

# Package ‘getmstatistic’

March 15, 2019

**Title** Quantifying Systematic Heterogeneity in Meta-Analysis

**Version** 0.2.0

**Description** Quantifying systematic heterogeneity in meta-analysis using R.

The M statistic aggregates heterogeneity information across multiple variants to, identify systematic heterogeneity patterns and their direction of effect in meta-analysis. It's primary use is to identify outlier studies, which either show “null” effects or consistently show stronger or weaker genetic effects than average across, the panel of variants examined in a GWAS meta-analysis. In contrast to conventional heterogeneity metrics (Q-statistic, I-squared and tau-squared) which measure random heterogeneity at individual variants, M measures systematic (non-random) heterogeneity across multiple independently associated variants. Systematic heterogeneity can arise in a meta-analysis due to differences in the study characteristics of participating studies. Some of the differences may include: ancestry, allele frequencies, phenotype definition, age-of-disease onset, family-history, gender, linkage disequilibrium and quality control thresholds. See <<https://magosil86.github.io/getmstatistic/>> for statistical theory, documentation and examples.

**Depends** R (>= 3.1.0)

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://magosil86.github.io/getmstatistic/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/magosil86/getmstatistic/issues>

**LazyData** true

**Imports** ggplot2 (>= 1.0.1), gridExtra (>= 0.9.1), gtable (>= 0.1.2), metafor (>= 1.9-6), psych (>= 1.5.1), stargazer (>= 5.1)

**Suggests** foreign (>= 0.8-62), knitr (>= 1.10.5), testthat

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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draw_table	<i>Helper function to draw table grobs.</i>
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### Description

draw\_table() Pre and post version: 2.0.0 gridExtra packages handle drawing tables differently. draw\_table() determines the installed version of gridExtra and applies the appropriate syntax. If gridExtra version < 2.0.0 then it uses old gridExtra syntax to build table Grob(graphical object) else uses new syntax. draw\_table()

### Usage

```
draw_table(body, heading, ...)
```

### Arguments

body	A dataframe. Table body.
heading	A string. Table title.
...	Further arguments to control the gtable.

### Details

prints tables without rownames.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ryan Welch, <https://github.com/welchr/LocusZoom/issues/16>

**Examples**

```
# note: not exported hence examples are not run
library(gridExtra)

# Table of iris values
iris_dframe <- head(iris)
title_iris_dframe <- paste("Table: Length and width measurements (cm) of sepals ",
                          "and petals, for 50 flowers from 3 species of iris ",
                          "(setosa, versicolor, and virginica). ", sep="")
table_influential_studies <- draw_table(body = iris_dframe, heading = title_iris_dframe)

# Table of mtcars values
mtcars_dframe <- head(mtcars)
title_mtcars_dframe <- paste("Table: Motor Trend US magazine (1974) automobile ",
                            "statistics for fuel consumption, automobile ",
                            "design and performance. ", sep="")
table_influential_studies <- draw_table(body = mtcars_dframe,
                                       heading = title_mtcars_dframe)

# @export
```

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getmstatistic

*Quantifying Systematic Heterogeneity in Meta-Analysis.*


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**Description**

getmstatistic computes  $M$  statistics to assess the contribution of each participating study in a meta-analysis. The  $M$  statistic aggregates heterogeneity information across multiple variants to, identify systematic heterogeneity patterns and their direction of effect in meta-analysis. It's primary use is to identify outlier studies, which either show "null" effects or consistently show stronger or weaker genetic effects than average, across the panel of variants examined in a GWAS meta-analysis.

**Usage**

```
getmstatistic(beta_in, lambda_se_in, study_names_in, variant_names_in, ...)

## Default S3 method:
getmstatistic(beta_in, lambda_se_in, study_names_in,
              variant_names_in, tau2_method = "DL", x_axis_increment_in = 0.02,
              x_axis_round_in = 2, verbose_output = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

beta\_in            A numeric vector of study effect-sizes e.g. log odds-ratios.  
lambda\_se\_in       A numeric vector of standard errors, genomically corrected at study-level.

**study\_names\_in** A character vector of study names.  
**variant\_names\_in** A character vector of variant names e.g. rsIDs.  
**...** Further arguments.  
**tau2\_method** A character scalar, method to estimate heterogeneity: either "DL" or "REML" (Optional). Note: The REML method uses the iterative Fisher scoring algorithm (step length = 0.5, maximum iterations = 10000) to estimate tau2.  
**x\_axis\_increment\_in** A numeric scalar, value by which x-axis of M scatterplot will be incremented (Optional).  
**x\_axis\_round\_in** A numeric scalar, value to which x-axis labels of M scatterplot will be rounded (Optional).  
**verbose\_output** An optional boolean to display intermediate output.

## Details

In contrast to conventional heterogeneity metrics (Q-statistic, I-squared and tau-squared) which measure random heterogeneity at individual variants, *M* measures systematic (non-random) heterogeneity across multiple independently associated variants.

Systematic heterogeneity can arise in a meta-analysis due to differences in the study characteristics of participating studies. Some of the differences may include: ancestry, allele frequencies, phenotype definition, age-of-disease onset, family-history, gender, linkage disequilibrium and quality control thresholds. See the getmstatistic website for statistical theory, documentation and examples. getmstatistic uses summary data i.e. study effect-sizes and their corresponding standard errors to calculate *M* statistics (One *M* for each study in the meta-analysis).

In particular, getmstatistic employs the inverse-variance weighted random effects regression model provided in the metafor R package to extract SPREs (standardized predicted random effects) which are then aggregated to formulate *M* statistics.

## Value

Returns a list containing:

- **Mstatistic\_expected\_mean** , A numeric scalar for the expected mean for M
- **Mstatistic\_expected\_sd** , A numeric scalar for the expected standard deviation for M
- **number\_studies** , A numeric scalar for the number of studies
- **number\_variants** , A numeric scalar for the number of variants
- **Mstatistic\_crit\_alpha\_0\_05** , A numeric scalar of the critical M value at the 5 percent significance level.
- **M\_dataset** (dataframe) A dataset of the computed M statistics, which includes the following fields:
  - **M** , Mstatistic
  - **M\_sd** , standard deviation of M
  - **M\_se** , standard error of M

- lowerbound , lowerbound of M 95
- upperbound , upperbound of M 95
- bonfpvalue , 2-sided bonferroni pvalues of M
- qvalue , false discovery rate adjusted pvalues of M
- tau2 , tau\_squared, DL estimates of between-study heterogeneity
- I2 , I\_squared, proportion of total variation due to between study variance
- Q , Cochran's Q
- xb , fitted values excluding random effects
- usta , standardized predicted random effect (SPRE)
- xbu , fitted values including random effects
- stdxbu , standard error of prediction (fitted values) including random effects
- hat , diagonal elements of the projection hat matrix
- study , study numbers
- snp , variant numbers
- beta\_mean , average variant effect size
- oddsratio , average variant effect size as oddsratio
- beta\_n , number of variants in each study
- influential\_studies\_0\_05 (dataframe) A dataset of influential studies significant at the 5 percent level.
- weaker\_studies\_0\_05 (dataframe) A dataset of under-performing studies significant at the 5 percent level.

### Methods (by class)

- default: Computes M statistics

### See Also

[rma.uni](#) function in metafor for random effects model, and <https://magosil86.github.io/getmstatistic/> for getmstatistic website.

### Examples

```
library(getmstatistic)
library(gridExtra)

# Basic M analysis using the heartgenes214 dataset.
# heartgenes214 is a multi-ethnic GWAS meta-analysis dataset for coronary artery disease.
# To learn more about the heartgenes214 dataset ?heartgenes214

# Running an M analysis on 20 GWAS significant variants (p < 5e-08) in the first 10 studies

heartgenes44_10studies <- subset(heartgenes214, studies <= 10 & fdr214_gwas46 == 2)
heartgenes20_10studies <- subset(heartgenes44_10studies,
  variants %in% unique(heartgenes44_10studies$variants)[1:20])
```

```
getmstatistic_results <- getmstatistic(heartgenes20_10studies$beta_flipped,
                                       heartgenes20_10studies$gcse,
                                       heartgenes20_10studies$variants,
                                       heartgenes20_10studies$studies)

getmstatistic_results

# Explore results generated by getmstatistic function

# Retrieve dataset of M statistics
dframe <- getmstatistic_results$M_dataset

str(dframe)

# Retrieve dataset of stronger than average studies (significant at 5% level)
getmstatistic_results$influential_studies_0_05

# Retrieve dataset of weaker than average studies (significant at 5% level)
getmstatistic_results$weaker_studies_0_05

# Retrieve number of studies and variants
getmstatistic_results$number_studies
getmstatistic_results$number_variants

# Retrieve expected mean, sd and critical M value at 5% significance level
getmstatistic_results$M_expected_mean
getmstatistic_results$M_expected_sd
getmstatistic_results$M_crit_alpha_0_05

# Additional examples: These take a little bit longer to run

# Run M analysis on all 214 lead variants
# heartgenes214 is a multi-ethnic GWAS meta-analysis dataset for coronary artery disease.
getmstatistic_results <- getmstatistic(heartgenes214$beta_flipped,
                                       heartgenes214$gcse,
                                       heartgenes214$variants,
                                       heartgenes214$studies)

getmstatistic_results

# Subset the GWAS significant variants ( $p < 5e-08$ ) in heartgenes214
heartgenes44 <- subset(heartgenes214, heartgenes214$fdr214_gwas46 == 2)

# Exploring getmstatistic options:
# Estimate heterogeneity using "REML", default is "DL"
# Modify x-axis of M scatterplot
# Run M analysis verbosely
getmstatistic_results <- getmstatistic(heartgenes44$beta_flipped,
```

```

heartgenes44$gcse,
heartgenes44$variants,
heartgenes44$studies,
tau2_method = "REML",
x_axis_increment_in = 0.03,
x_axis_round_in = 3,
verbose_output = TRUE)

getmstatistic_results

```

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heartgenes214	<i>heartgenes214.</i>
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### Description

heartgenes214 is a multi-ethnic GWAS meta-analysis dataset for coronary artery disease.

### Usage

```
heartgenes214
```

### Format

A data frame with seven variables:

beta\_flipped Effect-sizes expressed as log odds ratios. Numeric

gcse Standard errors

studies Names of participating studies

variants Names of genetic variants/SNPs

cases Number of cases in each participating study

controls Number of controls in each participating study

fdr214\_gwas46 Flag indicating GWAS significant variants, 1: Not GWAS-significant, 2: GWAS-significant

### Details

It comprises summary data (effect-sizes and their corresponding standard errors) for 48 studies (68,801 cases and 123,504 controls), at 214 lead variants independently associated with coronary artery disease ( $P < 0.00005$ ,  $FDR < 5\%$ ). Of the 214 lead variants, 44 are genome-wide significant ( $p < 5e-08$ ). The meta-analysis dataset is based on individuals of: African American, Hispanic American, East Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern and European ancestry.

The study effect-sizes have been flipped to ensure alignment of the effect alleles.

Standard errors were genomically corrected at the study-level.

**Source**

Magosi LE, Goel A, Hopewell JC, Farrall M, on behalf of the CARDIoGRAMplusC4D Consortium (2017) Identifying systematic heterogeneity patterns in genetic association meta-analysis studies. *PLoS Genet* 13(5): e1006755. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1006755>.

<https://magosil86.github.io/getmstatistic/>



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