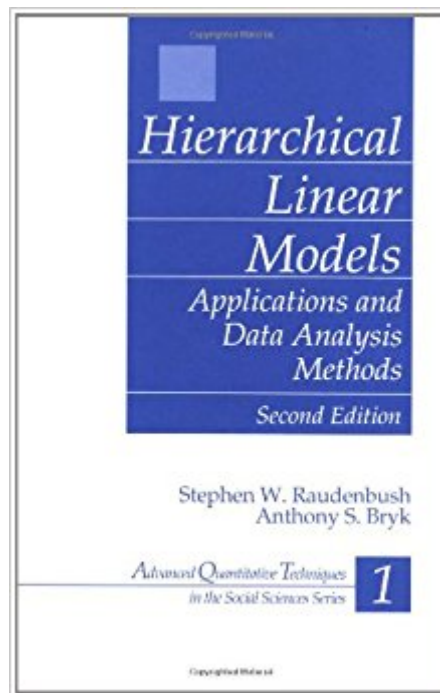# Hierarchical Linear Models: Applications And Data Analysis Methods (Advanced Quantitative Techniques In The Social Sciences)

Synopsis

Popular in the First Edition for its rich, illustrative examples and lucid explanations of the theory and use of hierarchical linear models (HLM), the book has been reorganized into four parts with four completely new chapters. The first two parts, Part I on "The Logic of Hierarchical Linear Modeling" and Part II on "Basic Applications" closely parallel the first nine chapters of the previous edition with significant expansions and technical clarifications, such as: * An intuitive introductory summary of the basic procedures for estimation and inference used with HLM models that only requires a minimal level of mathematical sophistication in Chapter 3* New section on multivariate growth models in Chapter 6 * A discussion of research synthesis or meta-analysis applications in Chapter 7* Data analytic advice on centering of level-1 predictors and new material on plausible value intervals and robust standard estimators

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book gives a detailed description of the use of an advanced method to deal with nested data sets.At a general level the constructs and ideas are well written and can be followed reasonably easily.However the mathematics is often written very dense, which makes reading and understanding complex.My main problem with the book, is that in many of the examples they provide, the given formula's, and data skip rapidly to the solution. Thus it is often not insightfull at all, how the data led to the numerical outcome (and I and several of my colleagues could not reproduce

all of the example outcomes). A more extensive discussion and a more step-by-step construction of the examples would have been helpful there.So in short: Conceptually this book is fine, but for practical use mathematics are too dense, and examples are too hard to follow

I had taken a class in HLM before, and I bought this book to refresh myself on the details. It takes a good deal of attention to detail and concentration to really get the full measure from this book, although it's all in there. Despite the authors' best efforts, there is a good bit of stats jargon in the book, so a reader who is not familiar might have some difficulty. If you're at a point where learning HLM is a logical next step, you'll be fine and I recommend this book. However, if your over-eager faculty advisor told you to learn HLM, despite your minimal experience in stats, you're better off enrolling in a class or workshop.

The book is not bad. But need so much improvement. I send a letter to the authors with my comments.For example:A basic topic such as "assumptions" is not clear presented. You have to "discover" them on your reading.You will find things like "as we can see this will create a problem" ok. but what kind of problem, why are these a problem?I got the book, and for each chapter I read, I had to go online to look for additional information, and clarifications.It is clear that the authors are experts and the topic, and things are "so clear and obvious" for them, but the people that is reading the book might have problem following it.Conclusion. After 2 weeks I decided to return the NEW book and get a USED one.I also got the "manual" for the HLM6 software, dont bother. It is not a good manual. Actually, it is not a manual because it does not teach you how to use the software, it does not explain its different options, it just show you some examples. You can find similar things online. I returned the manual as well.

The second edition of this texbook by Raudenbush and Bryk has achieved near-biblical status in the world of multi-level modeling. It is quite comprehensive, and the chapter on centering, an unexpectedly important and complex topic, is the best I"ve seen.Nevertheless, Raudenbush and Bryk make what I take to be a serious error when they fail to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses and breadth and limitations of their likely audience. For all but the best trained mathematical statisticians, this book is inaccessible and, for the reader, money poorly spent. Raudenbush and Bryk must know that most sociologists, political scientists, program evaluators, policy analysts, and numerous others will find their book too difficult to use as a self-teaching tool. Thus, in fairness to those trying to keep up with important methodological developments, the

authors should, at the very least, conspicuously acknowledge the demands their book places on the reader.For most readers, there are much better ways to a make a start on multilevel modeling. If one wants to, he or she can then work toward meeting the demands imposed by Raudenbush and Bryk.

Raudenbush & Bryk's text is a must-have reference for those who use hierarchical models in professional research, but not the best introduction for beginners. As others have said, it is extremely dense at times, but I don't necessarily see that as a drawback as long as readers are aware of what they need to know in advance. For those with a solid foundation in general linear modeling (i.e. all the various forms of regression, MANCOVA, etc.), as well as some basic knowledge of what hierarchical models can do, this is the right book for you. If not, choose something more basic and work your way up. That said, HLM is not as daunting as it may seem at first, and those who do research in multiple settings simultaneously now have little excuse for "cutting corners" by simply throwing in covariates or assuming homogeneity, no matter how many variables look the same.By far, the greatest improvement since the first edition is the extended discussion of HLM in longitudinal designs. Raudenbush & Bryk are at the cutting-edge here, and anyone who does growth-curve analysis will find this book to be a great resource. On the downside, their discussion of the unique factors to take into account in 3-level models is a bit sparse (and the only reason for 4 stars instead of 5).I return to this book constantly, and strongly recommend it to those who do (or, more often, should) take a wider, more accurate accounting of the many possible sources of variance in their research.

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