

Package ‘metacor’

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Type Package

Title Meta-Analytic Effect Size Calculation for Pre-Post Designs with Correlation Imputation

Version 1.2.1

Description Tools for the calculation of effect sizes (standardised mean difference) and mean difference in pre-post controlled studies, including robust imputation of missing variances (standard deviation of changes) and correlations (Pearson correlation coefficient). The main function 'metacor_dual()' implements several methods for imputing missing standard deviation of changes or Pearson correlation coefficient, and generates transparent imputation reports. Designed for meta-analyses with incomplete summary statistics. For details on the methods, see Higgins et al. (2023) and Fu et al. (2013).

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URL <https://github.com/ikerugr/metacor>,
<https://ikerugr.r-universe.dev/metacor>

BugReports <https://github.com/ikerugr/metacor/issues>

Depends R (>= 3.6)

Imports stats, officer, stringr

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

Config/testthat/edition 3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

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check_metacor_consistency
<i>Check internal consistency of meta-analytic summary data</i>

Description

This function takes the output of metacor_dual() and performs a set of internal consistency checks (p-values, confidence intervals, SD of the difference vs. feasible range, and extreme correlations). Optionally, it also adds a human-readable interpretation of the detected issues for each study.

Usage

```
check_metacor_consistency(  
  df,  
  tolerance_p = 0.01,  
  tolerance_CI = 0.1,  
  r_extreme = 0.99,  
  interpret = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

df	A data frame, typically the output of metacor_dual().
tolerance_p	Numeric. Maximum acceptable absolute difference between reported and re-constructed p-values.
tolerance_CI	Numeric. Maximum acceptable absolute difference between reported and re-constructed confidence interval limits.
r_extreme	Numeric. Threshold above which correlations (in absolute value) are flagged as extreme.
interpret	Logical. If TRUE, add character columns summary_int (and summary_con, if applicable) with a brief narrative interpretation of the flags for each study.

Value

The same data frame df with additional logical flag columns (e.g., flag_p_mismatch_int, flag_CI_mismatch_int, etc.), and, if interpret = TRUE, one or two character columns with textual summaries.

Examples

```
## Not run:
res <- metacor_dual(dat, MeanDifferences = TRUE)
res_checked <- check_metacor_consistency(res, interpret = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

metacor_dual	<i>Effect Sizes and Imputation for Meta-Analysis of Pre-Post Studies and Pre-Post intervention and control groups studies (metacor_dual)</i>
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Description

Calculates effect sizes (i.e., SMDpre, SMDchange, ScMDpooled, ScMDpre) and allows for various imputation methods (i.e., none, cv, direct, mean) for missing SDdiff and correlation coefficients in pre-post meta-analyses, with or without a control group. Generates a detailed imputation report in Word format.

Usage

```
metacor_dual(
  df,
  digits = NULL,
  add_to_df = TRUE,
  method = "both",
  apply_hedges = TRUE,
  SMD_method = "SMDpre",
  MeanDifferences = FALSE,
  impute_method = "none",
  verbose = TRUE,
  report_imputations = FALSE,
  custom_sd_diff_int = NULL,
  custom_sd_diff_con = NULL,
  single_group = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

df	Data frame with the necessary columns for intervention and (optionally) control groups.
digits	Number of decimal places to round results (default: NULL).
add_to_df	Logical. If TRUE, results are added to the original data frame.
method	Method for SDdiff calculation (i.e., 'p_value', 'ci', 'both').
apply_hedges	Logical. Apply Hedges' g correction? (default: TRUE)
SMD_method	Method for effect size (i.e., 'SMDpre', 'SMDchange', 'ScMDpooled', 'ScMDpre').

MeanDifferences

Logical. Calculate mean differences and variances? (default: FALSE)

impute_method Imputation method for missing SDdiff (i.e., 'none', 'direct', 'mean', 'cv').

verbose Logical. Print messages during processing? (default: TRUE)

report_imputations Logical. Generate Word imputation report? (default: FALSE)

custom_sd_diff_int List with elements 'row' and 'value' for manual sd_diff_int values.

custom_sd_diff_con List with elements 'row' and 'value' for manual sd_diff_con values.

single_group Logical. Is the design single-group only? (default: FALSE)

Value

Data frame with calculated variables. Optionally, a Word report ('imputation_report.docx') is generated.

References

Higgins, J. P. T., Thomas, J., Chandler, J., Cumpston, M., Li, T., Page, M. J., & Welch, V. A. (Eds.). (2023). Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions (Version 6.3). Cochrane. <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook>

Fu, R., Vandermeer, B.W., Shamliyan, T.A., O'Neil, M.E., Yazdi, F., Fox, S.H., & Morton, S.C. (2013). Handling Continuous Outcomes in Quantitative Synthesis. Methods Guide for Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. AHRQ Publication No. 13-EHC103-EF. <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/reports/final.cfm>

Examples

```
df <- data.frame(
  study_name = c("Study1", "Study2", "Study3", "Study4",
    "Study5", "Study6", "Study7", "Study8", "Study9"),
  p_value_Int = c(1.038814e-07, NA, NA, NA, NA, 2.100000e-02, NA, NA, NA),
  n_Int = c(10, 10, 10, 10, 15, 15, 10, 10, 10),
  meanPre_Int = c(8.17, 10.09, 10.18, 9.85, 9.51, 7.70, 10.00, 11.53, 11.20),
  meanPost_Int = c(10.12, 12.50, 12.56, 10.41, 10.88, 9.20, 10.80, 13.42, 12.00),
  sd_pre_Int = c(1.83, 0.67, 0.66, 0.90, 0.62, 0.90, 0.70, 0.60, 1.90),
  sd_post_Int = c(1.85, 0.72, 0.97, 0.67, 0.76, 1.10, 0.70, 0.80, 1.80),
  upperCI_Int = c(NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA),
  lowerCI_Int = c(NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA)
)
result <- metacor_dual(df)
print(result)
```

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