

## Specifying composites in growth curve analysis

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To study composites in growth curve models, researchers typically follow the composite score approach, which is a two-step approach. In the first step, composites are created outside the model and subsequently, in the second step these composites are treated as observed variables in the growth curve model. Due to its two-step nature, the composite score approach has various drawbacks such as weights are no model parameters and the overall model fit assessment ignores the formation of the composites. To address these drawbacks, we present a new approach which allows for specifying composites in growth curve models in a single step. In doing so, we combine on the recently proposed Henseler–Ogasawara specification with the growth curve model. Consequently, researchers can estimate growth curve models containing composites in a single step. To illustrate our approach, we use an empirical example. Finally, we provide avenues for future research.