Construct Validation in Organizational Behavior Research

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The author thanks Richard P. DeShon, Fritz Drasgow, and Larry J. Williams for their helpful comments on an earlier version of this chapter.

In J. Greenberg (Ed.), *Organizational behavior: The state of the science* (2nd ed., pp. 327-371). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 2003. A theory comprises two sets of relationships, one that links constructs that constitute the substance of the theory, and another that maps constructs onto phenomena that can be directly observed and measured (Bagozzi & Phillips, 1982; Costner, 1969). In organizational behavior (OB) research, theory development emphasizes relationships among constructs but devotes relatively little attention to relationships between constructs and measures (Schwab, 1980). These latter relationships are crucial to theory development, because they provide the means by which constructs become accessible to empirical research and theories are rendered testable. Moreover, because the relationships between constructs and measures are integral to a theory, theory testing is incomplete unless these relationships are scrutinized. Thus, the relationships between constructs and measures and measures to empirical testing and falsification (Costner, 1969; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Schwab, 1980).

Relationships between constructs and measures are the essence of construct validity. At its most fundamental level, construct validity concerns the degree to which a measure captures its intended theoretical construct (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955). Although the notion of construct validity is straightforward, procedures used to assess construct validity are complex and have evolved considerably during the past several decades. These procedures present a potentially bewildering array of choices for OB researchers confronted with crucial task of establishing the correspondence between theoretical constructs and their measures.

This chapter provides a chronological treatment of approaches to construct validation. The chapter begins by defining constructs and measures, the basic elements of construct validation. Construct validity is then defined and distinguished from other forms of validity. Next, approaches to construct validation are discussed, focusing on formulations of the relationship between constructs and measures and statistical procedures to assess reliability and convergent and discriminant validity. These approaches are organized chronologically in terms of classical approaches prevalent from the 1950s through the 1970s, modern approaches of the 1980s and 1990s, and emerging approaches that capture recent developments and future trends. The chapter concludes with recommendations for assessing and enhancing the construct validity of measures used in OB research.

Definitions

This section offers definitions of the terms *construct, measure,* and *construct validity*. Definitions of these terms have evolved over the years, as evidenced by successive publications of the American Psychological Association standards for educational and psychological testing (American Psychological Association, 1966, 1985, 1999) and treatises on construct validity by Campbell (1960, 1996), Cronbach (1971, 1989; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955), and Messick (1975, 1981, 1995). However, the nuances that mark this evolution are anchored in core ideas that have remained stable. This stability is reflected in the definitions adopted here, which provide a consistent backdrop against which to track the development of construct validation procedures. *Construct*

A construct is a conceptual term used to describe a phenomenon of theoretical interest (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000; Messick, 1981). Constructs are terms researchers invent to describe, organize, and assign meaning to phenomena relevant to a domain of research (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Messick, 1981; Nunnally, 1978; Schwab, 1980). Although constructs are literally constructed, or put together, by researchers (Nunnally, 1978; Schwab, 1980), the phenomena constructs describe are real and exist independently of the researcher (Arvey, 1992; Cook & Campbell, 1979; Loevinger, 1957; MacCorquodale & Meehl, 1948; Messick, 1981). For example, attitudes such as job satisfaction and organizational commitment are real subjective experiences of people in organizations, and characteristics of social relationships such as trust and conflict are real to people engaged in those relationships. Although constructs refer to real phenomena, these phenomena cannot be observed directly or objectively. Rather, researchers view these phenomena through the distorted epistemological lenses that constructs provide and rely on flawed measures that yield imperfect empirical traces (Cook & Campbell, 1979; Loevinger, 1957; Messick, 1981). This definition represents a critical realist perspective on the meaning of constructs (Bhaskar, 1978; Cook & Campbell, 1979). It is realist because it asserts that constructs refer to actual psychological and social phenomena that exist separately from our attempts to study them, and it is critical because it recognizes that these phenomena cannot be assessed with complete accuracy, due to imperfections in our sensory and methodological apparatus (Cook & Campbell, 1979; Delanty, 1997; Loevinger, 1957; Messick, 1981; Zuriff, 1998).

Measure

A measure is an observed score gathered through self-report, interview, observation, or some other means (DeVellis, 1991; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000; Lord & Novick, 1968; Messick, 1995). Put simply, a measure is a quantified record, such as an item response, that serves as an empirical representation of a construct. A measure does not define a construct, as in strict operationalism (Campbell, 1960; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955), but rather is one of various possible indicators of the construct, all of which are considered fallible (Messick, 1995). As defined here, a measure is not an instrument used to gather data, such as a questionnaire, interview script, or observation protocol, nor is it the process by which data are generated and gathered (Alreck & Settle, 1995; Rea & Parker, 1992; Sudman, Bradburn, & Schwarz, 1996). Rather, a measure is an observed record or trace that serves as imperfect empirical evidence of a construct.

Construct Validity

Construct validity refers to *the correspondence between a construct and a measure taken as evidence of the construct* (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Nunnally, 1978; Schwab, 1980). Construct validity does not refer to the inherent properties of a measure or instrument. Instead, it concerns the degree to which a measure represents a particular construct and allows credible inferences regarding the nature of the construct (Cronbach, 1971; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955). Thus, a particular measure may demonstrate different degrees of construct validity depending on the construct for which the measure is taken as evidence. Moreover, construct validity is not an all-or-nothing phenomenon, such that a measure that demonstrates certain properties is deemed construct valid. Rather, construct validity is a matter of degree based on the cumulative evidence bearing on the correspondence between a construct and measure (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955). Finally, construct validation is not a task that is accomplished and then set aside. To the contrary, construct validation is an ongoing process, such that each application of an instrument provides further evidence regarding the construct validity of the instrument and the measures it generates (Cronbach, 1989; Nunnally, 1978).

Construct validity may be separated into trait validity and nomological validity (Campbell, 1960). Trait validity focuses on the relationship between the construct and measure isolated from the broader theory in which the construct is embedded. Evidence for trait validity is provided by convergence of measures intended to represent the same construct and divergence among measures designed to represent different constructs. Convergence of measures sharing the same method (e.g., all self-report) indicates reliability, whereas convergence of measures using different methods represents convergent validity (Campbell, 1960; Campbell & Fiske, 1959). Divergence among measures using the same or different methods demonstrates discriminant validity (Campbell, 1960; Campbell & Fiske, 1959). Reliability and convergent validity provide evidence for a construct acting as a common cause of the measures, and discriminant validity provides evidence against the intrusion of other unintended constructs (Messick, 1995). Nomological validity is based on evidence that measures of a construct exhibit relationships with measures of other constructs in accordance with relevant theory (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955). Thus, nomological validity entails the evaluation of a measure within a broader theory that describes the causes, effects, and correlates of the construct and how they relate to one another (Campbell, 1960; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955).

Construct validity may be distinguished from content validity and criterion-oriented validity (Nunnally, 1978). Content validity is the degree to which a measure represents a particular domain of content. Content validity is achieved by defining the content domain of interest, selecting or developing items that represent the domain, and assembling the items into a test, survey, or other instrument. Content validity is not assessed using empirical or statistical procedures, but instead relies on "appeals to reason" (Nunnally, 1978, p. 93) that the procedures used to develop an instrument ensure that important content has been adequately sampled and represented.¹ Criterion-oriented validity refers to the relationship between the measure of interest and some criterion measure deemed important, such as job performance. Criterion-oriented validity places less emphasis on the conceptual interpretation of a measure than on its ability to predict a criterion.

Construct validity may be distinguished from other forms of validity that are vital to the research process. Cook and Campbell (1979) organize these forms of validity into three broad categories. Statistical conclusion validity is whether a study can establish the presence and magnitude of the relationship between two variables. Internal validity concerns whether the

relationship between a presumed cause and effect is free from alternative explanations that implicate other causes or methodological artifacts. Finally, external validity is whether the findings from a study can be generalized to other samples, settings, and time frames. Because these forms of validity do not bear directly on the relationships between constructs and measures, they are not discussed further in this chapter (for thorough treatments, see Cook & Campbell, 1979; Cook, Campbell, & Peracchio, 1990).

Construct Validation Approaches

The past several decades have brought significant developments in procedures used to assess construct validity. These developments are signified by increasingly sophisticated views of the relationship between constructs and measures and advances in statistical procedures for assessing reliability and convergent and discriminant validity. Methods for studying nomological validity have advanced as well, but these advancements have tracked general developments in analyzing relationships among constructs, as marked by the evolution from analysis of variance to multiple regression, path analysis, and structural equation modeling (Cohen, 1968; Jöreskog, 1974; Werts & Linn, 1970; Williams & James, 1994). These developments implicate the whole of applied statistics, and reviewing them is well beyond the scope of this chapter. Rather, the following discussion tracks the evolution of three core elements of construct validation: (a) the specification of the relationship between constructs and measures; (b) reliability; and (c) convergent and discriminant validity. These three elements provide a focused treatment of construct validation approaches and encompass many important analytical developments that deal specifically with mapping constructs onto measures. Moreover, these aspects of construct validation should be addressed prior to investigating nomological validity, because if a measure does not display construct validity when examined in isolation, it is unwise to embed the

measure within a broader theoretical framework. Thus, the elements of construct validation examined in this chapter are natural precursors to the essential task of nomological validation (Cronbach & Meehl, 1955).

For expository purposes, the construct validation approaches discussed here are separated chronologically into classical, modern, and emerging approaches to construct validation. The boundary between classical and modern approaches roughly coincides with the advent of confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), and the boundary between modern and emerging approaches is marked by developments that increase the complexity of the relationship between constructs and measures and relax traditional assumptions that underlie analytical procedures used for construct validation. As will become evident, the classification of construct validation approaches into these three time frames reflects their usage in the OB literature more than their development in the statistical literature. For instance, although CFA is the hallmark of modern approaches to construct validation, its development predates its general use in the OB literature by over a decade (Jöreskog, 1969). Likewise, some approaches that are just beginning to emerge in the OB literature, such as generalizability theory (DeShon, 2002), can be traced back more than three decades (Cronbach, Gleser, Nanda, & Rajaratnam, 1972). These time lags are natural for the development and use of methodological procedures in general, and it is hoped that this chapter will help accelerate the diffusion of recently developed construct validation procedures in OB research.

Classical Approaches

Classical approaches to construct validation are rooted in seminal work on measurement and psychometric theory of the 1950s and 1960s (e.g., Campbell, 1960; Campbell & Fiske, 1959; Cronbach & Meehl, 1955; Lord & Novick, 1968; Nunnally, 1967). This work laid the foundation for conceptualizing and analyzing relationships between constructs and measures and established the language of construct validation. These approaches are discussed below.

Relationship between constructs and measures. The fundamental equation of classical measurement theory (Gulliksen, 1950; Lord & Novick, 1968) is as follows:

$$X_i = T + e_i \tag{1}$$

where X_i is the ith measure of T, T is an unobserved true score, and e_i is measurement error, which encompasses all sources of variance in X_i other than T. It is assumed that e_i is a random variable with zero mean and is uncorrelated with T and with the true scores and errors of other measures (Lord & Novick, 1968). Figure 1 portrays the relationships between a single true score and three measures, along with their associated error terms (in this and subsequent figures, variables that signify constructs are represented by circles, and variables that represent measures are indicated by squares). As will be seen, Figure 1 provides a useful point of departure for comparing classical measurement theory to modern and emerging approaches to construct validation.

Insert Figure 1 about here

The interpretation of Equation 1 in terms of the relationship between a construct and measure hinges on the meaning of the true score *T*. In classical measurement theory (Lord & Novick, 1968; Nunnally, 1978), a true score is typically defined as the hypothetical average of an infinite number of scores for a particular subject. As the number of scores constituting the average approaches infinity, the proportion of error variance in the average approaches zero. Therefore, a true score may be interpreted as a subject's score on X_i that is free from random

measurement error. This score might not accurately represent the value of the construct, because any systematic errors in X_i , such as mean bias or floor and ceiling effects, become part of the hypothetical average that defines the true score (Cronbach et al., 1972). Thus, a true score may be interpreted as the value of a construct for a subject if: (a) the measure X_i is unbiased, such that repeated measures of X_i converge on the correct value of the construct; and (b) measurement errors are uncorrelated with the construct, such that errors do not tend to be positive or negative depending on the level of the construct (Lord & Novick, 1968). These assumptions are adopted in the following discussion, thereby framing *T* as the value of the construct of interest.

Equation 1 allows several useful derivations that provide the basis for understanding the correspondence between constructs and measures. We begin with the variance of X_i , which may be written as:

$$V(X_i) = V(T + e_i)$$

= V(T) + V(e_i) + 2C(T,e_i)
= V(T) + V(e_i) (2)

where V(.) and C(.) refer to the variance and covariance, respectively, of a given term for multiple subjects. Equation 2 follows from standard rules of covariance algebra and the assumption that *T* and e_i are uncorrelated. From Equation 2, it can be seen that the variance of a measure is the sum of the variance of the true score and the variance of measurement error. Because a true score signifies an error-free measure of a construct, V(*T*) indicates the amount of variance in *X* that is attributable to the construct. Naturally, it is desirable for V(*T*) to be large relative to V(e_i).

Next, consider the covariance of X_i with T, which captures the magnitude of the relationship between a measure and its associated construct:

$$C(X_i, T) = C[(T + e_i), T]$$

= C(T,T) + C(T,e_i)
= V(T). (3)

Equation 3 indicates that the covariance between a measure and its true score, and hence the construct of interest, is represented by the variance of the true score.

Finally, the covariance between two measures, designated here as $X_i = T_p + e_i$ and $X_j = T_q + e_j$, may be written as:

$$C(X_{i},X_{j}) = C[(T_{p} + e_{i}),(T_{q} + e_{j})]$$

= C(T_{p},T_{q}) + C(T_{p},e_{j}) + C(T_{q},e_{i}) + C(e_{i},e_{j})
= C(T_{p},T_{q}). (4)

Equation 4 shows that the covariance between the true scores T_p and T_q equals the covariance between their respective measures X_i and X_j . Thus, the covariance between the constructs underlying two measures is indicated by the covariance between the measures themselves.

If X_i and X_j in Equation 4 refer to the same construct, they are termed *congeneric*, meaning their true scores are perfectly correlated but need not have the same value. If X_i and X_j have the same true scores, such that $T_p = T_q = T$, they are termed *tau equivalent*. Under tau equivalence, $C(T_p, T_q) = C(T, T) = V(T)$, which indicates that the covariances between all pairs of tau equivalent measures have the same value and equal the variance of their common true score. These properties also hold for measures that are *essentially tau equivalent*, which have true scores that differ by no more than a constant (Novick & Lewis, 1967). Finally, if X_i and X_j have the same true scores as well as the same error variances, such that $V(e_i) = V(e_j) = V(e)$, they are termed *parallel*. Because parallel measures have equal true score variances and equal error variances, the measures themselves also have equal variances, which in turn implies that the covariances and correlations among pairs of parallel measures are equal. These principles and the associated derivations form the basis of classical measurement theory and provide the foundation for subsequent developments.

Reliability. Reliability refers to the proportion of true score variance in a measure. The reliability of *X* may be expressed algebraically as follows:

$$\rho_{X_i} = \mathbf{V}(T) / \mathbf{V}(X_i). \tag{5}$$

For a single item, ρ_{X_i} cannot be estimated, given that $V(X_i)$ is known but V(T) is unknown. This dilemma spawned various approaches to the estimation of reliability. One approach is based on the notion of parallel measures of *T*. By definition, the correlation between parallel measures equals their covariance divided by the product of their standard deviations. As noted previously, the covariance between parallel measures equals V(T), and the variances of parallel measures have a common value $V(X_i)$, which in turn implies that the product of their standard deviations is also $V(X_i)$. Hence, the correlation between parallel measures equals $V(T)/V(X_i)$ and represents the reliability of either measure. This reasoning underlies the alternative forms method of reliability estimation (Carmines & Zeller, 1979; Nunnally, 1978). Although simple in concept, this approach carries the practical problem of developing measures that meet the rather stringent conditions of parallel measurement.

One way to address the problem of developing parallel measures is to administer the same measure twice, based on the premise that a measure is parallel with itself. This approach underlies the test-retest method of reliability estimation, which uses the correlation between a measure collected on two occasions as an estimate of the reliability of the measure. The test-retest approach has several drawbacks, such as the inability to distinguish low reliability from actual change in the true score, practice and consistency effects that may inflate test-retest

correlations, and the possibility that biases and other artifacts embedded in measurement errors are correlated over time, thereby violating a key assumption of classical measurement theory (Bohrnstedt, 1983; Nunnally, 1978).

An alternative to the test-retest approach is the split-half approach, in which a set of items is administered on a single occasion and scores on the items are divided into two subsets. Given that the subsets are drawn from the same set, they are considered alternative forms, which means that their correlation represents the reliability of either subset. Because the subsets contain fewer items than the full set, the correlation between the subsets of items underestimates the reliability of a measure created by summing the full set. This underestimation can be corrected by applying the Spearman-Brown prophecy formula (Nunnally, 1978):

$$\rho_x = \frac{2r_{x_1 x_2}}{1 + r_{x_1 x_2}} \tag{6}$$

where X_1 and X_2 are sums of items from the two split halves and $r_{X_1X_2}$ is the correlation between these sums. Despite its advantages, the split-half approach carries a fundamental ambiguity, in that a set of items can be split in numerous ways, each of which may yield a different reliability estimate.

The ambiguity of the split-half approach is resolved by Cronbach's alpha (Cronbach, 1951), which equals the average of all possible split-half reliability estimates for a set of items. Alpha may be interpreted as the proportion of true score variance in a sum of essentially tau equivalent items. The intuition behind alpha can be grasped by considering the following sum of k tau equivalent items:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} (T + e_{i}).$$
(7)

The true score T is not indexed because it is assumed to be the same for all X_i . The variance of

the item sum may be written as:

$$V(\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_{i}) = V[\sum_{i=1}^{k} (T + e_{i})]$$

= $V[(T + e_{1}) + (T + e_{2}) + ... + (T + e_{k})]$
= $V(kT + e_{1} + e_{2} + ... + e_{k})$
= $k^{2}V(T) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} V(e_{i}).$ (8)

The amount of true score variance in the sum is represented by $k^2 V(T)$. Therefore, the proportion of true score variance is $k^2 V(T) / V(\sum_{i=1}^k X_i)$. $V(\sum_{i=1}^k X_i)$ can be computed by taking the variance of the item sum, and V(T) can be obtained by recalling that, for essentially tau equivalent items, V(T) equals the covariance between any two items. Because all interitem covariances are equal for essentially tau equivalent items, any one of the covariances will serve as an estimate of V(T). In practice, interitem covariances usually vary, in which case it is sensible to use the average interitem covariance to represent V(T) (McDonald, 1999). This approach leads to the following equation for alpha (Cronbach, 1951):

$$\alpha = \frac{k^2 \overline{C}(X_i, X_j)}{V(\sum_{i=1}^k X_i)}.$$
(9)

An algebraically equivalent expression can be computed from the variances of the items and their sum (Cronbach, 1951; Nunnally, 1978):

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{k-1} \frac{V(\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^{k} V(X_i)}{V(\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_i)}.$$
(10)

The assumption of essential tau equivalence is crucial to alpha. To the extent this assumption is violated, alpha underestimates the reliability of the item sum (Heise & Bohrnstedt, 1970). Hence,

alpha should be considered a lower bound estimate of reliability and equals reliability when the items constituting the sum are essentially tau equivalent.

Convergent and discriminant validity. Classical approaches to construct validation have generally relied on two methods for assessing convergent and discriminant validity. One method involves submitting measures to principal components analysis or common factor analysis and determining whether measures of the same construct cluster together and measures of different constructs separate from one another. The principal components model may be written as follows (Harman, 1976; Kim & Mueller, 1978):

$$C_{j} = \mathbf{b}_{j1}X_{l} + \mathbf{b}_{j2}X_{2} + \dots + \mathbf{b}_{jk}X_{k}$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{k} \mathbf{b}_{ji}X_{i}.$$
(11)

where C_j represents the jth principal component and b_{ji} is a coefficient linking the ith measure to the jth component. Equation 11 shows that a principal component is treated as a weighted linear combination of measures, and measurement error is disregarded. In contrast, the common factor model is as follows (Harman, 1976; Kim & Mueller, 1978):

$$X_{i} = \mathbf{b}_{i1}F_{I} + \mathbf{b}_{i2}F_{2} + \dots + \mathbf{b}_{im}F_{m} + \mathbf{d}_{i}U_{i}$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \mathbf{b}_{ij}F_{j} + \mathbf{d}_{i}U_{i}.$$
 (12)

where F_i represents the jth common factor, b_{ij} is a coefficient linking the ith measure to the jth factor, U_i is the uniqueness of X_i , or the part of X_i that is not explained by the common factors, and d_i is a coefficient linking U_i to X_i . U_i combines random measurement error and measure specificity, which refers to stable sources of variance in a particular X_i that are not shared with other X_i . Because the common factor model incorporates measurement error and treats measures as outcomes of factors, it is more consistent with classical measurement theory, as captured by

Equation 1. Nonetheless, principal components analysis and common factor analysis typically yield similar conclusions regarding the convergence and divergence of measures (Velicer & Jackson, 1990), although they tend to yield different estimates of population parameters that quantify the relationships between constructs and measures (Mulaik, 1990; Snook & Gorsuch, 1989; Widaman, 1993).

A more systematic approach to assessing convergent and discriminant validity is based on the multitrait-multimethod (MTMM) matrix (Campbell & Fiske, 1959). A MTMM matrix arranges correlations among measures of several traits, or constructs, using different methods such that criteria for assessing convergent and discriminant validity can be readily applied. Table 1 shows a hypothetical MTMM matrix for three traits labeled A, B, and C and three methods designated 1, 2, and 3. The solid triangles contain heterotrait-monomethod values, which are correlations among measures of different traits using the same method. The dashed triangles contain heterotrait-heteromethod values, which are correlations among measures of different traits using different methods. In boldface are monotrait-heteromethod values, which represent correlations between measures of the same trait using different methods. These values constitute the validity diagonal within the heteromethod blocks formed by the correlations between all measures obtained from a given pair of methods. Finally, the parentheses contain monotraitmonomethod values, which signify the reliabilities of the measures.

Campbell and Fiske (1959) proposed the following criteria for assessing convergent and discriminant validity using the MTMM matrix. Convergent validity is evidenced when the monotrait-heteromethod values are significantly different from zero and large enough to warrant further examination of validity. This criterion demonstrates that measures of the same construct using different methods are related. Discriminant validity rests on three criteria. First, monotrait-

heteromethod values should be larger than values in the same row and column in the heterotraitheteromethod triangles. For instance, r_{A1A2} in Table 1 should be larger than r_{A1B2} , r_{A1C2} , r_{B1A2} , and r_{C1A2} . This criterion establishes that measures of the same construct using different methods correlate more highly than measures of different constructs using different methods. Second, the monotrait-heteromethod values for each measure should be larger than values in the heterotraitmonomethod triangles that entail that measure. To illustrate using the measure of construct A using method 1, r_{A1A2} and r_{A1A3} should be larger than r_{A1B1} and r_{A1C1} . This criterion shows that a measure correlates more highly with measures of the same construct using different methods than with measures of different constructs that happen to use the same method. Third, the pattern of correlations among the traits in each heterotrait triangle should be the same regardless of the method employed. For instance, if the relative magnitudes of the correlations among constructs A, B, and C measured with method 1 are $r_{A1B1} > r_{A1C1} > r_{B1C1}$, then the same ordering should be obtained for methods 2 and 3. This criterion may also be applied to individual measures. For example, if construct A measured with method 1 correlates more strongly with construct B than with construct C when both are measured with method 1 (i.e., $r_{A1B1} > r_{A1C1}$), then it should also correlate more strongly with construct B than with construct C when the two are measured with methods 2 and 3 (i.e., $r_{A1B2} > r_{A1C2}$ and $r_{A1B3} > r_{A1C3}$ should both hold). In addition to these criteria for convergent and discriminant validity, Campbell and Fiske (1959) pointed out that differences between corresponding values in the monomethod and heteromethod triangles provide evidence for method variance. Returning to Table 1, if r_{A1B1} is larger than r_{A1B2} , then the correlation between measures of constructs A and B using method 1 is presumably inflated by their reliance on the same method. Differences between correlations in a MTMM matrix can be tested using procedures for comparing dependent correlations (Steiger, 1980), and differences in

patterns of correlations can be tested using Kendall's coefficient of concordance, which yields a chi-square statistic representing the difference between two rankings (Bagozzi, Yi, & Phillips, 1991; McNemar, 1962).

The Campbell and Fiske (1959) procedure for assessing convergent and discriminant validity has many important strengths, perhaps the foremost of which is the distinction between traits and methods as two systematic sources of variance in a measure. However, the procedure has several shortcomings. First, it does not quantify the degree to which convergent and discriminant validity have been demonstrated (Bagozzi et al., 1991; Schmitt & Stults, 1986). Instead, the procedure yields a count of the number of confirming and disconfirming comparisons involving the correlations of the MTMM matrix. Second, the procedure does not separate method variance from random measurement error (Schmitt & Stults, 1986). This shortcoming might be addressed by conducting MTMM analyses using disattenuated correlations (Althauser & Heberlein, 1970; Jackson, 1969), but doing so prevents the use of conventional statistical tests for comparing correlations. Third, and perhaps most important, the Campbell and Fiske (1959) criteria yield unambiguous conclusions regarding convergent and discriminant validity only under highly restrictive assumptions regarding the magnitudes of trait and method effects and the correlations between method factors (Althauser, 1974; Althauser & Heberlein, 1970; Schmitt & Stults, 1986). Many of these shortcomings were recognized by Campbell and Fiske (1959), but their resolution awaited the application of CFA to MTMM matrices, which is a hallmark of modern approaches to construct validation.

Modern Approaches

Modern construct validation approaches were spawned by the advent of CFA, which brought many important developments to the construct validation process. These developments are discussed in general sources on CFA (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog, 1971, 1974; Long, 1983) and follow logically from the application of CFA to reliability and construct validity (Bagozzi, Yi, & Phillips, 1991; Schmitt & Stults, 1986). These developments and their relevance to construct validation are discussed below.

Relationships between constructs and measures. In CFA, the relationship between a construct and measure may be expressed as:

$$X_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{d}_i \tag{13}$$

Although Equation 13 is similar to Equation 1 based on classical measurement theory, several differences should be noted. First, *x* does not signify the hypothetical average of X_i , but instead represents a latent variable or factor that corresponds to a theoretical construct (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996). Second, unlike Equation 1, Equation 13 includes the coefficient λ_i on *x*, which allows the relationships between *x* and the X_i to vary. Third, whereas the e_i in Equation 1 represents random measurement error, the d_i in Equation 13 signify the uniquenesses of the X_i , which are composed of random measurement error and measurement specificity (i.e., stable aspects of each X_i that are not explained by the common factor *x*). It is assumed that the d_i have zero means and are uncorrelated with one another and with *x*, analogous to the assumptions underlying classical measurement theory (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996). Figure 2 displays the relationship between a construct and three measures, and comparing Figure 1 to Figure 2 further reinforces the basic distinctions between classical and modern approaches to specifying relationships between constructs and measures.

Insert Figure 2 about here

Drawing from the assumptions underlying Equation 13, several useful expressions can be derived, similar to those developed under classical measurement theory. First, the variance of X_i can be written as:

$$V(X_i) = V(\lambda_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}_i)$$

= $\lambda_i^2 V(\mathbf{x}) + V(\mathbf{d}_i) + 2\lambda_i C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{d}_i)$
= $\lambda_i^2 V(\mathbf{x}) + V(\mathbf{d}_i)$
= $\lambda_i^2 \mathbf{f} + \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{d}_{ii}}$ (14)

where *f* represents the variance of *x* and $q_{d_{ii}}$ is the variance of *d_i*, respectively (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996). According to Equation 14, the amount variance in *X_i* attributable to the construct *x* is represented by $\lambda_i^2 f$. Next, the covariance between *X_i* and *x* is:

$$C(X_{i}, \mathbf{x}) = C[(\lambda_{i}\mathbf{x} + d_{i}), \mathbf{x}]$$

$$= \lambda_{i}C(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}) + C(\mathbf{x}, d_{i})$$

$$= \lambda_{i}V(\mathbf{x})$$

$$= \lambda_{i}f.$$
(15)

Finally, the covariance between two measures $X_i = \lambda_i X_p + d_i$ and $X_j = \lambda_j X_q + d_j$ is:

$$C(X_{i}, X_{j}) = C[(\lambda_{i} \mathbf{x}_{p} + \mathbf{d}_{i}), (\lambda_{j} \mathbf{x}_{q} + \mathbf{d}_{j})]$$

$$= \lambda_{i} \lambda_{j} C(\mathbf{x}_{p}, \mathbf{x}_{q}) + \lambda_{i} C(\mathbf{x}_{p}, \mathbf{d}_{j}) + \lambda_{j} C(\mathbf{x}_{q}, \mathbf{d}_{i}) + C(\mathbf{d}_{i}, \mathbf{d}_{j})$$

$$= \lambda_{i} \lambda_{j} C(\mathbf{x}_{p}, \mathbf{x}_{q})$$

$$= \lambda_{i} \lambda_{j} f_{pq}$$
(16)

where f_{pq} is the covariance between x_p and x_q . If X_i and X_j refer to the same construct, such that $x_p = x_q = x$, then Equation 16 simplifies to:

$$C(X_i, X_j) = \lambda_i \lambda_j f.$$
⁽¹⁷⁾

Equations 14, 16, and 17 may be used to calculate the covariance matrix among the measures as reproduced by the CFA model, which provides the basis for evaluating the fit of the model to the data (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996).

The foregoing equations depict the X_i as congeneric, given that: (a) each X_i can have a different true score, since the composite term $\lambda_i x$ can vary across measures; and (b) the variances of the measurement errors can differ, as depicted by the $q_{d_{ii}}$. If the X_i were tau equivalent, the λ_i would be equal, and if the X_i were parallel, the $q_{d_{ii}}$ would also be equal. These assumptions can be readily examined with CFA by imposing equality constraints on the relevant parameters and testing the decrease in model fit using the chi-square difference test (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996).

Reliability. Because Equation 11 relaxes the assumption of tau equivalence, it leads to a less restrictive formula for the reliability of an item sum. This formula can be derived by extending Equation 13 to represent the sum of k congeneric items:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_{i} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\lambda_{i} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}_{i}).$$
(18)

The variance of the item sum is:

$$V(\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_{i}) = V[\sum_{i=1}^{k} (\lambda_{i} x + d_{i})]$$

$$= V[(\lambda_{1} x + d_{1}) + (\lambda_{2} x + d_{2}) + ... + (\lambda_{k} x + d_{k})]$$

$$= V[(\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i}) x + \sum_{i=1}^{k} d_{i}]$$

$$= (\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i})^{2} V(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{k} V(d_{i})$$

$$= (\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i})^{2} f + \sum_{i=1}^{k} q_{d_{ii}}.$$
(19)

In Equation 19, the first term on the right represents the amount of true score variance in the item sum. Thus, the proportion of true score variance in the item sum may be written as:

$$\omega = \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i}\right)^{2} f}{V\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} X_{i}\right)}.$$
(20)

Coefficient omega (ω) represents the proportion of true score variance in a sum of *k* congeneric items (McDonald, 1970). If the items are tau equivalent, omega reduces to alpha. Otherwise, omega gives a higher estimate of reliability than that given by alpha, depending on the degree to which the λ_i differ from one another. An alternative expression for ω is obtained by substituting Equation 19 for the denominator of Equation 20 (Jöreskog, 1971; McDonald, 1970):

$$\omega = \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i}\right)^{2} f}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} \lambda_{i}\right)^{2} f + \sum_{i=1}^{k} q_{d_{ii}}}.$$
(21)

This substitution rests on the assumption that the d_i are mutually independent. If this assumption does not hold, then Equation 21 will yield a biased estimate of reliability (Raykov, 2001). This bias is avoided by Equation 20, which incorporates the correct expression for the variance of the item sum regardless whether the d_i are independent.

CFA also yields estimates of the reliabilities of the individual X_i . As shown by Equation 14, the variance of X_i equals $\lambda_i^2 f + q_{d_i}$, which in turn implies that the proportion of true score variance in X_i is $\lambda_i^2 f/V(X_i)$. The quantities needed to calculate this ratio can be obtained from a CFA, provided multiple X_i are available to achieve model identification (Bollen, 1989). Note that this approach limits true score variance to variance attributable to the common factor x, thereby treating measurement specificity and random measurement error in the same manner.

Convergent and discriminant validity. Shortcomings of the Campbell and Fiske (1959) procedure for analyzing MTMM matrices prompted the development of alternative approaches. Of these, CFA has emerged as the most widely used approach (Schmitt & Stults, 1986). This

approach treats each measure as a function of a trait factor, a method factor, and measurement error, as indicated by the following equation (Jöreskog, 1971; Werts & Linn, 1970):

$$X_i = \lambda_{iTp} \mathbf{X}_{Tp} + \lambda_{iMq} \mathbf{X}_{Mq} + \mathbf{d}_i \tag{22}$$

where \mathbf{x}_{Tp} is trait *p*, \mathbf{x}_{Mq} is method *q*, and λ_{iTp} and λ_{iMq} are coefficients relating X_i to \mathbf{x}_{Tp} and \mathbf{x}_{Mq} , respectively. Thus, X_i has two systematic sources of variance, one due to the substantive trait or construct of interest, and another generated by the method of data collection. These sources of variance, along with variance due to the error term d_i , can be seen by taking the variance of Equation 22:

$$V(X_{i}) = V(\lambda_{iTp}\mathbf{x}_{Tp} + \lambda_{iMq}\mathbf{x}_{Mq} + \mathbf{d}_{i})$$

$$= \lambda_{iTp}^{2}V(\mathbf{x}_{Tp}) + \lambda_{iMq}^{2}V(\mathbf{x}_{Mq}) + 2\lambda_{iTp}\lambda_{iMq}C(\mathbf{x}_{Tp}, \mathbf{x}_{Mq}) + V(\mathbf{d}_{i})$$

$$= \lambda_{iTp}^{2}f_{Tp} + \lambda_{iMq}^{2}f_{Mq} + 2\lambda_{iTp}\lambda_{iMq}f_{TpMq} + \mathbf{q}_{\mathbf{d}_{ii}}.$$
(23)

Models that include correlations between traits and methods are particularly prone to estimation problems, such as nonconvergence and improper solutions (Schmitt & Stults, 1986; Widaman, 1985). Therefore, traits are usually specified as independent of methods (Brannick & Spector, 1990; Marsh & Bailey, 1991; Schmitt & Stults, 1986), whereby Equation 23 simplifies to:

$$V(X_i) = \lambda_{iT_p}^2 f_{T_p} + \lambda_{iM_q}^2 f_{M_q} + q_{d_{ii}}.$$
(24)

In Equation 24, the amount of trait variance in X_i is represented by $\lambda_{iTp}^2 f_{Tp}$, and the amount of method variance is captured by $\lambda_{iMq}^2 f_{Mq}$. If the trait and method factors are standardized, such that their variances equal unity, then the amount of trait variance and method variance in X_i equals its squared loadings on these two factors (λ_{iTp}^2 and λ_{iMq}^2 , respectively). Dividing these quantities by V(X_i) gives the proportion of trait and method variance in X_i .

Equation 22 also provides the basis for decomposing the correlations in a MTMM matrix into trait and method components (Althauser, 1974; Althauser & Heberlein, 1970; Alwin, 1974;

Kalleberg & Kluegel, 1975; Schmitt, 1978; Werts & Linn, 1970). This decomposition yields important insights regarding the interpretation of these correlations and their implications for the criteria developed by Campbell and Fiske (1959). The process begins by introducing a second measure, X_i , which is expressed as follows:

$$X_j = \lambda_{jTr} \mathbf{X}_{Tr} + \lambda_{jMs} \mathbf{X}_{Ms} + \mathbf{d}_j. \tag{25}$$

Analogous to X_i , X_j is a function of a trait factor x_{Tr} , a method factor x_{Ms} , and measurement error d_j . Assuming measurement errors are random and trait factors are independent of method factors, the covariance between X_i and X_j may be written as:

$$C(X_i, X_j) = \lambda_{iTp} \lambda_{jTr} f_{TpTr} + \lambda_{iMq} \lambda_{jMs} f_{MqMs}.$$
(26)

By using different subscripts on trait factors and method factors, Equation 25 applies to measures that represent different traits and methods, corresponding to the heterotrait-heteromethod values in a MTMM matrix. If X_i and X_j share the same method, Equation 26 becomes:

$$C(X_i, X_j) = \lambda_{iTp} \lambda_{jTr} f_{TpTr} + \lambda_{iMq} \lambda_{jMq} f_{Mq}$$
(27)

where the subscript q indicates the shared method. Thus, Equation 26 refers to the heterotraitmonomethod values in a MTMM matrix. Conversely, if X_i and X_j represent the same trait, Equation 26 simplifies to:

$$C(X_i, X_j) = \lambda_{iTp} \lambda_{jTp} f_{Tp} + \lambda_{iMq} \lambda_{jMs} f_{MqMs}$$
(28)

where the subscript p identifies the shared trait. Equation 28 corresponds to the monotraitheteromethod values, or validity diagonals, of a MTMM matrix.

To illustrate how Equations 26, 27, and 28 can be used to decompose correlations in a MTMM matrix, consider the model in Figure 3, which has three trait factors and three method factors. For simplicity and without loss of generality, we assume all factors and measures are standardized. Recall that convergent validity is inferred from correlations between measures of

the same trait using different methods. Applying Equation 28 to the correlation between X_1 and X_4 yields:

$$r_{X_1X_4} = \lambda_{1T1}\lambda_{4T1} + \lambda_{1M1}\lambda_{4M2}f_{M1M2}.$$
(29)

As Equation 29 shows, the correlation between X_I and X_4 has two components, one driven by the loadings of X_I and X_4 on their common trait, and another that represents their loadings on their respective methods and the correlation between the methods. These two components correspond to the two pathways that connect X_I and X_4 in Figure 3 (these pathways may be derived formally using the tracing rule; Blalock, 1969). It is the former component, not the latter, that signifies the convergent validity of X_I and X_4 , because convergent validity frames the correlation between two measures in terms of their shared trait (Alwin, 1974; Marsh & Grayson, 1995). Assuming X_I and X_4 contain some degree of method variance, such that λ_{IMI} and λ_{4M2} are nonzero, the correlation between X_I and X_4 gives unambiguous evidence for convergent validity only if the correlation between the method factors is zero (Schmitt & Stults, 1986), which is unlikely in practice.

Insert Figure 3 about here

Similar procedures may be applied to comparisons among correlations taken as evidence for discriminant validity. For instance, the first criterion for discriminant validity stipulates that monotrait-heteromethod correlations should be larger than heterotrait-heteromethod correlations. This criterion is illustrated by comparing the correlation between X_1 and X_4 to the correlation between X_1 and X_5 . The former correlation is shown in Equation 29, and the latter is obtained by applying Equation 26, which yields:

$$r_{X_1X_5} = \lambda_{1T1}\lambda_{5T2}f_{T1T2} + \lambda_{1M1}\lambda_{5M2}f_{M1M2}.$$
(30)

Thus, the difference between $r_{X_1X_4}$ and $r_{X_1X_5}$ is as follows:

$$r_{X_{1}X_{4}} - r_{X_{1}X_{5}} = \lambda_{1T1}\lambda_{4T1} + \lambda_{1M1}\lambda_{4M2}f_{M1M2} - \lambda_{1T1}\lambda_{5T2}f_{T1T2} - \lambda_{1M1}\lambda_{5M2}f_{M1M2}$$
$$= \lambda_{1T1}(\lambda_{4T1} - \lambda_{5T2}f_{T1T2}) + \lambda_{1M1}f_{M1M2}(\lambda_{4M2} - \lambda_{5M2}).$$
(31)

As Equation 31 shows, the difference between $r_{X_1X_4}$ and $r_{X_1X_5}$ is a function of terms representing the loadings and correlations of the trait and method factors underlying X_1 , X_4 , and X_5 . Of these terms, f_{T1T2} is the most relevant to discriminant validity, because this term can be used to assess whether the correlation between the two traits underlying the measures is less than unity, thereby indicating that the traits are distinct (Marsh & Grayson, 1995; Werts & Linn, 1970). Equation 31 provides this information only under restrictive conditions. For example, if all trait and method loadings have the same value λ (Althauser & Heberlein, 1970), Equation 31 simplifies to:

$$r_{X_1X_4} - r_{X_1X_5} = \lambda^2 (1 - f_{T1T2}). \tag{32}$$

For a particular loading λ , Equation 32 is a function of the term $(1 - f_{TIT2})$ and therefore captures discriminant validity (Althauser, 1974). Equation 32 also results when loadings on the trait factors are equal and either X_I has no method variance or the method factors are uncorrelated. Because Equation 32 is based on conditions that are highly restrictive, it is rarely useful for assessing discriminant validity (Althauser, 1974; Althauser & Heberlein, 1970). A more direct approach is to assess whether f_{TIT2} is statistically and meaningfully less than unity (Bagozzi et al., 1991; Kenny, 1976; Schmitt, 1978; Werts & Linn, 1970). The procedure used to obtain Equation 31 can be also used to express the second and third criteria for discriminant validity in equation form (Althauser, 1974; Kalleberg & Kluegel, 1975; Schmitt, 1978). In both cases, the resulting expressions are functions that yield a direct test of discriminant validity only under highly restrictive conditions.

The CFA approach to analyzing MTMM matrices also provides tests of overall model fit,

thereby indicating whether the specified trait and method factor structure is consistent with the data. The specified model can also be compared to alternative models that impose various restrictions (Althauser, Heberlein, & Scott, 1971; Schmitt, 1978; Widaman, 1985). Widaman (1985) proposed a framework that separately specifies trait and method factors as follows: (a) no factors, such that measures assigned to each trait or method are uncorrelated; (b) factors with correlations fixed to unity, which translates into a single general trait factor or method factor; (c) factors with correlations fixed to zero, such that the trait or method factors are orthogonal; and (d) unconstrained factor correlations, such that correlations among trait factors and among method factors are freely estimated. Applying these specifications to trait factors and method factors yields 16 models with different representations of trait variance, method variance, and convergent and discriminant validity.² For instance, fixing trait correlations to unity creates a model in which trait factors exhibit no discriminant validity. Comparing the chi-square from this model to one from a model in which trait correlations are freely estimated yields an omnibus test of discriminant validity. In addition, the difference in chi-squares between models with and without trait factors provides an omnibus test of convergent validity. Analogously, the chi-square difference between models with and without method factors yields an omnibus test of method variance.

Although the CFA approach to analyzing MTMM matrices is appealing in several respects, it also suffers from a number of problems. First, the residual terms in the CFA model confound measurement specificity with random measurement error (Bagozzi et al., 1991; Marsh & Hocevar, 1988). This confounding occurs because the model represents reliability not as the internal consistency of the items that constitute each measure, but instead as the variance in each measure explained by its trait and method factors. As a result, low loadings might reflect small

trait or method effects, attenuation due to measurement error, or some combination thereof (Marsh & Hocevar, 1988). Second, although the CFA model corrects the correlations among trait and method factors for measurement error, it does not remove the effects of measurement error from the correlations among the measures that constitute the MTMM matrix, because these measures are used as single indicators (Marsh & Hocevar, 1988). Third, the interpretation of trait and method factors is often ambiguous. For example, a set of correlated method factors might reflect a general trait factor not captured by the separate trait factors in the model (Marsh, 1989). The converse holds as well, such that a set of correlated trait factors might represent a general method effect. Fourth, the CFA model treats trait and method effects as additive, whereas trait and method factors might combine multiplicatively (Campbell & O'Connell, 1967, 1982).

Perhaps the most serious problem with the CFA model is that, in most cases, the model suffers from nonconvergence and improper solutions, such as negative error variances, factor correlations that exceed unity, and excessively large standard errors (Brannick & Spector, 1990; Marsh & Bailey, 1991; Wothke, 1987). This problem is particularly prevalent for models that include correlations between trait and method factors (Marsh, 1989), but it is also common for models in which trait factors are uncorrelated with method factors (Brannick & Spector, 1990; Marsh & Bailey, 1991; Wothke, 1987). This problem can be traced to identification issues inherent in the CFA model (Grayson & Marsh, 1994; Kenny & Kashy, 1992; Millsap, 1992; Wothke, 1987). Theoretically, the model is identified if it contains at least three trait factors and three method factors (Alwin, 1974; Werts & Linn, 1970). However, if the parameters in the model follow certain patterns, the model is empirically underidentified, meaning that a unique set of estimates cannot be obtained even though the model is theoretically identified. For example, if the correlations among the trait factors and among the method factors are unity and

the trait and method factors are independent, the CFA model is equivalent to an exploratory factor model with two orthogonal factors. This model is not identified unless one of the loadings is fixed to establish the orientation of the factors (Wothke, 1987). Likewise, the model is not identified if, for each trait and method factor, the loadings are equal for all measures assigned to that factor (Kenny & Kashy, 1992). This pattern is a special case of a factor loading matrix that is not of full column rank, which is sufficient to establish that the model is not identified (Grayson & Marsh, 1994). Even if the loadings do not exactly conform to a pattern that produces deficient column rank, as would be expected when loadings are freely estimated using real data, estimation problems are likely if the loadings roughly approximate such a pattern (Kenny & Kashy, 1992). One way to address these estimation problems is to impose constraints on the trait and method factor loadings. For instance, Millsap (1992) identified conditions for rotational uniqueness for the CFA model that translate into equality constraints on selected trait and method loadings. Although rotational uniqueness does not solve the general identification problem (Bollen & Jöreskog, 1985), it can avoid improper solutions common in CFA models (Millsap, 1992). Estimation problems with the CFA model can also be addressed by adopting different models for analyzing MTMM data, as discussed in the following section.

Emerging Approaches

Emerging approaches to construct validation are characterized by advances in CFA that relax traditional assumptions regarding the form of the relationship between constructs and measures and address shortcomings that became evident in initial applications of CFA to estimating reliability and convergent and discriminant validity. These advancements and their relevance to construct validation are summarized below.

Relationships between constructs and measures. Most applications of CFA specify the

relationship between constructs and measures according to Equation 13. However, alternative specifications that elaborate or reframe this relationship have gained increased attention. One alternative introduces an intercept into the equation relating constructs to measures, as follows:

$$X_i = t_i + \lambda_i \mathbf{X} + d_i. \tag{33}$$

Intercepts are useful when the means of x and the X_i are of interest, as in studies that compare the means of constructs between samples, such as experimental groups, or within a sample over time. To estimate models with means and intercepts, the input covariance matrix of the X_i is supplemented by a vector of means, and parameters representing intercepts and means are freed, subject to restrictions required to achieve model identification (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996).

Another alternative to Equation 13 reverses the direction of the relationship between the construct and measure, as depicted by the following equation:

$$h = \gamma_i X_i + Z \tag{34}$$

where *h* is the construct, γ_i is a coefficient linking the measure to the construct, and *z* is that part of *h* not captured by X_i (Bollen & Lennox, 1991; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000; MacCallum & Browne, 1993). Figure 4 depicts the relationship between a construct and three measures according to Equation 34. The X_i in Equation 34 are termed *formative* measures because they form or induce the construct (Fornell & Bookstein, 1982). In contrast, the X_i in Equation 13 are *reflective* measures, meaning they reflect or manifest the construct. In OB research, measures have been treated as formative when they describe different facets or aspects of a broad concept, as when measures of facet satisfaction are combined to represent overall job satisfaction (Law, Wong, & Mobley, 1998). Although simple in principle, formative measures introduce complex issues of model identification and interpretation (Edwards, 2001; MacCallum & Browne, 1993). Moreover, treating measures as formative implicitly ascribes causal potency to scores, which is difficult to defend from a philosophical perspective (Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000). In most cases, formative measures of a general construct are better treated as reflective measures of specific constructs that cause the general construct (Blalock, 1971; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000).

Insert Figure 4 about here

A third alternative to Equation 13 incorporates indirect relationships between constructs and measures (Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000). This alternative is exemplified by second-order factor models in which measures are assigned to several specific constructs that in turn serve as indicators of a general construct (Rindskopf & Rose, 1988). Figure 5 illustrates a second-order factor model with one second-order factor, three first-order factors, and three measures of each first-order factor. A second-order factor model is represented by the following two equations:

$$h_j = \gamma_j \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}_j \tag{35}$$

$$y_i = \lambda_{ij} h_j + e_i \tag{36}$$

where x is a general construct, the h_j are specific constructs, and the y_i are measures of the h_j . The indirect relationships between x and the y_i may be seen by substituting Equation 35 into Equation 36, which yields:

$$y_i = \lambda_{ij}(\gamma_j \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}_j) + \mathbf{e}_i$$

$$y_i = \lambda_{ij}\gamma_j \mathbf{x} + \lambda_{ij}\mathbf{z}_j + \mathbf{e}_i.$$
 (37)

Equation 37 shows that the relationships between *x* and the y_i are represented by the products $\lambda_{ij}\gamma_j$. Equation 37 also shows that, when viewed as indicators of *x*, the y_i have two sources of error: (a) $\lambda_{ij}z_j$, which captures aspects of the h_i not explained by *x*; and (b) e_i , which represents

measurement error in the usual sense. The basic model illustrated here can be extended to include multiple second-order factors. In addition, indirect relationships can be specified for formative measures that induce specific constructs that in turn combine to form a general construct (Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000). However, it is often more reasonable to treat such measures as reflective indicators of specific constructs that form a general construct, in which case the relationships between the measures and general construct are spurious rather than indirect (Edwards, 2001; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000).

Insert Figure 5 about here

Equation 13 may also be expanded to include sources of systematic variance other than \mathbf{x} . A prominent example of this approach is provided by Equation 22, which includes trait and method factors as systematic sources of variance in X_i . This example may be viewed as a special case of the family of models encompassed by generalizability theory (Cronbach et al., 1972). Generalizability theory treats measures as samples from a universe of admissible observations. The universe is defined in terms of facets that describe conditions believed to influence scores. Examples of such facets include items, persons, traits, methods, raters, and time. Building on this premise, generalizability theory specifies a measure as a function of an overall universe score (i.e., the mean score across facets), facet scores representing the deviation of each measure from the universe score, interactions among facets, and a residual. Generalizability theory provides a framework for decomposing the variance of a measure into variance attributable to the main and interactive effects of facets and the residual. These variance components can be used to calculate generalizability coefficients that represent the dependability of measures for different conditions of measurement, of which coefficient alpha is a special case. Although generalizability theory was developed over three decades ago, it has yet to gain widespread usage, due in part to the technical nature of its initial presentation (Cronbach et al., 1972). Fortunately, introductory treatments have become available (DeShon, 2002; Marcoulides, 2000; Shavelson & Webb, 1991), and linkages between generalizability theory and methods more familiar to OB researchers, such as CFA, are being explored (DeShon, 1998; Marcoulides, 1996).

Finally, Equation 13 may be respecified to capture nonlinear relationships between constructs and measures. Although nonlinear relationships are rarely considered within the context of construct validation in OB research, the required statistical foundations have been in place for decades. For instance, McDonald (1963, 1967a; Etezadi-Amoli & McDonald, 1983) developed nonlinear factor analytic models in which measurement equations analogous to Equation 13 are supplemented by factors raised to various powers, such as squares, cubics, and so forth. McDonald (1967b) adapted this approach to accommodate interactions, such that the measurement equations contain products of two or more factors. Nonlinear models also form the basis of item response theory (IRT; Drasgow & Hulin, 1990; Embretson & Reise, 2000; Lord, 1952; Lord & Novick, 1968), which focuses on relationships between constructs and categorical measures. For dichotomous measures, IRT specifies the relationship as a logistic or normal ogive function bounded by the two scores the dichotomous measure can take. This function may be conceived as the probability of a positive (e.g., correct) response for a particular level of the underlying construct. IRT models are also available for polychotomous measures that have multiple nominal or ordinal response options (Drasgow & Hulin, 1990; Thissen & Steinberg, 1984; Zickar, 2002). Although IRT models were developed to accommodate violations of multivariate normality caused by items with a small number of discrete response options, these

models can also be applied to continuous measures to uncover nonlinearities in the relationship between the measure and its underlying construct. For instance, IRT functions associated with each level of an agree-disagree scale can be compared to determine whether the shape and spacing of the functions is consistent with a linear or nonlinear relationship between the construct and measure (Drasgow & Hulin, 1990; Zickar, 2002). Although such applications of IRT remain infrequent (Drasgow & Hulin, 1990), they hold promise for scrutinizing the linearity assumptions underlying most models relating constructs to measures.

Reliability. Classic and modern approaches to reliability estimation focus on the proportion of true score variance in an item sum, as represented by alpha and omega. However, the relevance of this quantity is questionable when items are used as reflective measures of latent variables in structural equation models. Because these models do not incorporate item sums, the proportion of true score variance contained in these sums is less relevant than the proportion of true score variances captured by the individual items themselves. Nonetheless, it is worthwhile to consider the proportion of true score variance captured by the items collectively. This quantity can be estimated using principles of multivariate regression analysis, which provides multivariate R^2 values for the proportion of variance explained in a set of dependent variables by one or more independent variables (Cohen, 1982; Dwyer, 1983). Applying this approach to the relationship between a construct and a set of measures yields the following equation:

$$R_m^2 = \frac{|\hat{\Sigma}| - |\hat{\Theta}_{\delta}|}{|\hat{\Sigma}|}$$
(38)

where R_m^2 represents the multivariate R^2 , $|\hat{\Sigma}|$ is the determinant of reproduced covariance matrix of the X_i , and $|\hat{\Theta}_{\delta}|$ is the determinant of the covariance matrix of the d_i (which usually contains the variances of the d_i along the diagonal and zeros elsewhere). The determinant of a covariance matrix may be interpreted as the generalized variance of the variables that constitute the matrix (Cohen, 1982). Thus, the numerator of Equation 38 is the generalized total variance of the X_i as implied by the model minus the generalized unexplained variance of the X_i . The difference between these quantities is therefore the generalized variance of the X_i explained by x. Equation 38 divides the generalized explained variance by the generalized total variance, such that R_m^2 represents a multivariate analog to R^2 . R_m^2 is a special case of the coefficient of determination, which captures the total effect of the exogenous variables on the endogenous variables in a structural equation model (Bollen, 1989; Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996). The reasoning underlying Equation 38 may also be applied to estimate the proportion of variance in a set of first-order factors explained by a second-order factor, corresponding to h_j and x in Equation 35 (Edwards, 2001).

When measures are formative rather than reflective, as in Equation 34, the latent variable h is not a construct that is free from measurement error, but instead is a weighted composite that incorporates all the variance of the X_i , including variance that represents measurement error. If reliability estimates of the X_i are available, it is possible to identify the proportion of variance in h that represents measurement error in the X_i , using principles of covariance algebra such as those used to derive omega. Nonetheless, this measurement error is carried into h and therefore can bias parameter estimates for models in which h is embedded. One solution to this problem is to treat each X_i as a reflective indicator of a x_i and fix the variances of the d_i to nonzero values that represent the amount of error variance in the X_i (Edwards, 2001; Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000). The x_i are then treated as causes of h and do not bring measurement error into the composite they form. For such models, it is informative to estimate the proportion of variance in the x_i as a set captured by the formative construct h. This quantity is represented by the adequacy coefficient,

here labeled R_a^2 (Edwards, 2001). R_a^2 is used in canonical correlation analysis to represent the relationship between a set of variables and their associated canonical variate (Thompson, 1984) and is algebraically equivalent to the percentage of variance captured by a principal component (Kim & Mueller, 1978). For the relationship between *h* and a set of x_i , R_a^2 can be calculated by summing the squared correlations between *h* and each x_i and dividing by the number of x_i . The information necessary to calculate R_a^2 is available from the covariance matrix of *h* and x_i reported by programs such as LISREL (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1996).

Convergent and discriminant validity. As noted previously, analyzing MTMM matrices using the standard CFA model with correlated traits and correlated methods (hereafter termed the CTCM model) suffers from problems of nonconvergence and improper solutions. To overcome these problems, alternatives to the CTCM model have been proposed. One alternative is the correlated uniqueness (CU) model (Kenny, 1976; Marsh, 1989), which replaces method factors with correlations among the residual terms for measures collected using the same method. Figure 6 portrays the CU model for measures representing three traits and three methods. When three methods are involved, the CU model is mathematically equivalent to a CFA model with correlated trait factors and uncorrelated method factors (i.e., a CTUM model; Marsh & Bailey, 1991). With more than three factors, the CU model can be compared to the CTUM model to test whether the measures are congeneric with respect to the method factors, meaning that each method factor adequately explains the covariation among measures collected using that method after the effects of the trait factors have been removed (Kenny & Kashy, 1992; Marsh & Bailey, 1991). Compared to the CTCM model, the CU model is more likely to converge and yield proper solutions (Marsh & Bailey, 1991). However, because it does not contain method factors, the CU model does not provide a direct estimate of the amount of method variance in each measure.

Nonetheless, it can be shown that the average correlation among the uniqueness for a particular method yields an estimate of the amount of variance attributable to that method (Conway, 1998a; Scullen, 1999). A more serious limitation is the assumption that methods are uncorrelated. If methods are positively correlated, the CU model tends to overestimate trait variances and covariances, thereby artificially inflating convergent validity and reducing discriminant validity (Byrne & Goffin, 1993; Kenny & Kashy, 1992).

Insert Figure 6 about here

Another alternative to the CTCM model is the composite direct product (CDP) model (Browne, 1984; Swain, 1975). The CDP model traces its origins to observations made by Campbell and O'Connell (1967), who noted that MTMM matrices often display a pattern in which sharing a common method inflates heterotrait correlations to a greater extent when trait correlations are high rather than low. Based on this observation, Campbell and O'Connell (1967) suggested that trait and method factors might operate multiplicatively rather than additively. The CDP model incorporates multiplicative effects by specifying the true score of each measure as the product of its corresponding trait and method scores (Browne, 1989). Assuming trait and method factors are independent and normally distributed with zero means, this specification produces a covariance structure in which the covariance between their methods (Bohrnstedt & Goldberger, 1969; Browne, 1984, 1989). This covariance structure can be written in matrix form as the right direct product between the trait and method covariance matrices (Browne, 1984; Swain, 1975), from which the CDP model acquired its name. Applications of the CDP model show that it is often less prone to estimation problems than the CTCM model (Goffin & Jackson, 1992). Results from the CDP model can be mapped onto the Campbell and Fiske (1959) criteria (Browne, 1984; Cudeck, 1988), although convergent and discriminant validity can be assessed more precisely using estimates of specific model parameters (Reichardt & Coleman, 1995).

The strengths of the CDP model are offset by several shortcomings. First, although the CDP model suffers from fewer estimation problems than the CTCM model, it is nonetheless prone to improper solutions (Becker & Cote, 1994; Conway, 1996). Second, the CDP model does not provide separate estimates of the trait and method variance in each measure. Rather, these two sources of variance are combined into a single commonality estimate (Conway, 1996; Goffin & Jackson, 1992; Kenny, 1995). As a result, the model does not indicate how well each measure represents its intended underlying construct (Bagozzi & Yi, 1990). Third, the model does not provide a test of the assumption that true scores are a function of the product of trait and method factors. Some researchers have suggested that, if the CDP model fits the data, method effects are likely to be multiplicative (Bagozzi & Yi, 1990; Bagozzi et al., 1991). However, model fit does not constitute a test of the multiplicative structure upon which the CDP model is built, and data fit by the CDP model can often be fit by additive models such as the CTCM or CU models (Coenders & Saris, 2000; Corten, Saris, Coenders, van der Veld, Aalberts, & Kornelis, 2002; Kumar & Dillon, 1992). In effect, estimating the CDP model is analogous to testing interactions using product terms without controlling for their constituent main effects, which does not provide proper tests of interactions and can produce misleading results (Cohen, 1978; Evans, 1991). A final issue is that the CDP model is not required to capture the observations of Campbell and O'Connell (1967) that method effects are stronger when trait correlations are higher (Kumar & Dillon, 1992; Marsh & Grayson, 1995). This pattern can be

produced when higher trait correlations are accompanied by stronger method effects, as indicated by larger method loadings in the CTCM model or higher correlations among uniquenesses in the CU model. The CDP model represents a special case of this pattern, given that the CDP model can be parameterized as a restricted version of the CU model with nonlinear constraints on the covariances among the uniquenesses (Coenders & Saris, 2000; Corten et al., 2002).

Other models have been developed in which the number of factors is one less than the combined number of traits and methods. By excluding one factor and its associated parameters, these models provide one approach to address the identification problems common in the CTCM model. Eid (2000) proposed a model that is equivalent to the CTCM model with one method factor removed. The excluded method factor serves as a standard of comparison to evaluate the effects of the included method factors on observed scores. For example, if a MTMM design uses self-reports, interviews, and observations as methods and excludes a self-report method factor, the interview and observation factors explain how the covariances among measures collected with these methods differ from the covariances among measures collected using self reports. Although this model is identified in many cases where the CTCM model is not (Eid, 2000), it confounds trait and method variance for measures corresponding to the excluded method factor and generally yields different fit depending on which method factor is excluded. Kenny and Kashy (1992) presented a model in which method factor loadings are fixed to represent contrasts among the methods, such that the effects of each method factor sum to zero. The effect sizes of the method contrasts are represented by the variances of the method factors, which are freely estimated. Like the model proposed by Eid (2000), the Kenny and Kashy (1992) model does not provide estimates of method variance for each measure. Moreover, Kenny and Kashy (1992) reported that the model inappropriately lowered discriminant validity and inflated convergent

validity to a greater extent than the CU model. Finally, Wothke (1987, 1995, 1996) developed a covariance components analysis (CCA) model that includes a general factor, t - 1 contrast factors to represent traits, and m - 1 contrast factors to represent methods (t and m signify the number of traits and methods, respectively). The variances of the trait and method factors indicate the magnitudes of their associated contrasts, consistent with the interpretation of the method contrast factors in the Kenny and Kashy (1992) approach. However, the CCA model does not provide estimates of trait or method variance for each measure, and its interpretation of its results in terms of convergent and discriminant validity is not straightforward (Kumar & Dillon, 1992; Wothke, 1996).

Each of the foregoing models uses a single indicator to represent each trait measured with each method. Other models have been developed that use multiple indicators for each traitmethod combination. These models are feasible when the measures that constitute a MTMM matrix are created by summing multiple items, as is often the case (Marsh, 1993). Of these models, perhaps the most straightforward model assigns individual items directly to their associated trait and method factors (Tomás, Hontangas, & Oliver, 2000). Models specified in this manner are less prone to nonconvergence and improper solutions than models that treat each trait-method unit as a single indicator (Tomás et al., 2000). However, this model does not separate specificity from random measurement error, which remain confounded in the residual of each measure. This limitation can be overcome by adding a factor specific to each trait-method combination, yielding a first-order factor model in which each item is assigned to a trait factor, a method factor, and a specificity factor (Kumar & Dillon, 1990). One drawback of this approach is that it separates trait, method, and specific variance for individual items rather than the trait-method combinations that comprise the items, which are usually the focus of MTMM studies. This drawback is avoided by second-order CFA models in which items are assigned to first-order factors representing trait-method units, which in turn are assigned to second-order trait and method factors (Marsh, 1993; Marsh & Hocevar, 1988). In such models, the residual for each first-order factor captures specific variance from which the effects of measurement error have been removed, and loadings of the first-order factors on the second-order factors can be used to obtain estimates of trait and method variance for each trait-method unit. In addition, methods for comparing alternative CTCM models (Widaman, 1985) can be applied to the second-order factor structure imposed on the correlations among the first-order factors, which are corrected for measurement error at the level of the trait-method unit (Marsh, 1993; Marsh & Hocevar, 1988). Hybrid models have also been proposed in which traits are specified as second-order factors and methods and trait-method units are treated as first-order factors (Anderson, 1985, 1987). Research is needed to evaluate the relative strengths of these alternative models.

Finally, models have been developed that include measures that serve as direct indicators of method factors. These measures are intended to give explicit substantive meaning to method factors, as opposed to relying on broad distinctions between methods to infer what method factors might represent. Models with direct measures of method factors have been used to examine the effects of negative affectivity on work attitudes (Williams & Anderson, 1994; Williams, Gavin, & Williams, 1996) and the effects of general impressions and interpersonal affect on performance ratings (Conway, 1998b). This approach might be applied to MTMM analyses by including measures that represent substantive dimensions believed to differentiate the methods of measurement used in a particular study. Doing so would enable researchers to treat method variance from a theoretical standpoint, such that method factors are not merely a nuisance to be avoided, but instead represent substantive processes worthy of study in their own

right (Cronbach, 1995; Schmitt, 1994).

Guidelines for Construct Validation in OB Research

The foregoing discussion has traced the evolution of classical, modern, and emerging approaches to construct validation. Much of the material reviewed has drawn not from the OB literature *per se*, but instead from the methodological literature in which construct validation approaches have been developed. Within the OB literature, it is perhaps fair to say that much empirical research draws from construct validation procedures that represent the classical era. This tendency is evidenced by the widespread use of alpha to estimate reliability, the associated reliance on classical measurement theory to frame the relationship between a construct and its measures, and the application of principal components analysis and common factor analysis to assess the convergence and divergence of measures. The use of CFA, which is the hallmark of the modern era, has grown substantially during the past decade, but few studies have estimated reliability with omega, and MTMM studies using CFA to evaluate convergent and discriminant validity are rare. Applications of emerging approaches to construct validation are beginning to appear, primarily through the use of second-order factor analysis, the framing of measures as formative rather than reflective, and scattered applications of the CU and CDP models to analyze MTMM data. This state of affairs does not justify an indictment of the OB literature, but instead reflects the natural time lag required for methodological developments to disseminate through any applied science.

Lessons learned from tracing the development of the classical, modern, and emerging approaches suggest several recommendations for construct validation in OB research. First, OB researchers should carefully scrutinize the models they implicitly or explicitly use to relate constructs to measures. In most instances, the model underlying classical measurement theory will prove too restrictive. The standard CFA model will be appropriate in many cases, provided measures may be viewed as alternative indicators of a single underlying construct. If measures describe qualitatively different manifestations of the same general concept, then the measures might be assigned to first-order factors that serve as reflective indicators of a second-order factor. Alternately, if measures describe distinct dimensions that combine to define a broader concept, then the measures might be assigned to first-order factors that serve factors that are cast as formative indicators of a general construct. Typically, models of this type should be preferred to models that treat the measures themselves as formative indicators, due to philosophical problems with the assumption that measures, as numeric quantities, are capable of causing constructs of interest in OB research (Edwards & Bagozzi, 2000).

Second, the widespread reliance on alpha to assess reliability should be reconsidered. As noted earlier, alpha rests on the assumption of tau-equivalence, which is unlikely to be met in practice. Omega relaxes this assumption and reduces to alpha when measures are tau equivalent. Therefore, it would seem advantageous to adopt omega for estimating the internal consistency reliability of summed scales. However, both alpha and omega lose their relevance when summed scales are replaced by latent variables with multiple indicators in structural equation models, as is becoming increasingly common in OB research. Such models shift the focus of reliability from sums of measures to the individual measures themselves. In addition, the variance explained in a set of measures by their underlying construct can be quantified using R_m^2 , which gives a single index of the proportion of true score (i.e., construct) variance in a set of measures. Reframing reliability in this manner aligns the meaning of reliability with the treatment of measures as indicators of latent constructs rather than elements of summed scales.

Third, the assessment of convergent and discriminant validity should no longer rely on

the Campbell and Fiske (1959) criteria. Research has convincingly shown that these criteria do not distinguish the various factors that give rise to MTMM correlations and therefore yield ambiguous conclusions regarding convergent and discriminant validity. These ambiguities can be avoided by analyzing MTMM data using CFA models. However, the CTCM model, which is the most widely used CFA model for analyzing MTMM data, is prone to nonconvergence and improper solutions attributable to inherent identification problems. Of the alternatives to the CTCM model, the CU model has received the greatest attention and is perhaps the simplest to estimate and interpret. However, the CU model incorporates the rather stringent assumption that methods are independent. The CDP and CCA models have attractive statistical features, but these models do not permit a straightforward decomposition of the variance of a measure into trait, method, and error components. Moreover, these models specify trait and method factors in ways that fundamentally differ from the CTCM model, and the substantive meaning of these different specifications have not been fully addressed. Second-order CFA models treat each traitmethod combination as a latent variable with multiple indicators, and limited evidence suggests that these models are less susceptible to problems that plague the CTCM model. However, identification problems that arise from the structure of the item loadings in the CTCM may apply to the first-order factor loadings in the second-order factor model. Despite this possibility, available evidence warrants cautious optimism regarding the application of the second-order CFA model to MTMM analyses. Finally, including measures that serve as indicators of method factors provides the dual advantage of reducing identification problems and clarifying the processes believed to underlie method effects. Establishing that method variance exists should be considered an initial step that is followed by research that assigns meaning to method factors and explains how and why they operate.

A final recommendation concerns guidelines for developing measures that exhibit strong construct validity. Guidelines such as these are discussed elsewhere (e.g., Converse & Presser, 1986; DeVellis, 1991; Spector, 1992; Stone-Romero, 1994), and a thorough treatment is beyond the scope of this chapter. Stated succinctly, researchers should begin with a clear definition of the construct of interest and assemble or develop items that provide alternative descriptions of the construct. Researchers should resist the temptation to use items that describe different facets of a concept, because such items often exhibit poor internal consistency and produce scales and factors that cannot be unambiguously interpreted. If different facets of a general concept are of interest, then it is advisable to use items that provide alternative descriptions of each facet and treat the facets as dimensions of a multidimensional construct(Edwards, 2001). The item pool may be screened by judges who rate the degree to which each item describes its intended construct (Schriesheim Cogliser, Scandura, Lankau, & Powers 1999), and the resulting ratings may be used to select, revise, or discard items before using them to collect data. Item ratings may also be used to specify CFA models that form the basis for assessing reliability and convergent and discriminant validity, using procedures discussed in this chapter. Finally, the items should be analyzed within broader models that include causes, correlates, and effects of the construct of interest, thereby generating evidence relevant to nomological validity. By following these guidelines, OB researchers can enhance the validity of measures taken as evidence of constructs that constitute the substance of OB theories and thereby promote theory testing and knowledge accumulation in the field.

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Footnotes

¹ The assessment of item content after an instrument has been developed has been described as face validity (Nunnally, 1978) or content adequacy (Schriesheim, Cogliser, Scandura, Lankau, & Powers, 1999), and statistical procedures for its assessment have been developed (Schriesheim et al., 1999).

² As noted by Widaman (1985), some of the models derived from the framework cannot be meaningfully compared. For instance, a model with a single trait factor and no method factors is indistinguishable from a model with a single method factor and no trait factors.



Multitrait-multimethod matrix with three traits and three methods

Table 1

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Relationship between true score and measures according to classical measurement theory.

Figure 2. Relationship between construct and measures following confirmatory factor analysis.

Figure 3. Confirmatory factor analysis model for a MTMM matrix with three traits and three methods.

Figure 4. Relationship between construct and measures following a formative measurement model.

Figure 5. Second-order confirmatory factor model with three first-order factors and one second-order factor.

Figure 6. Correlated uniqueness model for a MTMM matrix with three traits and three methods.











