GSMR

Generalised Summary-databased Mendelian Randomisaion

GCTA

SMR

GSMR

OSCA

GCTB

Program in CTG

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Overview

The gsmr R-package

implements the GSMR (Generalised Summarydata-based Mendelian Randomisation) method to

test for putative causal association between a risk factor and a disease using

summarylevel data from genomewide association studies (GWAS) (Zhu et al. 2018

Nat. Commun.). The R package is developed by Zhihong Zhu, Zhili Zheng, Futao Zhang

and Jian Yang at Institute for Molecular Bioscience, the University of Queensland. Bug reports or

questions: jian.yang@uq.edu

Note: The **GSMR** method has also been implemented in the GCTA

software (GCTA-GSMR)

Citation

Zhu, Z. et al. (2018)
Causal

associations between risk factors and common diseases inferred from **GWAS** summary

data. Nat. Commun. 9, 224 (https://www.natu 017-02317-2).

Source code

gsmr_1.0.9.tar.gz

Note: We included a new HEIDIoutlier method (as part of the **GSMR**

analysis) in gsmr v1.0.7. However, the new HEIDIoutlier method is currently under development

and subject to changes during the method development. From the GSMR R package (>=

version 1.0.8), we changed the default back to the original HEIDIoutlier method described in Zhu et

al. (2018 Nature Communications) and added a temporary flag ('gsmr2_beta') to test the

new method. The command to use this flag can be found in the tutorial below. The new **HEIDI-outlier**

method in gsmr (>= version 1.0.8) has been tested by extensive simulations and real data

analyses. We will make a formal release in our next GSMR paper.

Sample data are available in

test_data.zip. This document has been integrated in the gsmr Rpackage, we can check it

by the standard command "? function_name" in R.

Installation

The gsmr

requires R >= 2.15, you can install it in R by:

```
# gsmr req
uires the
R-package(
s)
install.pa
```

```
ckages(c('
survey'));
# install
gsmr
install.pa
ckages ("ht
tp://cnsge
nomics.com
/software/
gsmr/stati
c/gsmr_1.0
```

```
.9.ldl.gz
, repos=NUL
L, type="so
urce")
```

Update log

V1.0.9

(gmr_1.0.9.tar.gz

PDF, 18 Jun. 2019): Change the flag 'gsmr_beta' to 'gsmr2_beta'.

V1.0.8

(gmr_1.0.8.tar.gz PDF, 21 Jan. 2019): Added a flag 'gsmr_beta' to use a testing version of the

HEIDI-outlier method.

V1.0.7 (gmr_1.0.7.tar.gz PDF, 9 Oct. 2018): Added a multi-SNP-

based HEIDIoutlier test in the HEIDIoutlier analysis.

V1.0.6 (gmr_1.0.6.tar.gz PDF, 23 Jan. 2018):
Added a
function to
remove SNPs
in high LD.

V1.0.5 (gmr_1.0.5.tar.gz PDF, 13

Dec. 2017): Improved the approximation of the sampling covariance matrix.

V1.0.4

(gsmr_1.0.4.tar.ga PDF, 6 Nov. 2017): Added the bidirectional **GSMR** analysis. The **HEIDI-outlier**

analysis has been integrated in the GSMR analysis by default.

V1.0.3 (gsmr_1.0.3.tar.gz PDF, 12
Oct. 2017):
Added more
example data.

Removed the initial versions (8 Nov 2016).

Tutorial

The GSMR analysis only requires summarylevel data from GWAS.

Here is an example, where the risk factor (x) is LDL cholesterol (LDL-c) and the disease (y)

is coronary artery disease (CAD). GWAS summary data for both LDLc and CAD are available in the public

domain (Global Lipids Genetics Consortium et al. 2013, Nature Genetics; Nikpay, M. et

al. 2015,
Nature
Genetics).

1.
Prepare
data for
GSMR



1.1 Load the GWAS summary data

```
library("g
smr")
data("gsmr")
head(gsmr__
data)
```

```
##
SNP a1 a2
a1 freq
```

```
bzx bzx_se
bzx_pval
bzx n
bzy
## 1 rs109
03129 A
G 0.450019
47 - 0.0328
0.0037 3.0
30e-17 169
920.0 0.0
```

```
08038
## 2 rs127
48152 T
C 0.080877
58 0.0499
0.0066 3.2
09e-12 172
987.5 0.0
13671
## 3 rs112
06508 A
G 0.143969
```

88 0.0434 0.0055 2.2 56e-14 172 239.0 0.0 30222 ## 4 rs112 06510 C T 0.191289 11 - 0.08310.0050 2.3 80e-53 172

```
OIZ \cdot U - U
74519
## 5 rs107
88994 T
C 0.183954
30 0.0687
0.0049 8.8
67e-41 172
941.9 0.0
38267
        rs5
## 6
29787 G
```

```
C 0.197130
99 - 0.0553
0.0052 8.7
46e-24 161
969.0 0.0
01707
##
         bz
          b
y_se
zy_pval b
zy_n
## 1 0.009
2442 0.384
```

```
dim(gsmr_d
  ata)
```

```
## [1] 188
12
```

This is the input format

for the GSMR analysis. In this data set, there are 188 nearindependent **SNPs** associated

with LDL-c at a genomewide significance level (i.e. p < 5e-8).

SNP: the genetic

instrument

- a1: effect allele
- a2: the other allele
- a1_freq:frequencyof a1
- bzx: the

effect size of a1 on risk factor

- bzx_se:standarderror of bzx
- bzx_pval: pvalue forbzx

bzx_n: per-SNP sample size of **GWAS** for the risk factor

bzy: the effect size

- of a1 on disease
- bzy_se:standarderror of bzy
- bzy_pval: pvalue forbzy
- bzy_n: per-

SNP sample size of GWAS for the disease

1.2 Estimate the LD correlation matrix

Save the genetic va riants and effect all eles in a text file using R write.tabl e(gsmr_dat a[,c(1,2)] "gsmr ex

ample_snps .allele", col.names= F, row.nam es=F, quot e=F) # Extract the genoty pe data fr om a GWAS dataset us ing GCTA

gcta64 --b file gsmr_ example -extract gs mr_example _snps.alle le --updat e-ref-alle le gsmr_ex ample_snps allele --

recode --o
ut gsmr_ex
ample

Note: the two steps above guarantee that the LD correlations

are calculated based on the effect alleles for the SNP effects.

Estimate
LD correla
tion matri

```
X USING K
snp_coeff_
id = scan(
"gsmr_exam
ple.xmat.g
z", what="
". nlines=
1)
snp_coeff
= read.tab
le("gsmr_e
xample.xma
```

t.gz", hea
der=F, ski
p=2)

Match th e SNP geno type data with the s ummary dat a

```
211h_ta
educe(inte
rsect, lis
t(gsmr_dat
a$SNP, snp
_coeff id)
gsmr_data
= gsmr_dat
a [match(sn
p_id, gsmr
data$SNP)
```

```
,
snp_order
= match(sn
p_id, snp_
coeff id)
snp_coeff_
id = snp_c
oeff id[sn
p order]
snp_coeff
= snp_coef
f[. snp or
```

der]

Calculat e the LD c orrelation matrix ldrho = cor(snp_coef f)

Check th

e size or the correl ation matr ix and dou ble-check if the ord er of the SNPs in th e LD corre lation mat rix is con sistent wi

th that in the GWAS s ummary dat **a** colnames(l drho) = rownames(ldr $ho) = snp_{-}$ coeff id

dim(ldrho)

```
## [1] 188
188
```

Show the first 5 ro ws and col umns of th e matrix ldrho[1:5, 1:51

rc10003170

rs12748152 rs11206508 rs11206510 rs10788994 ## rs10903 129 1.000 000000 - 00045378845 0.00806662 1 - 0.01372112 - 0.023

```
4447102
## rs12748
152 - 0.004
537884 1.
000000000
-0.0066871
81 0.0044
5927 0.00
03629201
## rs11206
508 0.008
066621 - 0.
```

0066871806 1.00000000 0 - 0.21125757 0.051 2593434 ## rs11206 510 - 0.013721120 0. 0044592696 -0.211257567 1.0000

42706205 ## rs10788 994 - 0.023444710 0. 0003629201 0.05125934 3 - 0.18427062 1.000 0000000

Note: all the analyses implemented in this Rpackage only require the summary data (e.g. "gsmr_data" and the LD correlation matrix (e.g. "ldrho") listed above.

2.
Standardiza

This is an optional process. If the risk factor was not standardised in GWAS, the effect sizes

can be scaled using the method below. Note that this process requires allele frequencies,

z-statistics and sample size. After scaling, bzx is interpreted as the per-allele effect of a SNP on the

exposure in standard deviation units.

```
snpfreq =
gsmr_data$
a1_freq
# allele f
requencies
```

of the SNP S bzx = gsmrdata\$bzx # effects of the ins truments o n risk fac tor bzx se = qsmr data\$b

```
ZX SE
# standard
errors of
bzx
bzx_n = gs
mr data$bz
x n
# GWAS sam
ple size f
or the ris
k factor
std zx = s
```

```
td effect(
snpfreq, b
zx, bzx se
  bzx n)
# perform
standardis
ation
gsmr_data$
std bzx =
std zx$b
# standard
ized bzx
```

```
gsmr_data$
std bzx se
= std zx$s
e # sta
ndardized
bzx_se
head(gsmr_
data)
```

SNP a1 a2 a1_freq bzx bzx se bzx pval bzx n bzy ## 1 rs109 03129 A G 0.450019 47 - 0.03280.0037 3.0 30e-17 169

920.0 0.0 08038 ## 2 rs127 48152 T C 0.080877 58 0.0499 0.0066 3.2 09e-12 172 987.5 0.0 13671 ## 3 rs112

A BUCOU G 0.143969 88 0.0434 0.0055 2.2 56e-14 172 239.0 0.0 30222 ## 4 rs112 06510 C T 0.191289 11 - 0.08310.0050 2.3

```
80e-53 172
812.0 - 0.0
74519
## 5 rs107
88994 T
C 0.183954
30 0.0687
0.0049 8.8
67e-41 172
941.9 0.0
38267
## 6
        rs5
```

```
29787 G
C 0.197130
99 - 0.0553
0.0052 8.7
46e-24 161
969.0 0.0
01707
         bz
##
y_se
zy_pval
zy_n
```

```
td bzx st
d bzx se
## 1 0.009
2442 0.384
5651000 18
4305 - 0.03
055942 0.0
03447252
## 2 0.018
5515 0.461
1690000 18
4305 0.04
```

713698 0.0 06234550 ## 3 0.014 1781 0.033 0400000 18 4305 0.03 829018 0.0 04852442 ## 4 0.013 3438 0.000 0000234 18 1305 _

181919 0.0 04321251 ## 5 0.011 8752 0.001 2711000 18 4305 0.06 149455 0.0 04386074 ## 6 0.013 5491 0.899 7431000 18

4305 -0.04 695042 0.0 04414868

3. GSMR analysis

This is the

main analysis of this Rpackage. It uses SNPs associated with the risk factor (e.g. at p < 5e-8) as

the instruments to test for putative causal effect of the risk factor on the disease. The

analysis involves a step that uses the HEIDIoutlier approach to remove SNPs that have

effects on both the risk factor and the disease because of pleiotropy.

```
bzx = gsmr
_data$std_
```

bzx # S NP effects on the ris k factor $bzx_se = g$ smr data\$s td bzx_se # standard errors of bzx bzx pval = gsmr data\$

```
bzx_pval
# p-values
for bzx
bzy = gsmr
data$bzy
# SNP effe
cts on the
disease
bzy_se = g
smr data$b
zy_se
ام منام المامن مالك
```

```
standard e
rrors of b
ZY
bzy_pval =
gsmr_data$
bzy_pval
# p-values
for bzy
n ref = 77
03 # Sa
mple size
of the ref
```

erence sam ple gwas_thres h = 5e - 8# GWAS thr eshold to select SNP s as the i nstruments for the GS MR analysi

single_snp heidi_thr esh = 0.01# p-value threshold for single -SNP-based HEIDI-outl ier analys is multi_snp_

heidi_thre sh = 0.01# p-value threshold for multi-SNP-based HEIDI-outl ier analys is nsnps_thre sh = 10# the mini

mum number of instrum ents requi red for th e GSMR ana lysis heidi_outl ier_flag = # fla Т g for HEID I-outlier analycic

ld r2 thre sh = 0.05# LD r2 th reshold to remove SNP s in high LD ld fdr thr esh = 0.05# FDR thre shold to r

emove the chance cor relations between th e SNP inst ruments gsmr2_beta = 0# 0 - the or iginal HEI DI-outlier method; 1

- the new HEIDI-outl ier method that is cu rrently un der develo pment gsmr_resul ts = gsmr(bzx, bzx s e, bzx_pva

L, DZY, DZ y_se, bzy_ pval, ldrh o, snp_coe ff id, n_r ef, heidi outlier fl ag, gwas_t hresh, sin gle_snp_he idi thresh , multi sn

p heidi th resh, nsnp s thresh, ld_r2_thre sh, ld_fdr thresh, g smr2 beta) # GSMR ana lysis filtered i ndex=gsmr_ results\$us

ed_index cat("The e stimated e ffect of t he exposur e on outco me: ",gsmr _results\$b xy)

The est imated eff ect of the exposure on outcome: 0.4322395

cat("Stand
ard error
of bxy: ",
gsmr_resul
ts\$bxy_se)

Standar derror of bxy: 0.02 210985

```
cat("P-val
ue for bxy
: ", gsmr_
results$bx
y_pval)
```

P-value for bxy: 4.15454e-8

```
cat("Index
es of the
SNPs used
in the GSM
R analysis
: ", gsmr_
results$us
ed index[1
:5], "...
```

Indexes of the SNP s used in the GSMR a nalysis: 1 2 3 5 6

cat("Numbe r of SNPs with missi ng estimat es in the summary da ta: ", len gth(gsmr_r esults\$na snps))

Number of SNPs wi th missing estimates in the sum mary data:

cat("Numbe r of non-s ignificant SNPs: ", ength(gsmr _results\$w eak_snps))

Number
of non-sig
nificant S
NPs: 39

```
cat("Numbe
r of SNPs
in high LD
( LD rsq >
", ld_r2_t
hresh, "):
", length(
gsmr_resul
ts$linkage
_snps))
```

```
## Number
of SNPs in
high LD (
LD rsq > 0
.05): 5
```

cat("Numbe r of pleio tropic out liers: ", length(gsm r results\$ pleio_snps))

Number
of pleiotr
opic outli
ers: 9

4. Bi-directional GSMR



The script below runs bidirectional **GSMR** analyses, i.e. a forward-**GSMR**

analysis as described above and a reverse-**GSMR** analysis that uses SNPs associated

with the disease (e.g. at p < 5e-8) as the instruments to test for putative causal effect

of the disease on risk factor.

```
gsmr_resul
ts = bi gs
mr(bzx, bz
x se, bzx
pval, bzy,
bzy_se, bz
y pval, ld
```

110, 511P_C oeff id, n _ref, heid i outlier flag, gwas thresh, s ingle_snp_ heidi thre sh, multi snp_heidi thresh, ns nps thresh

```
, ld_r2_th
resh, ld f
dr thresh,
gsmr2_beta
) # GSM
R analysis
cat("Effec
t of risk
factor on
disease:
.asmr resu
```

lts\$forwar d_bxy)

Effect
of risk fa
ctor on di
sease: 0.
4322395

cat("Stand ard error of bxy in the forwar d-GSMR ana lysis: ",g smr result s\$forward bxy_se)

Standar d error of bxy in the forward-GS MR analysi s: 0.0221 0985

cat("P-val ue of bxy in the for ward-GSMR analysis: ", gsmr_re sults\$forw ard_bxy_pv al)

P-value of bxy in the forwar d-GSMR ana lysis: 4. 15454e-85

cat("Effec t of disea se on risk factor: ", gsmr_resul ts\$reverse _bxy)

Effect
of disease
on risk fa
ctor: -0.
02739421

cat("Stand ard error of bxy in the revers e-GSMR ana lysis: ",g smr result s\$reverse_ bxy_se)

Standar d error of bxy in the reverse-GS MR analysi s: 0.0095 51025

cat("P-val ue of bxy in the rev erse-GSMR analysis: ", gsmr_re sults\$reve rse_bxy_pv al)

P-value of bxy in the revers e-GSMR ana lysis: 0.004128198

5. Visualizatio

```
effect_col
= colors()
[75]
vals = c(b)
zx[filtere
d index]-b
zx se[filt
ered index
], bzx[fil
tered inde
xl+bzx se[
```

```
filtered i
ndex1)
xmin = min
(vals); xm
ax = max(v)
als)
vals = c(b)
zy[filtere
d index]-b
zy_se[filt
ered index
   L _ . . [ £ : 1
```

```
J, DZYLTIL
tered inde
x]+bzy_se[
filtered i
ndex1)
ymin = min
(vals); ym
ax = max(v)
als)
par(mar=c(
5,5,4,2))
plot(bzx[f
```

```
iltered in
dex], bzy[
filtered i
ndex], pch
=20, cex=0
.8, bty="n
", cex.axi
s=1.1, cex
.lab=1.2,
          CO
l=effect c
ol_{\cdot} \times lim = c
```

```
(xmin, xma
x), ylim=c
(ymin, yma
x),
         xl
ab=express
ion(LDL~ch
olesterol~
(italic(b[
zx]))),
```

```
ab=express
ion(Corona
ry~artery~
disease~(i
talic(b[zy
1))))
abline(0,
gsmr_resul
ts$forward
_bxy, lwd=
1.5, lty=2
  col="dim
```

```
grey")
nsnps = le
ngth(bzx[f
iltered in
dex1)
for( i in
1:nsnps)
{
    # x ax
is
     /ctart
```

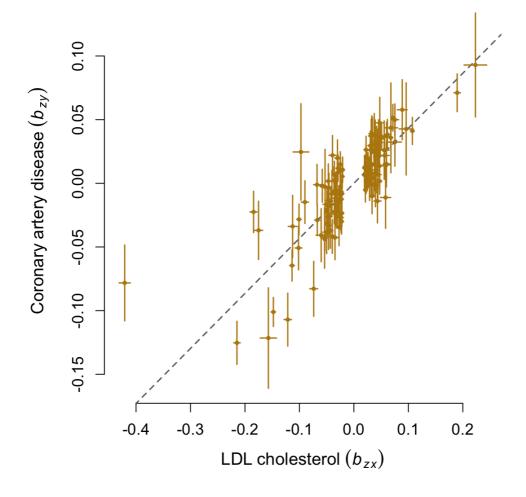
```
= bzx[filt
ered index
[i]] - bzx
se[filter
ed index[i
]]; xend =
bzx[filter
ed index[i
eſfiltered
index[i]]
```

```
ystart
= bzy[filt
ered_index
[i]]; yend
= bzy[filt
ered index
[i]]
    segmen
ts(xstart,
ystart, xe
nd, yend,
lwd=1.5, c
```

```
ol=effect
col)
    # y ax
is
    xstart
= bzx[filt
ered index
[i]]; xend
= bzx[filt
ered index
[i]]
```

```
= bzy[filt
ered_index
[i]] - bzy
_se[filter
ed index[i
]]; yend =
bzy[filter
ed index[i
e[filtered
index[i]]
```

```
segmen
ts(xstart,
ystart, xe
nd, yend,
lwd=1.5, c
ol=effect_
col)
}
```



Package Document



Bidirectional
GSMR
analysis is
composed

of a forward-**GSMR** analysis and a reverse-**GSMR** analysis that uses

SNPs associated with the disease (e.g. at < 5e-8) as the instruments to test for

putative causal effect of the disease on the risk factor.

Usage

bi_gsmr(bzx , bzx_se, b zx_pval, bz y, bzy_se, bzy_pval, l drho, snpid , heidi out lier_flag=T , gwas_thre sh=5e-8, single_snp_he

```
idi thresh=
0.01, multi
_snp_heidi_
thresh=0.01
, nsnps_thr
esh=10, ld
r2 thresh=0
.05, ld fdr
thresh=0.0
5, gsmr2_be
ta=0)
```

Arguments

bzx

bzx_se

bzx_pval

bzy

bzy_se

bzy_pval

ldrho

snpid

n_ref

heidi_outlier_fla

gwas_thresh

single_snp_heidi

multi_snp_heidi_

nsnps_thresh

ld_r2_thresh

ld_fdr_thresh

gsmr2_beta

Value

Estimate of

causative effect of risk factor on disease (forward_bxy), the corresponding standard error

(forward_bxy_se); p-value (forward_bxy_pva and SNP index (forward_index), and estimate of causative

effect of disease on risk factor (reverse_bxy), the corresponding standard error (reverse_bxy_se),

p-value (reverse_bxy_pva SNP index (reverse_index), SNPs with missing values, with non-

significant p-values and those in LD.

Examples

```
data("gsmr
")

gsmr_resul

t = bi_gsm
```

r(gsmr_dat a\$bzx, gsm r data\$bzx _se, gsmr_ data\$bzx p val, gsmr_ data\$bzy, gsmr_data\$ bzy_se, gs mr data\$bz y_pval, ld rho, gsmr

```
data$SNP,
n_ref, T,
5e-8, 0.01
, 0.01, 10
, 0.05, 0.
05, 0)
```



GSMR (Generalised Summarydata-based Mendelian Randomisation is a flexible and powerful

approach that utilises multiple genetic instruments to test for causal association between a

risk factor and disease using summarylevel data from independent genomewide association studies.

Usage

```
gsmr(bzx, b
zx_se, bzx_
pval, bzy,
bzy_se, ldr
```

ho, snpid, heidi outli er_flag=T, gwas_thresh =5e-8, sing le heidi th resh=0.01, multi heidi thresh=0.0 1, nsnps_th resh=10, ld

```
_r2_thresh=
0.05, ld_fd
r_thresh=0.
05, gsmr2_b
eta=0)
```

Arguments

bzx

bzx_se

bzx_pval

bzy

bzy_se

ldrho

snpid

n_ref

heidi_outlier_fla

gwas_thresh

nsnps_thresh

ld_r2_thresh

ld_fdr_thresh

gsmr2_beta

single_heidi_thro

multi_heidi_thres

Value

Estimate of causative effect of risk factor on disease (bxy), the corresponding standard error

(bxy_se), pvalue (bxy_pval), SNP index (used_index), SNPs with missing values, with

nonsignificant pvalues and
those in LD.

Examples

```
data("gsmr
")
gsmr_resul
```

```
t = gsmr(g
smr_data$b
zx, gsmr_d
ata$bzx se
  gsmr_dat
a$bzx pval
, gsmr_dat
a$bzy, gsm
r data$bzy
_se, ldrho
, gsmr_dat
a$SNP
```

ef, T, 5e-8, 0.01, 0 .01, 10, 0 .1, 0.05, 0)

std_effect

Standardizatio of SNP effect and its standard error using z-statistic, allele frequency

and sample size

Usage

```
std_effect(
snp_freq, b
, se, n)
```

Arguments

snp_freq vector, allele frequen b

vector,
SNP
effects
risk fac

se

vector, standar errors c

n

vector, SNP sample sizes fo **GWAS** the risk factor

Value

Standardised effect (b) and standard error (se)

Examples

data("gsmr

```
std effect
s = std ef
fect(gsmr_
data$a1 fr
eq, gsmr_d
ata$bzx, q
smr data$b
zx_se, gsm
r data$bzx
n)
```