Appendix B

A contrast of analyses done using the R packages meta and metafor.

Contrasted meta and metafor using the classic Cochrane bronchoconstriction dataset used in many texts to demonstrate meta-analsysis. Here is a link to these data as a tidy csv files on figshare.
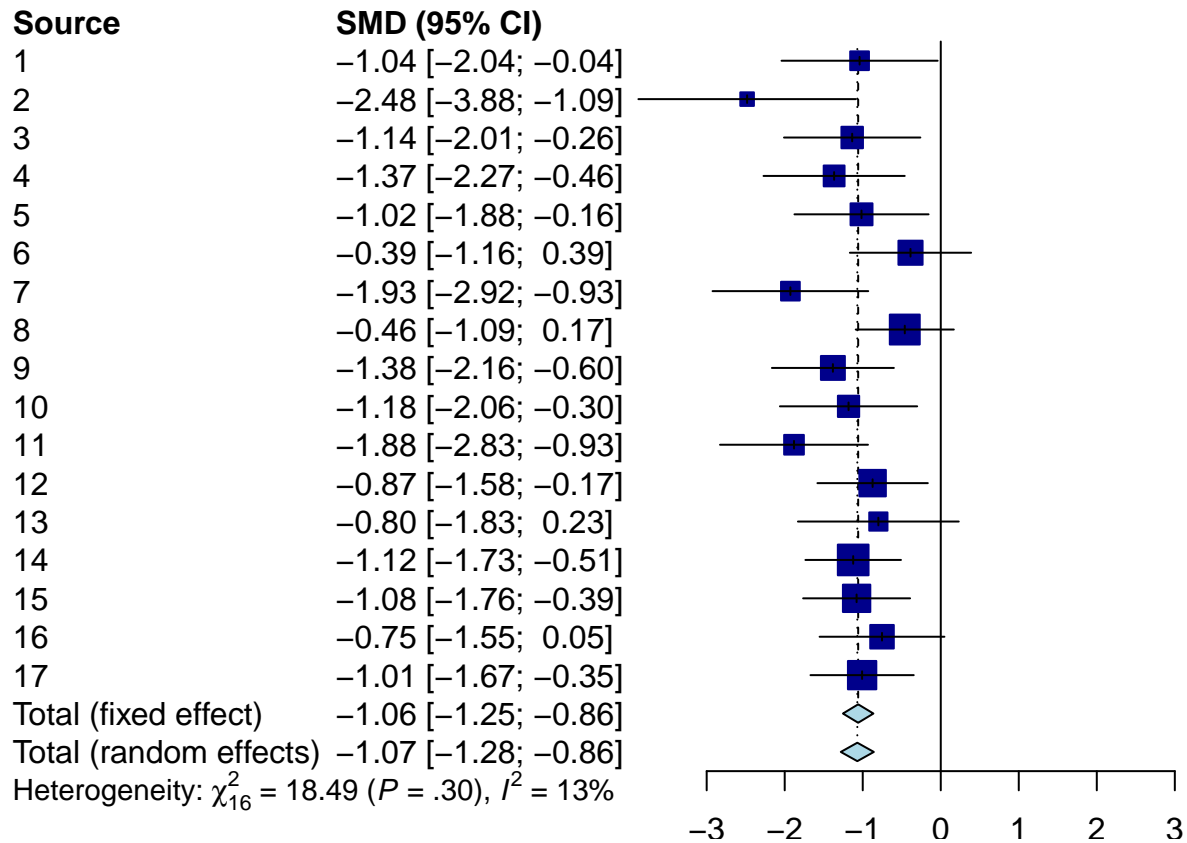
Meta

```r
#load primary libraries
library(tidyverse) #tidy functions to read and format data
library(meta) #meta package current version effective March 2020

#Classic bronchoconstriction data from Cochrane
data <- read_csv(url("https://ndownloader.figshare.com/files/14460386"))

#continuous data
m1 <- metacont(Ne, Me, Se, Nc, Mc, Sc, data = data, sm = "SMD")
summary(m1)
```

```
## Number of studies combined: k = 17
##
##                          SMD           95%-CI      z  p-value
## Fixed effect model    -1.0583 [-1.2537; -0.8630] -10.62 < 0.0001
## Random effects model -1.0694 [-1.2813; -0.8575]  -9.89 < 0.0001
##
## Quantifying heterogeneity:
##  tau^2 = 0.0265 [0.0000; 0.3559]; tau = 0.1629 [0.0000; 0.5966];
##  I^2 = 13.5% [0.0%; 50.2%]; H = 1.08 [1.00; 1.42]
##
## Test of heterogeneity:
##      Q d.f. p-value
##  18.49   16  0.2959
##
## Details on meta-analytical method:
## - Inverse variance method
## - DerSimonian-Laird estimator for tau^2
## - Jackson method for confidence interval of tau^2 and tau
## - Hedges' g (bias corrected standardised mean difference)
```

```r
forest(m1, layout = "JAMA")
```

Source	SMD (95% CI)	
1	−1.04 [−2.04; −0.04]	
2	−2.48 [−3.88; −1.09]	
3	−1.14 [−2.01; −0.26]	
4	−1.37 [−2.27; −0.46]	
5	−1.02 [−1.88; −0.16]	
6	−0.39 [−1.16; 0.39]	
7	−1.93 [−2.92; −0.93]	
8	−0.46 [−1.09; 0.17]	
9	−1.38 [−2.16; −0.60]	
10	−1.18 [−2.06; −0.30]	
11	−1.88 [−2.83; −0.93]	
12	−0.87 [−1.58; −0.17]	
13	−0.80 [−1.83; 0.23]	
14	−1.12 [−1.73; −0.51]	
15	−1.08 [−1.76; −0.39]	
16	−0.75 [−1.55; 0.05]	
17	−1.01 [−1.67; −0.35]	
Total (fixed effect)	−1.06 [−1.25; −0.86]	
Total (random effects)	−1.07 [−1.28; −0.86]	

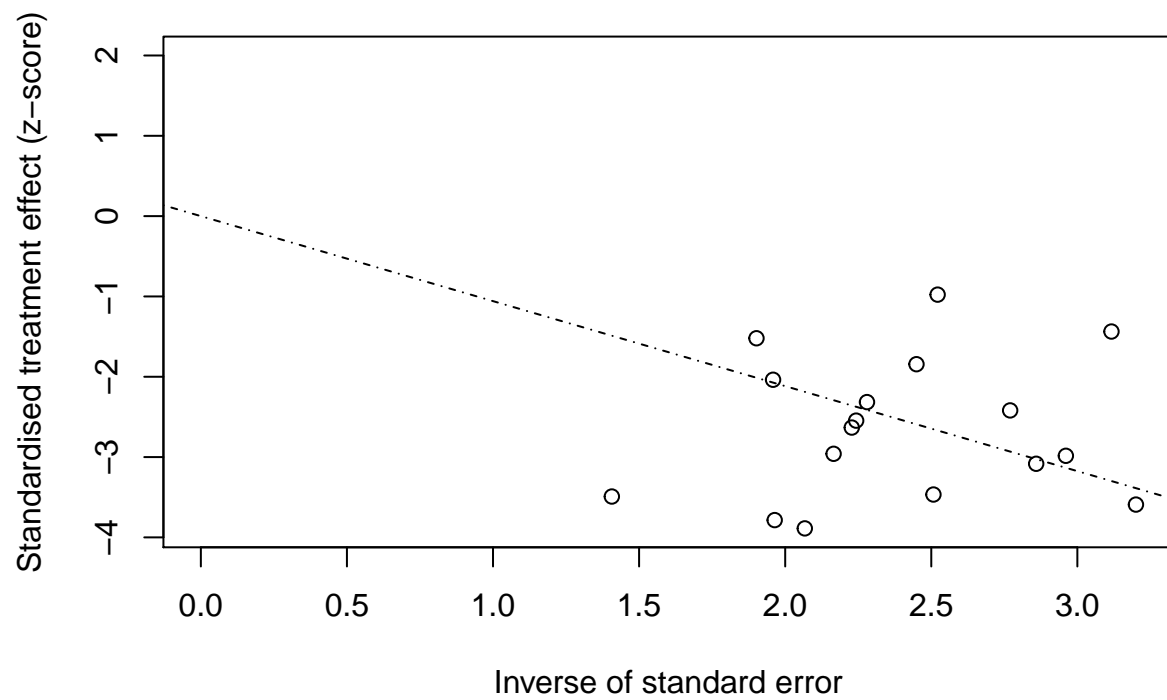Heterogeneity: $\chi^2_{16} = 18.49$ ($P = .30$), $I^2 = 13\%$


```
metabias(m1)
```

```
##
##   Linear regression test of funnel plot asymmetry
##
## data:  m1
## t = -2.8469, df = 15, p-value = 0.01224
## alternative hypothesis: asymmetry in funnel plot
## sample estimates:
##       bias     se.bias        slope
## -3.2230339   1.1321337   0.2416821
```

```
funnel(m1)
```
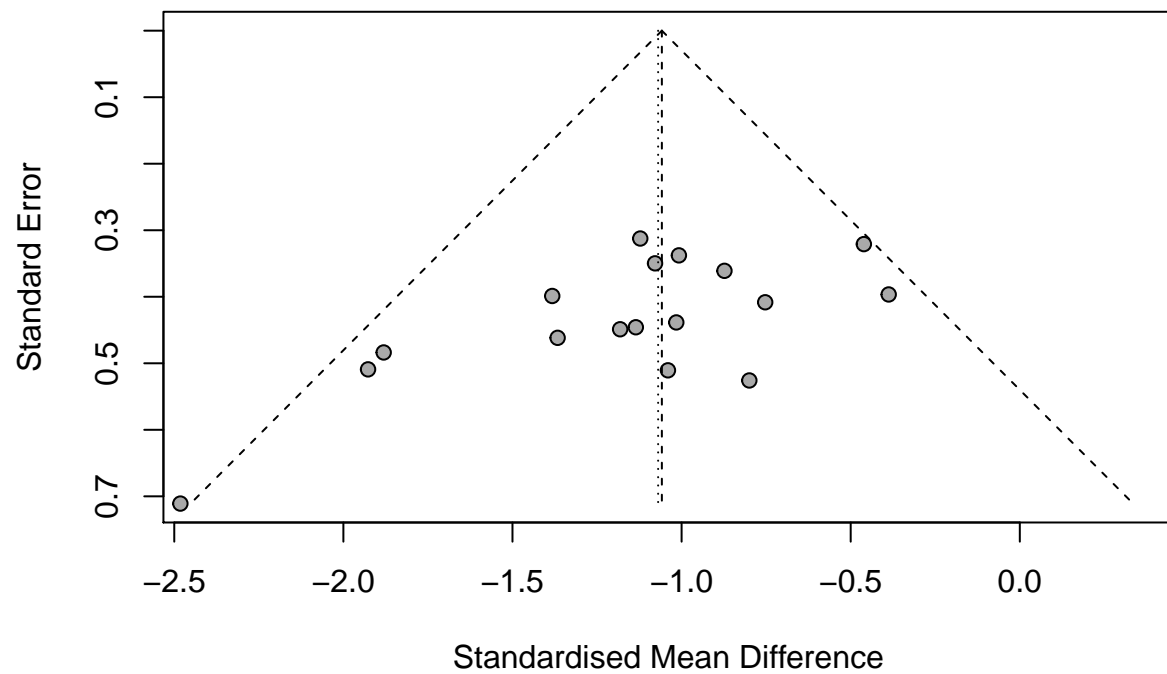
radial(m1)

Metafor

```r
#load primary libraries
library(tidyverse) #tidy functions to read and format data
library(metafor) #metafor package current version effective March 2020

#Classic bronchoconstriction data from Cochrane
data <- read_csv(url("https://ndownloader.figshare.com/files/14460386"))

#calculate effect sizes
data <- escalc(measure = "SMD", m1i=Me,m2i=Mc,sd1i=Se,sd2i=Sc,n1i=Ne,n2i=Nc, data=data,var.names=c("SMD

#fit model
#m2 <- rma(yi=SMD, vi=SMD_var, mods = ~study.ID, data = data)
m2 <- rma.uni(yi=SMD, vi=SMD_var, data = data, method = "REML") #restricted maximum-likelihood estimate
summary(m2)
```
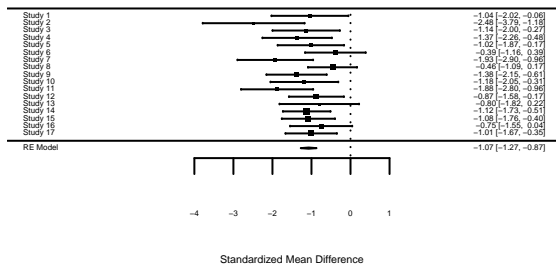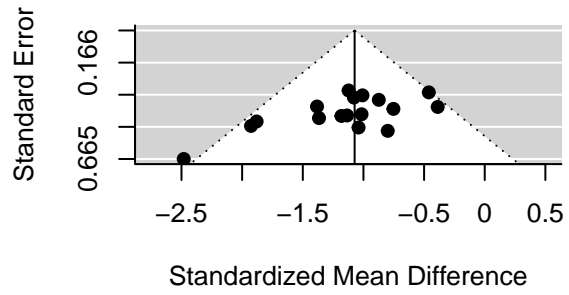
```
##
## Random-Effects Model (k = 17; tau^2 estimator: REML)
##
##    logLik  deviance       AIC       BIC      AICc
## -10.5948   21.1896   25.1896   26.7348   26.1127
##
## tau^2 (estimated amount of total heterogeneity): 0.0142 (SE = 0.0613)
## tau (square root of estimated tau^2 value):      0.1193
## I^2 (total heterogeneity / total variability):   7.88%
## H^2 (total variability / sampling variability):  1.09
##
## Test for Heterogeneity:
## Q(df = 16) = 19.4639, p-val = 0.2453
##
## Model Results:
##
## estimate       se      zval     pval     ci.lb     ci.ub
##  -1.0727   0.1032  -10.3919   <.0001   -1.2750   -0.8703   ***
##
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```
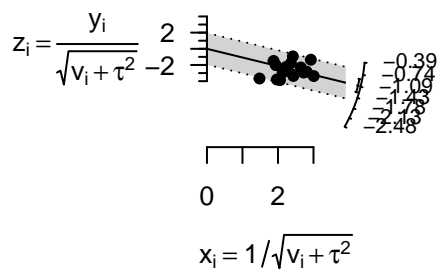
```r
plot(m2)
```

Forest Plot

Study 1	−1.04 [−2.02, −0.06]
Study 2	−2.48 [−3.79, −1.18]
Study 3	−1.14 [−2.00, −0.27]
Study 4	−1.37 [−2.26, −0.48]
Study 5	−1.02 [−1.87, −0.17]
Study 6	−0.39 [−1.16, 0.39]
Study 7	−1.93 [−2.90, −0.96]
Study 8	−0.46 [−1.09, 0.17]
Study 9	−1.38 [−2.15, −0.61]
Study 10	−1.18 [−2.05, −0.31]
Study 11	−1.88 [−2.80, −0.96]
Study 12	−0.87 [−1.58, −0.17]
Study 13	−0.80 [−1.82, 0.22]
Study 14	−1.12 [−1.73, −0.51]
Study 15	−1.08 [−1.76, −0.40]
Study 16	−0.75 [−1.55, 0.04]
Study 17	−1.01 [−1.67, −0.35]
RE Model	−1.07 [−1.27, −0.87]

Standardized Mean Difference

Funnel Plot

Standard Error

Standardized Mean Difference

Radial Plot

$$z_i = \frac{y_i}{\sqrt{v_i + \tau^2}}$$

−0.39
−0.74
−1.09
−1.43
−1.78
−2.13
−2.48

$$x_i = 1/\sqrt{v_i + \tau^2}$$

Standardized Residuals

Study