Meta-analysis of Mendelian randomization studies

Tom Palmer, John Thompson and Martin Tobin

Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester, UK

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Outline

- 2 Concepts in the meta-analysis model
- 3 Description of the example and the meta-analysis model
- 4 An extension to the meta-analysis model
- 5 Summary and discussion

• Dates back to [Katan, 1986], recent revival [Katan, 2004]

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 - Phenotype on pathway between gene and disease



 $\begin{array}{l} \theta \text{: Gene-Disease log odds-ratio, } \delta \text{: difference in mean phenotypes,} \\ \eta \text{: Phenotype-Disease log odds-ratio} \end{array}$



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• Ratio of coefficients approach,

$$\eta_{[k]} \approx \frac{k\theta}{\delta}$$

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	gg	Gg	GG
Controls	<i>Y</i> 01	<i>Y</i> 02	<i>У</i> 03
Cases	<i>Y</i> 11	<i>Y</i> 12	<i>Y</i> 13
log odds-ratios		θ_2	θ_3
Mean phenotype levels (controls)	μ_1	μ_2	μ_{3}
difference in mean phenotypes		δ_2	δ_3

Description of the example

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Tom Palmer (Leicester)

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$$\begin{bmatrix} \theta_{2i} \\ \delta_{2i} \\ \theta_{3i} \\ \delta_{3i} \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathsf{MVN} \left(\begin{bmatrix} \eta \delta_2 \\ \delta_2 \\ \eta \delta_3 \\ \delta_3 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{V}_i + \mathbf{B} \right)$$

• Results of the meta-analysis model

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Method of estimation	<i>OR</i> _{pd,0.05}	95% C.I.	
Gg vs gg	0.57	0.42	0.77
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Prior distributions

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ML - MVN	0.42	0.28	0.61	0.33	0.19	0.47
Bayesian - PNF	0.46	0.32	0.61	0.30	0.17	0.45

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Talk summary and discussion

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- Random allocation of an individual's genotype allows use of instrumental variable theory
 - Meta-analysis analysis of two genotype comparisons; extended to include the genetic model-free approach
- Meta-analysis of genetic association studies using merged genotype comparisons [Salanti and Higgins, 2007]

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