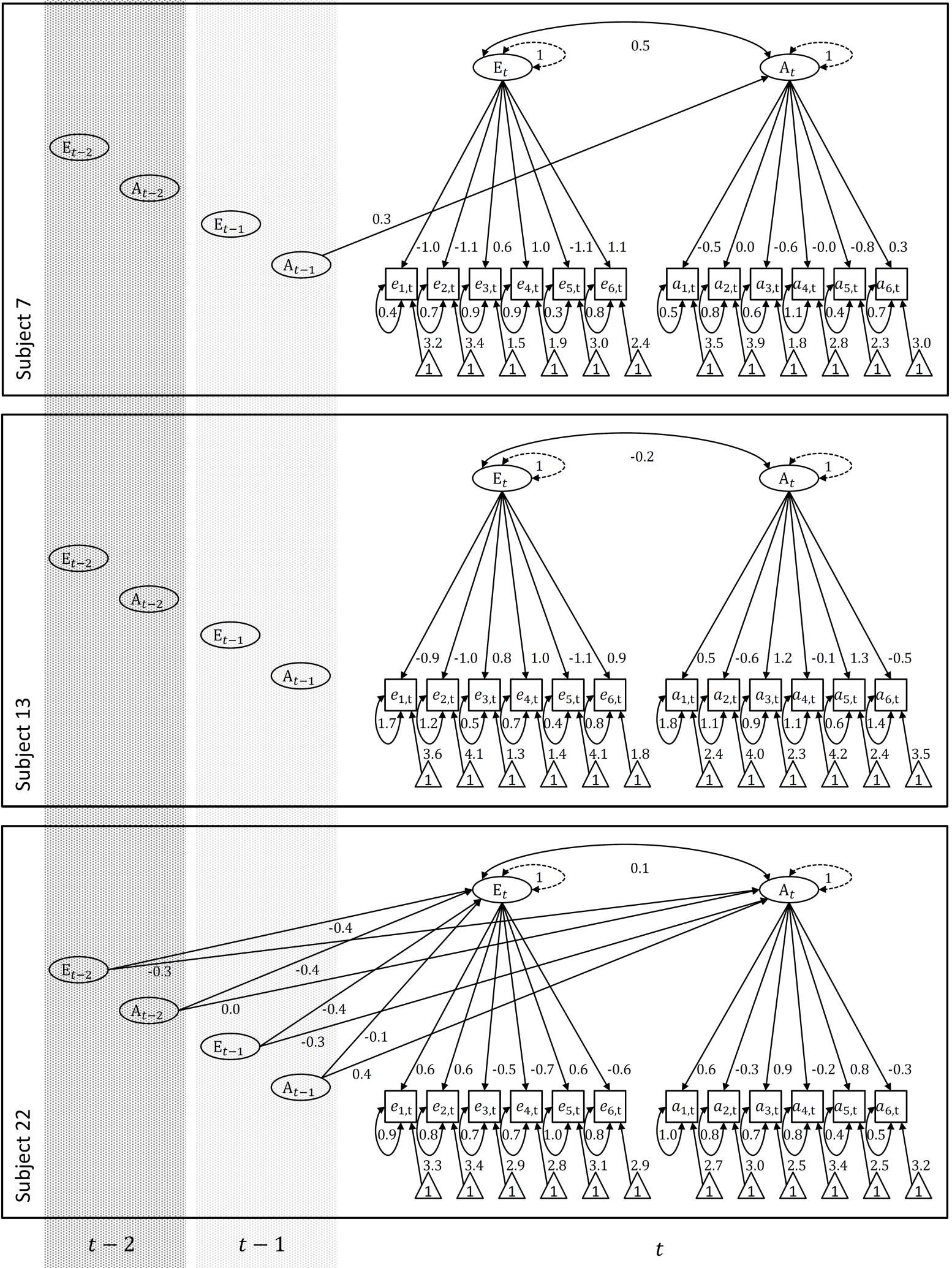


Figure 3.JPEG

