THE TRUTH

(Well, closer to the truth, anyway)

Why should the variance of the factors equal one?

- Inherited from exploratory factor analysis, which was mostly a disaster.
- The standard answer is something like this: “Because it’s arbitrary. The variance depends upon the scale on which the variable is measured, but we can’t see it to measure it directly. So set it to one for convenience.”
- But saying it does not make it so. If F is a random variable with an unknown variance, then
- $Var(F)=\phi$ is an unknown parameter in the model.

True Model

$$
\begin{aligned}
D_1 &= \lambda_1 F + e_1 \\
D_2 &= \lambda_2 F + e_2 \\
D_3 &= \lambda_3 F + e_3 \\
D_4 &= \lambda_4 F + e_4
\end{aligned}
$$

$e_1, \ldots, e_4, F$ all independent

$V(e_j) = \omega_j \quad V(F) = \phi$

$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \neq 0$

Covariance Matrix

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2\phi + \omega_1 & \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi & \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi & \lambda_2^2\phi + \omega_2 & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_3^2\phi + \omega_3 & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_4^2\phi + \omega_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Passes the Counting Rule test

But for c > 0

$\boldsymbol{\theta}_1$	ϕ	λ_1	λ_2	λ_3	λ_4	ω_1	ω_2	ω_3	ω_4
$\boldsymbol{\theta}_2$	ϕ/c^2	$c\lambda_1$	$c\lambda_2$	$c\lambda_3$	$c\lambda_4$	ω_1	ω_2	ω_3	ω_4

Both yield

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2\phi + \omega_1 & \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi & \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi & \lambda_2^2\phi + \omega_2 & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_3^2\phi + \omega_3 & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_4^2\phi + \omega_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

The choice $\phi = 1$ just sets $c = \sqrt{\phi}$: convenient but seemingly arbitrary.

You should be concerned!

- For any set of *true* parameter values, there are infinitely many *untrue* sets of parameter values that yield exactly the same Sigma and hence exactly the same probability distribution of the observable data.
- There is no way to know the *full* truth based on the data, no matter how large the sample size.
- But there is a way to know the *partial* truth.

Certain *functions* of the parameter vector are identifiable

At points in the parameter space where $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \neq 0$,

- $\frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}} = \frac{\lambda_1\lambda_2\phi\lambda_1\lambda_3\phi}{\lambda_2\lambda_3\phi} = \lambda_1^2\phi$
- And so if $\lambda_1 > 0$, the function $\lambda_j\phi^{1/2}$ is identifiable for $j = 1, \ldots, 4$.
- $\sigma_{11} - \frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}} = \omega_1$, a so ω_j is identifiable for $j = 1, \ldots, 4$.
- $\frac{\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}} = \frac{\lambda_1\lambda_3\phi}{\lambda_2\lambda_3\phi} = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}$, so *ratios* of factor loadings are identifiable.

What can we successfully estimate?

- Error variances are knowable.
- Factor loadings and variance of the factor are not knowable separately.
- But both are knowable up to multiplication by a non-zero constant, so *signs of* factor loadings are knowable (if one sign is known).
- Relative magnitudes (ratios) of factor loadings are knowable.

Testing the Model

- Note that all the equality constraints must involve only the covariances: σ_{ij} for i not equal to j
- In the true model, the covariances are all multiplied by the same non-zero constant.
- So, the equality constraints of the true model and the pretend model with ϕ=1 are the same.
- The chi-square test for goodness of fit applies to the true model. This is a great relief!
- Likelihood ratio tests comparing full and reduced models are mostly valid without deep thought.
  - Equality of factor loadings is testable.
  - Could test H_0: $\lambda_4 = 0$, etc.

Re-parameterization

- The choice $\phi=1$ is a very smart re-parameterization.
- It re-expresses the factor loadings as multiples of the square root of ϕ.
- It preserves what information is accessible about the parameters of the true model.
- Much better than exploratory factor analysis, which lost the signs of the factor loadings.
- This is the second major re-parameterization. The first was losing the the means and intercepts.

Add a factor to the true model

$$
\begin{aligned}
D_1 &= \lambda_1 F_1 + e_1 \\
D_2 &= \lambda_2 F_1 + e_2 \\
D_3 &= \lambda_3 F_1 + e_3 \\
D_4 &= \lambda_4 F_2 + e_4 \\
D_4 &= \lambda_5 F_2 + e_5 \\
D_6 &= \lambda_6 F_2 + e_6
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
V \begin{pmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{11} & \phi_{12} \\ \phi_{12} & \phi_{22} \end{pmatrix}
$$

$e_1, \ldots, e_6$ independent of each other and of F_1, F_2
$\lambda_1, \ldots \lambda_6 \neq 0$
$V(e_j) = \omega_j$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2\phi_{11}+\omega_1 & \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi_{11} & \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi_{11} & \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_1\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_1\lambda_6\phi_{12} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_2\phi_{11} & \lambda_2^2\phi_{11}+\omega_2 & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi_{11} & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_2\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_2\lambda_6\phi_{12} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_3\phi_{11} & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi_{11} & \lambda_3^2\phi_{11}+\omega_3 & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_3\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_3\lambda_6\phi_{12} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi_{12} & \lambda_4^2\phi_{22}+\omega_4 & \lambda_4\lambda_5\phi_{22} & \lambda_4\lambda_6\phi_{22} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_2\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_3\lambda_5\phi_{12} & \lambda_4\lambda_5\phi_{22} & \lambda_5^2\phi_{22}+\omega_5 & \lambda_5\lambda_6\phi_{22} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_6\phi_{12} & \lambda_2\lambda_6\phi_{12} & \lambda_3\lambda_6\phi_{12} & \lambda_4\lambda_6\phi_{22} & \lambda_5\lambda_6\phi_{22} & \lambda_6^2\phi_{22}+\omega_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\theta}_1 &= (\lambda_1,\ldots,\lambda_6,\phi_{11},\phi_{12},\phi_{22},\omega_1,\ldots,\omega_6) \\ \boldsymbol{\theta}_2 &= (\lambda'_1,\ldots,\lambda'_6,\phi'_{11},\phi'_{12},\phi'_{22},\omega'_1,\ldots,\omega'_6) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\lambda'_1 = c_1\lambda_1 \quad \lambda'_2 = c_1\lambda_2 \quad \lambda'_3 = c_1\lambda_3 \quad \phi'_{11} = \phi_{11}/c_1^2 \\ &\lambda'_4 = c_2\lambda_4 \quad \lambda'_5 = c_2\lambda_5 \quad \lambda'_6 = c_2\lambda_6 \quad \phi'_{22} = \phi_{22}/c_2^2 \\ &\phi'_{12} = \frac{\phi_{12}}{c_1 c_2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\omega'_j = \omega_j \text{ for } j = 1,\ldots,6$$

Where $c_1>0$ and $c_2>0$

Variances and covariances of factors

- Are knowable only up to multiplication by a unknown positive constants.
- Since the parameters of the latent variable model will be recovered from $\boldsymbol{\Phi}=V(\mathbf{F})$, they also will be knowable only up to multiplication by unknown positive constants – at best.
- Luckily, in most applications the interest is in testing (pos-neg-zero) more than estimation.

Cov(F_1,F_2) is un-knowable, but

- Easy to tell if it's zero
- Sign is known if one factor loading from each set is known – say lambda1>0, lambda4>0
- And,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\sigma_{14}}{\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}}}\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_{45}\sigma_{46}}{\sigma_{56}}}} &= \frac{\lambda_1\lambda_4\phi_{12}}{\lambda_1\sqrt{\phi_{11}}\lambda_4\sqrt{\phi_{22}}} \\
&= \frac{\phi_{12}}{\sqrt{\phi_{11}}\sqrt{\phi_{22}}} \\
&= Corr(F_1, F_2)
\end{aligned}$$

- The <u>correlation</u> between factors is identifiable!

The correlation between factors is identifiable

- Furthermore, it is the *same function of Sigma* that yields ϕ_{12} under the pretend model.
- Therefore, Corr(F_1,F_2) = ϕ_{12} under the pretend model is equivalent to Corr(F_1,F_2) under the true model.
- Estimates and tests of ϕ_{12} under the pretend model apply to $\frac{\phi_{12}}{\sqrt{\phi_{11}}\sqrt{\phi_{22}}}$ under the true model.

Setting variances of factors to one

- Is a very smart re-parameterization
- Is excellent when the interest is in correlations between factors.

- When the interest is in the factor loadings, we can do better.
- Recall that ratios of factor loadings are identifiable.

Back to a single-factor model with $\lambda_1>0$

Re-express all factor loadings relative to λ_1.

- Set $\lambda_j = \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_1}$
- This makes $\lambda_1 = 1$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
D_1 &= F + e_1 \\
D_2 &= \lambda_2 F + e_2 \\
D_3 &= \lambda_3 F + e_3
\end{aligned}
$$

e_1, e_2, e_4, F all independent
$V(e_j) = \omega_j \quad V(F) = \phi$
$\lambda_2, \lambda_3 \neq 0$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi + \omega_1 & \lambda_2\phi & \lambda_3\phi \\ \lambda_2\phi & \lambda_2^2\phi + \omega_2 & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi \\ \lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_3^2\phi + \omega_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Function of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$	Value under Pretend Model	Value under True Model
$\frac{\sigma_{23}}{\sigma_{13}}$	λ_2	$\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}$
$\frac{\sigma_{23}}{\sigma_{12}}$	λ_3	$\frac{\lambda_3}{\lambda_1}$
$\frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}}$	ϕ	$\lambda_1^2\phi$

Under this second pretend model

- It looks like λ_j is identifiable, but actually it's λ_j/λ_1.
- Estimates of λ_j for $j \neq 1$ are actually estimates of λ_j/λ_1.
- It looks like ϕ is identifiable, but actually it's $\lambda_1^2\phi$.
- ϕ is being expressed as a multiple of λ_1^2.
- Estimates of ϕ are actually estimates of $\lambda_1^2\phi$.

Everything is being expressed in terms of λ_1.

Make D_1 the clearest representative of the factor.

Add a variable

- Parameters are all identifiable, even if the factor loading of the new variable equals zero.
- Equality restrictions on Sigma are created, because we are adding more equations than unknowns.
- It is straightforward to see what the restrictions are, though the calculations can be time consuming.

Finding the equality restrictions

- Calculate $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
- Solve the covariance structure equations explicitly, obtaining theta as a function of $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.
- Substitute the solutions back into $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$
- Simplify

Example: Add a 4th variable

$$
\begin{aligned}
D_1 &= F + e_1 \\
D_2 &= \lambda_2 F + e_2 \\
D_3 &= \lambda_3 F + e_3 \\
D_4 &= \lambda_4 F + e_4
\end{aligned}
$$

$e_1, \ldots, e_4, F$ all independent

$V(e_j) = \omega_j \quad V(F) = \phi$

$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \neq 0$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi + \omega_1 & \lambda_2\phi & \lambda_3\phi & \lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_2\phi & \lambda_2^2\phi + \omega_2 & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_3\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_3\phi & \lambda_3^2\phi + \omega_3 & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi \\ \lambda_4\phi & \lambda_2\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_3\lambda_4\phi & \lambda_4^2\phi + \omega_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Solutions

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{\sigma_{23}}{\sigma_{13}}$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{\sigma_{23}}{\sigma_{12}}$$

$$\lambda_4 = \frac{\sigma_{24}}{\sigma_{12}}$$

$$\phi = \frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}}$$

Substitute

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{12} &= \lambda_2\phi \\ &= \frac{\sigma_{23}}{\sigma_{13}}\frac{\sigma_{12}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}} \\ &= \sigma_{12} \end{aligned}$$

Substitute solutions into expressions for the covariances

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sigma_{12} &= \sigma_{12} \\
\sigma_{13} &= \sigma_{13} \\
\sigma_{14} &= \frac{\sigma_{24}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{23}} \\
\sigma_{23} &= \sigma_{23} \\
\sigma_{24} &= \sigma_{24} \\
\sigma_{34} &= \frac{\sigma_{24}\sigma_{13}}{\sigma_{12}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Equality Constraints

$$\sigma_{14}\sigma_{23} = \sigma_{24}\sigma_{13}$$

$$\sigma_{12}\sigma_{34} = \sigma_{24}\sigma_{13}$$

These hold regardless of whether factor loadings are zero (1234).

$$\sigma_{12}\sigma_{34} = \sigma_{13}\sigma_{24} = \sigma_{14}\sigma_{23}$$

For both pretend models

- Parameters of the 3-variable version are just identifiable.
- Six equations in 6 unknowns
- There is a one-to-one function between theta1 and Sigma, and another one-to-one function between theta2 and Sigma.
- So, there is a one-to-one function between theta1 and theta2.
- Add a variable and you really only add 2 more equations in 2 more unknowns – one for lambda and one for omega.
- The rest become (over-identifying) restrictions on the sigmas.
- So the relationship between theta1 and theta2 remains one-to-one.
- The models are equivalent.

Add another 3-variable factor

- Identifiability is maintained.
- The covariance $\phi_{12} = \sigma_{14}$
- Actually $\sigma_{14} = \lambda_1 \lambda_4 \phi_{12}$ under the true model.
- The two pretend models remain one-to-one.
- Again, the covariances of the true model are just those of the pretend model, multiplied by an un-knowable positive constant.
- The true model and both pretend models share the same equality constraints, and hence the same goodness of fit results for any given data set.
- As more variables and more factors are added, all this remains true.

Which re-parameterization is better?

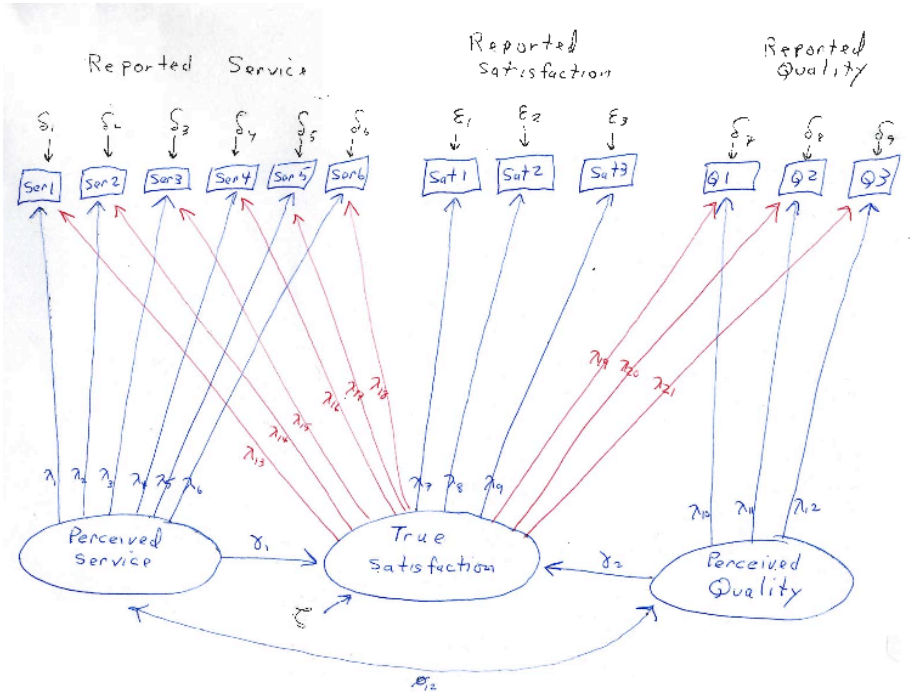
- Technically, they are equivalent.
- They both involve setting a single un-knowable parameter to one, for each factor.
- This seems arbitrary, but actually it results in a very good re-parameterization that preserves what is knowable about the true model.
- Standardizing the factors (pretend model 1) is more convenient for estimating correlations between factors.
- Setting one loading per factor equal to one (pretend model 2) is more convenient for estimating the relative sizes of factor loadings.
- Calculations with pretend model 2 can be easier.
- Mixing pretend model 2 with double measurement is natural.

Why all this pretending?

- The parameters of the true model cannot be estimated directly. For example, maximum likelihood will fail because the maximum is not unique.
- The parameters of the pretend models are all identifiable (estimable) *functions* of the parameters of the true model.
- They have the same signs (positive, negative or zero) of the corresponding parameters of the true model.
- Hypothesis tests mean what you think they do.
- Parameter estimates are interpretable for *some* parameters.

The Crossover Rule

- It is unfortunate that variables can only be caused by one factor. In fact, it's unbelievable most of the time.
- A pattern like this would be nicer.



When you add a set of variables to a factor analysis model whose parameters are identifiable

- Straight arrows with factor loadings on them may point from each existing factor to each new variable.
- You don't need to include all such arrows.
- Error terms for the new set of variables may have non-zero covariances with each other, but not with the error variances or factors of the original model.
- Some of the new error terms may have zero covariance with each other. It's up to you.
- All parameters of the new model are identifiable.

Idea of the proof

- Have a measurement (factor analysis) model with p factors and k_1 observable variables. The parameters are all identifiable.
- Assume that for each factor, there is at least one observable variable with a factor loading of one.
- If this is not the case, re-parameterize.
- Re-order the variables, putting the p variables with unit factor loadings first, in the order of the corresponding factors.

The first two equations belong to the initial model

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{D}_1 &= \mathbf{F} + \mathbf{e}_1 \\
\mathbf{D}_2 &= \mathbf{\Lambda}_2\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{e}_2 \\
\mathbf{D}_3 &= \mathbf{\Lambda}_3\mathbf{F} + \mathbf{e}_3
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
V\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_1 \\ \mathbf{e}_3 \\ \mathbf{e}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} \mathbf{\Omega}_{11} & \mathbf{\Omega}_{12} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline & \mathbf{\Omega}_{22} & \mathbf{0} \\ \hline & & \mathbf{\Omega}_{33} \end{array}\right)
$$

$$
V(\mathbf{F}) = \mathbf{\Phi}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\boldsymbol{\Sigma} &= \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{12} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{13} \\ \hline & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{22} & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{23} \\ \hline & & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{33} \end{array}\right) \\
&= \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} \boldsymbol{\Phi} + \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{11} & \boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_2' & \boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3' \\ \hline & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_2\boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_2' + \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{22} & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_2\boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3' \\ \hline & & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3\boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3' + \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{33} \end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3 &= \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{13}'\boldsymbol{\Phi}^{-1} \\
\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{33} &= \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{33} - \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3\boldsymbol{\Phi}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_3'
\end{aligned}
$$

Comments

- There are no restriction on the factor loadings of the variables that are being added to the model
- There are no restriction on the covariances of error terms for the new set of variables, except that they must not be correlated with error terms already in the model.
- This suggests a model building strategy. Start small, perhaps with 3 variables per factor. Then add the remaining variables – maximum flexibility.
- Could even fit the one-variable sub-models one at a time to make sure they are okay, then combine factors, then add variables.