
Contents

List of Figures	xvii
List of Tables	xix
Preface	xxi
1 Introduction to R	1
1.1 What is R?	1
1.2 Steps for Installing R and Updating R Packages	3
1.2.1 First Step: Install R <i>Base System</i>	3
1.2.2 Second Step: Installing and Updating R Packages	4
1.2.3 Steps to Get Help and Documentation	5
1.3 Database Management and Data Manipulations	7
1.3.1 RMySQL to Microsoft Excel	7
1.3.2 Other Methods to Read Data into R	8
1.3.3 R Package foreign	9
1.4 A Simple Simulation on Multi-Center Studies	10
1.4.1 Data Simulation	10
1.4.1.1 R Functions	10
1.4.1.2 Data Generation and Manipulation	11
1.4.1.3 Basic R Graphics	16
1.4.2 Data Analysis	21
1.4.2.1 Data Analysis from Each Center	21
1.4.2.2 Data Analysis with Pooled Data from five-Centers	23
1.4.2.3 A Brief Introduction to Meta-Analysis	24
1.5 Summary and Recommendations for Further Reading	28

2 Research Protocol for Meta-Analyses	31
2.1 Introduction	31
2.2 Defining the Research Objective	32
2.3 Criteria for Identifying Studies to Include in the Meta-Analysis	33
2.3.1 Clarifying the Disease under Study	33
2.3.2 The Effectiveness Measure or Outcome	34
2.3.3 The Type of Control Group	34
2.3.4 Study Characteristics	35
2.3.5 Type of Patient	35
2.3.6 Length of Study	35
2.4 Searching for and Collecting the Studies	36
2.5 Data Abstraction and Extraction	38
2.6 Meta-Analysis Methods	40
2.7 Results	40
2.8 Summary and Discussion	41
3 Fixed-Effects and Random-Effects in Meta-Analysis	43
3.1 Two Datasets from Clinical Studies	44
3.1.1 Data for Cochrane Collaboration Logo: Binary Data	44
3.1.2 Clinical Studies on Amlodipine: Continuous Data	45
3.2 Fixed-Effects and Random-Effects Models in Meta-Analysis	45
3.2.1 Hypotheses and Effect Size	46
3.2.2 Fixed-Effects Meta-Analysis Model: The Weighted-Average	47
3.2.2.1 Fixed-Effects Model	47
3.2.2.2 The Weighting Schemes	48
3.2.3 Random-Effects Meta-Analysis Model: DerSimonian-Laird	50
3.2.3.1 Random-Effects Model	50
3.2.3.2 Derivation of DerSimonian-Laird Estimator of τ^2	52
3.2.4 Publication Bias	54
3.3 Data Analysis in R	55
3.3.1 Meta-Analysis for Cochrane Collaboration Logo	55
3.3.1.1 Fitting the Fixed-Effects Model	55

3.3.1.2	Fitting the Random-Effects Model	58
3.3.2	Analysis of Amlodipine Trial Data	60
3.3.2.1	Load the Library and Data	60
3.3.2.2	Fit the Fixed-Effects Model	61
3.3.2.3	Fit the Random-Effects Model	65
3.4	Which Model Should We Use? Fixed-Effects or Random-Effects?	66
3.4.1	Fixed-Effects	67
3.4.2	Random-Effects	67
3.4.3	Performing Both Fixed-Effects and Random-Effects Meta-Analysis	68
3.5	Summary and Conclusions	68
4	Meta-Analysis with Binary Data	71
4.1	Data from Real Life Studies	71
4.1.1	Statin Clinical Trials	71
4.1.2	Five Studies on Lamotrigine for Treatment of Bipolar Depression	74
4.2	Meta-Analysis Methods	77
4.2.1	Analysis with Risk-Ratio	77
4.2.1.1	Definition	77
4.2.1.2	Statistical Significance	80
4.2.1.3	The Risk-Ratio Meta-Analysis: Step-by-Step .	82
4.2.1.4	Risk-Ratio Meta-Analysis: R package <code>meta</code> .	86
4.2.2	Analysis with Risk-Difference	87
4.2.2.1	Definition	87
4.2.2.2	Implementation in R Package <code>meta</code>	88
4.2.3	Meta-Analysis with Odds Ratio	90
4.2.3.1	Data Structure	90
4.2.3.2	Odds Ratio: Woolf's Method	90
4.2.3.3	R Implementation with R Package <code>meta</code>	94
4.2.4	Meta-Analysis using Mantel-Haenszel Method	94
4.2.4.1	Details of the Mantel-Haenszel Method	94
4.2.4.2	Step-by-Step R Implementation	97
4.2.4.3	Meta-Analysis Using R Library <code>Meta</code>	99

4.2.5	Peto's Meta-Analysis Method	100
4.2.5.1	Peto's Odds Ratio	100
4.2.5.2	Step by Step Implementation in R	102
4.2.5.3	R Implementation in meta	103
4.3	Meta-Analysis of Lamotrigine Studies	106
4.3.1	Risk-Ratio	106
4.3.2	Risk-Difference	112
4.3.3	Odds Ratio	117
4.4	Discussion	122
5	Meta-Analysis for Continuous Data	125
5.1	Two Published Datasets	125
5.1.1	Impact of Intervention	125
5.1.2	Tubeless vs Standard Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy	126
5.2	Methods for Continuous Data	128
5.2.1	Estimate the Mean Difference Δ	128
5.2.2	Estimate the Standardized Mean Difference δ	129
5.2.3	Step-by-Step Implementation in R	131
5.2.3.1	Load the Data Into R	132
5.2.3.2	Meta-Analysis using R Library meta	132
5.2.3.3	Step-by-Step Calculations in R	134
5.3	Meta-Analysis of Tubeless vs Standard Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy	141
5.3.1	Comparison of Operation Duration	141
5.3.2	Comparison of Length of Hospital Stay	145
5.3.3	Comparison of Postoperative Analgesic Requirement	148
5.3.4	Comparison of Postoperative Haematocrit Change	149
5.3.5	Conclusions and Discussion	150
5.4	Discussion	151
6	Heterogeneity in Meta-Analysis	153
6.1	Heterogeneity Quantity Q and the Test of heterogeneity in R meta	153
6.2	The Quantifying Heterogeneity in R meta	155
6.2.1	The τ^2 Index	155

6.2.2	The <i>H</i> Index	156
6.2.3	The <i>I</i> ² Index	156
6.3	Step-By-Step Implementations in R	157
6.3.1	Cochrane Collaboration Logo Data	157
6.3.1.1	Illustration Using R Library meta	158
6.3.1.2	Implementation in R: Step-by-Step	159
6.3.2	Tubeless vs Standard PCNL Data	166
6.3.2.1	Implementation in R Library meta	166
6.3.2.2	Implementation in R: Step-by-Step	167
6.4	Discussion	175
7	Meta-Regression	177
7.1	Data	178
7.1.1	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin Vaccine Data	178
7.1.2	Ischaemic Heart Disease	180
7.1.3	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder for Children and Adolescents	180
7.2	Meta-Regression	182
7.2.1	The Methods	182
7.2.2	Example: BCG Data Analysis	184
7.2.2.1	Random-Effects Meta-Analysis	184
7.2.2.2	Meta-Regression Analysis	188
7.2.3	Meta-Regression vs Weighted Regression	191
7.3	Data Analysis Using R	194
7.3.1	IHD Data Analysis	194
7.3.1.1	Random-Effects Meta-Analysis	194
7.3.1.2	Meta-Regression Analysis	196
7.3.1.3	Comparison of Different Fitting Methods	199
7.3.2	ADHD Data Analysis	204
7.3.2.1	Data and Variables	204
7.3.2.2	Meta-Analysis	205
7.3.2.3	Meta-Regression Analysis	206
7.3.2.4	Summary	212
7.4	Discussion	212

8 Individual-Patient Level Data Analysis versus Meta-Analysis	213
8.1 Introduction	213
8.2 Treatment Comparison for Changes in HAMD	216
8.2.1 IPD Analysis	216
8.2.1.1 IPD Analysis by Each Study	216
8.2.1.2 IPD Analysis with Pooled Data	221
8.2.1.3 IPD Analysis Incorporating Covariates	222
8.2.1.4 Summary of IPD Analysis	224
8.2.2 Meta-Analysis	224
8.3 Treatment Comparison for Changes in MADRS	233
8.3.1 IPD Analysis	233
8.3.2 Meta-Analysis	239
8.4 Summary	246
8.5 Simulation Study on Continuous Outcomes	247
8.5.1 Simulation Data Generator	247
8.5.2 Simulation Data Estimator	251
8.5.3 Simulation	254
8.6 Discussion	259
9 Meta-Analysis for Rare Events	261
9.1 The Rosiglitazone Meta-Analysis	262
9.2 Step-by-Step Data Analysis in R	263
9.2.1 Load the Data	263
9.2.2 Data Analysis for Myocardial Infarction (MI)	264
9.2.3 Data Analysis for Cardiovascular Death (Death)	274
9.3 Discussion	281
10 Other R Packages for Meta-Analysis	283
10.1 Combining <i>p</i> -Values in Meta-Analysis	284
10.2 R Packages for Meta-Analysis of Correlation Coefficients	285
10.2.1 Introduction	286
10.2.2 Example	286
10.2.3 Discussion	291
10.3 Multivariate Meta-Analysis	292
10.3.1 The Model and the Package of <i>mvmeta</i>	292

10.3.2 Examples	293
10.3.3 Summary	298
10.4 Discussion	299
Bibliography	305
Index	315

Part I Illustrations for Data Generated for "Control Trials"	15
1.1 Illustration for Data Generated for "New Drug"	15
1.2 Illustration for Data Generated for "New Drug"	17
1.3 Data with Regression Line for Study Treatment and Control	18
1.4 Treatment Effect by Center	19
1.5 Treatment Effect Grouped by Center	20
Part II Illustrations for Data Generated for "Real Trials"	51
2.1 Forest Plot for the Control Trial with 95% Confidence Random-Effects Meta-Analysis	51
2.2 Default Forest Plot for the Angina Trial with 95% CIs	53
2.3 A Detailed Forest Plot for the Angina Trial with 95% CIs	53
2.4 Funnel Plot for the Angina Trial	54
2.5 Meta-Analysis with Fixed Effects	55
2.6 Meta-Analysis with Risk Difference	59
2.7 Meta-Analysis with Odds Ratio with Inverse Weights	63
2.8 Meta-Analysis with Mantel-Haenszel Odds Ratio	64
2.9 Meta-Analysis with Peto Odds Ratio	65
2.10 Funnel Plot for Ovarian Cancer	66
2.11 Forest Plot for the Combination Data	124
2.12 Funnel Plot for Operation Duration	125
2.13 Forest Plot for the Length of Hospital Stay	127
2.14 Funnel Plot for the Random-Effects Model for OAD Data	128
2.15 Residuals from the Random-Effects Model for OAD Data	129
2.16 Residuals from the Random-Effects Model for OAD Data	130
2.17 Histogram of the Residuals	131
Part III Illustrations for Data Generated for "Real Trials"	132