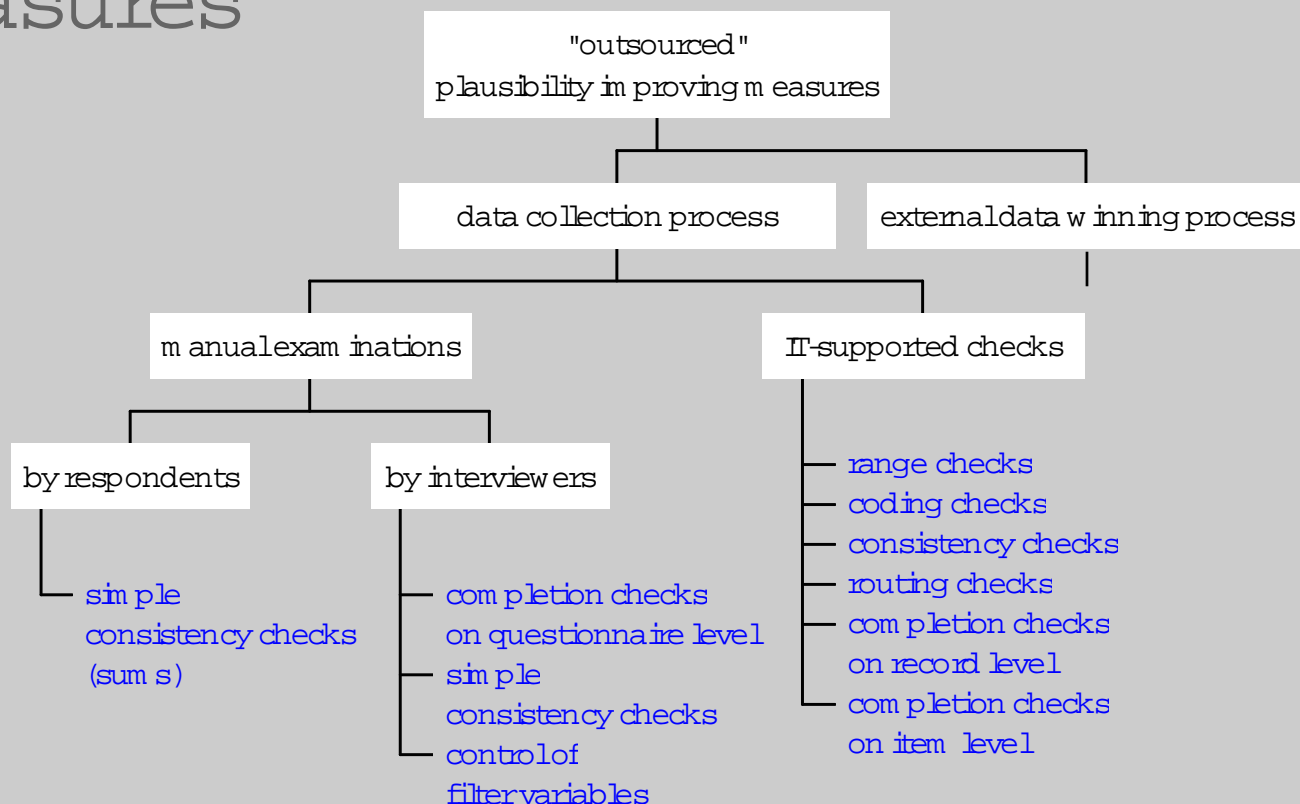# „Outsourcing" of plausibility improving measures

- Introduction

- Overview of plausibility improving measures

- Integration of checks in e_questionnaires

- Further questions and research

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Introduction

- The data collection can be regarded as a weak type of the exact technical measurement

- The quality of the data collection process determines heavily accuracy, timeliness, and the efficiency of the production of statistics

- Respondents make the best corrections – if they cooperate

- Shifting of checks in the data collection process is one focal point of the new data editing concept of Statistics Germany

- „Data collection" without statistical control: the public establishments of Germany deliver today up to 80 percent of needed information as data

- Destatis has to provide e_questionnaires for 24 centralised surveys until 2005, and Statistics Germany plans to provide e_questionnaires for 25 decentralised surveys until 2005

Outsourced plausibility improving measures

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            ┌──────────────────────────────┐
            │          "outsourced"         │
            │ plausibility improving measures│
            └──────────────┬───────────────┘
             ┌─────────────┴──────────────────┐
    ┌────────────────────┐        ┌───────────────────────────┐
    │ data collection process│    │ external data winning process│
    └──────────┬─────────┘        └───────────────────────────┘
      ┌────────┴───────────┐
┌──────────────────┐   ┌──────────────────┐
│ manual examinations│   │ IT-supported checks│
└────────┬─────────┘   └──────────────────┘
    ┌────┴──────┐
┌───────────┐ ┌──────────────┐
│by respondents│ │by interviewers│
└───────────┘ └──────────────┘
```

manual examinations

by respondents
- simple consistency checks (sums)

by interviewers
- completion checks on questionnaire level
- simple consistency checks
- control of filter variables

IT-supported checks
- range checks
- coding checks
- consistency checks
- routing checks
- completion checks on record level
- completion checks on item level

Integration of checks in e_questionnaires

- The following aspects are obtained from internal manuals of Statistics Germany and supplemented by personal experience due to interviewer activities

- technical equipment of respondents / interviewers
- possibilities of navigation in an electronic questionnaire
- avoidance of confrontation with information given in a previous round of a survey
- complexity of subject matter knowledge for the correction of an error
- output oriented integration of checks
- avoidance of follow-up errors
- facilitation of corrections and imputations

Further questions and research

- **Description and shaping the new area**
  - Division of the contents (surveys versus the use of „foreign data")
  - Clarification of terms (e.g. generic terms for checks of a questionnaire or for plausibility improving measures)
- **Best / typical practices for the outsourcing of plausibility improving measures (motivation of respondents and data suppliers)**
- **Plausibility improving measures and production of statistical data**
  - integration of checks in questionnaires (e.g. avoidance of more complicate errors or provision of realtime statistical results)
  - Integration of „auxiliary" characteristics in questionnaires – examples