List of Figures

Figure 1. *SEM Models Proposed by Salthouse and Czaja (2000)*

Figure 2. *The Composition of Variance in the Indicator Variables of a Hierarchical Factor Model*

Figure 3. *Example of a Nested Factor Model*

Figure 4. *A: Model with a Common Cause (CC) Factor on Top of a Hierarchical Structure of the Cognitive Mechanics and Variables of Sensorimotor Functioning.*

B: Nested Factor Representation of the Hierarchical CC Factor Model

Figure 5. *Nested Factor Model With BASE Data*

Figure 6. *Directed Age-Associated Effects on the Factors of the NF Model Structure*

Figure 7. *Age Correlations of Factors in the Nested Factor Model*

Figure 8. *Age Correlations of the Factors in an Oblique Factor Model, Regression Weights for a Regression of Age on Oblique Factors and for a Regression on the Specific Factors in a Nested Factor Model*

Figure 9. *Common Cause Factor Model*

Figure 10. *Prediction of the Duration of Writing Activities in the Yesterday Interview With Basic Competency and the Nested Factor Model*

Figure 11. *Sensitivity Analysis of the Age Correlations in the Nested Factor Model*

Figure 12. *Basic Design of the Monte Carlo Simulation Study*

Figure 13. *Standard Errors of the Estimates of Specific Effect as a Function of Sample Size and Disproportionality of General and Specific Variance Components in the Indicator Variables*

Figure 14. *Model Fit (RMSEA) as a Function of the Age Correlation of the Specific Factor and the Disproportionality of the Model*

List of Tables

Table 1. *Overview of Research Questions and Hypotheses*

Table 2. *Communalities of the General and Specific Factors in the Nested Factor Model for Different Age Groups*

Table 3. *Correlations of General and Specific Factors in the Nested Factor Model With Indicators and a Latent Factor of Socioeconomic Status*

Table 4. *Correlations of General and Specific Factors in the Nested Factor Model With Items and Scale Score of Openness for Experience From the NEO*

Table 5. *Influence of Disproportionality on the Number of Heywood Cases and Improper Solutions*

List of Figures and Tables in Appendices

Figure A1. *Simulated Example Illustrating the Stepwise Procedure by Salthouse (1998)*

Figure A2. *Simulated Example Illustrating the Stepwise Procedure by Christensen et al. (2001)*

Figure B1. *Simulation Example With the Nested Factor Model and Directed Age-Associated Effects on the General and Specific Factors. All Parameter Values are Standardized Estimates*

Figure B2. *Simulation Example With the Nested Factor Model and the General and Specific Factors Correlating With Age. All Parameter Values are Standardized Estimates*

Figure P1. *Frequencies of Different Estimates for the Age Correlation of the General Factor in Runs With Improper Solutions*

Table D1. *Activities Coded in the Yesterday Interview and Correlations with Cognitive Ability Tasks*

Table E1. *Standardized Nested Factor Model Loadings for Young-Old Group (Age < 85.15)*

Table E2. *Standardized Nested Factor Model Loadings for Old-Old Group (Age > 85.15)*

Table E3. *Standardized Nested Factor Model Loadings for Younger Adult Group (Age 25–69)*

Table F1. *Comparison of Unstandardized Factor Loadings in Age-as-a-Predictor Model, Age-as-a-Covariate Model, and in Age-Partialled Model*

Table G1. *Age-Partialled Correlations of General and Specific Factors in the Nested Factor Model With Indicators and a Latent Factor of Socioeconomic Status*

Table H1. *Age-Partialled Correlations of General and Specific Factors in the Nested Factor Model With Items and Scale Score of Openness for Experience From the NEO*

Table J1. *Standardized Factor Loadings of the Nested Factor Model Estimated for Tasks Without Imputed Missing Values*

Table J2. *Standardized Factor Loadings of the Nested Factor Model With Missing Values Replaced by EM-Estimates*

Table K1. *Bootstrap Standard Errors, Estimates of Parameter Bias, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; Percentile Method) of Parameter Estimates for Standardized Factor Loadings*

Table K2. *Bootstrap Standard Errors, Estimates of Parameter Bias, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; Percentile Method) of Parameter Estimates for Age Correlations of the General and Specific Factors*

Table L1. *Bootstrap Standard Errors, Estimates of Parameter Bias, and 95% Confidence Intervals (CI; Percentile Method) of Parameter Estimates for Standardized Regression Weights of Writing and Basic Competency on the General and Specific Factors*

Table N1. *Influence of Sample Size on the Number of Heywood Cases and Improper Solutions*

Table N2. *Influence of the Number of Indicator Variables on the Number of Heywood Cases and Improper Solutions*

Table O1. *ANOVA for the Standard Error of the Estimate of the Age Correlation of the General Factor*

Table O2. *ANOVA for the Standard Error of the Estimate of the Age Correlation of the Specific Factor*

Table P1. *True and Average Estimated Age Correlations of the General and Specific Factors Excluding Runs With Improper Solutions*