## Fitting fixed and random effects meta-analysis models using structural equation models

Tom M. Palmer Jonathan A. C. Sterne

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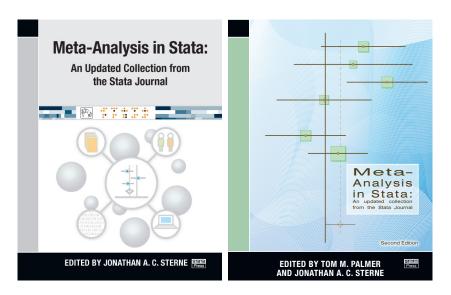


#### Outline

- Introduction
- 1. Univariate fixed effect meta-analysis
- 2. Univariate random effects meta-analysis
- Multivariate meta-analysis with non-zero within study covariances
- Summary

► This talk focuses on the use of Stata and follows Palmer & Sterne (Stata Journal, forthcoming)

## Stata Journal meta-analysis book 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. coming soon



▶ 27 Stata Journal articles, 11 new since 1<sup>st</sup> ed. (3 forthcoming)

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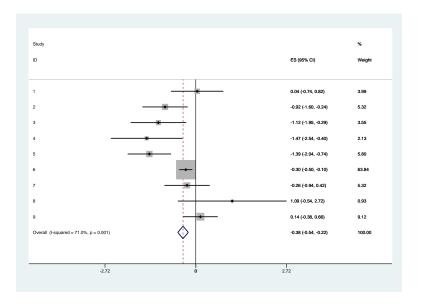
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- Using SEM for meta-analysis well developed in Psychology
- Discussed in articles (and a new book) by Cheung (2008, 2010, 2013a, 2013b, 2013c, 2015)
- metaSEM package in R (automates use of OpenMx) also by Cheung

### 1. Univariate outcome meta-analysis models: fixed effect

$$y_i \sim N(\theta, \sigma_i^2)$$

i.e.  $y_i$  and  $\sigma_i^2$  estimated in each study.

- Example, Turner et al. (2000)
- ▶ 9 trials investigating effect of taking diuretics during pregnancy on risk of pre-eclampsia
- log odds ratios for association between pre-eclampsia and diuretics from each study and SE



Pooled OR: 0.68 (95% CI 0.58, 0.80) – lower risk of pre-eclampsia for diuretic group

### Syntax 1

To fit the model in sem we generate a weighting variable of inverse variances:

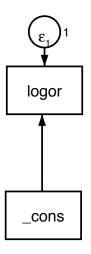
- $ightharpoonup Y \sim N(X\theta, \ \sigma^2 W^{-1})$
- WLS estimate:

$$\widehat{\theta} = (X'WX)^{-1}X'WY = (\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i y_i)/(\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i)$$

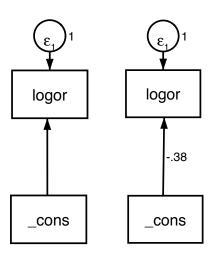
- ▶ Variance of WLS estimate =  $\sigma^2(X'WX)^{-1}$
- ▶ But we require the pooled variance to be:  $1/\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i = (X'WX)^{-1}$
- ▶ Hence we constrain  $\sigma^2 = 1$ .

### Syntax 1

## Stata SEM builder path diagrams I



## Stata SEM builder path diagrams I



After fitting the estimated coefficient is shown

#### Syntax 2

- ► Fit the same model by scaling all the variables by 1/SEs
- Scale the vector of 1's for the intercept
- ► Constrain  $\sigma^2 = 1$

```
. gen double invselogor = 1/selogor
```

- gen double logortr = logor\*invselogor
- . sem (logortr <- invselogor, nocons), noheader nodescribe nocnsreport nolog var(e.logortr@1)

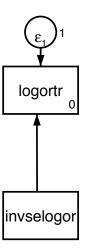
```
| OIM | Goef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]

Structural | logortr <- | invselogor | -.3815467 .0799025 -4.78 0.000 -.5381527 -.2249406 __cons | 0 (constrained)

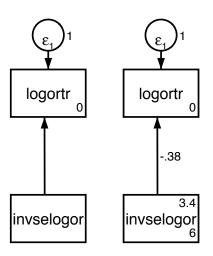
var(e.logortr)| 1 (constrained)

LR test of model vs. saturated: chi2(2) = 9.10, Prob > chi2 = 0.0106
```

## Stata SEM builder path diagrams II



## Stata SEM builder path diagrams II



After fitting the estimated coefficient is shown, along with mean and variance of covariate (scaled intercept)

#### Heterogeneity test

▶ Remove constraint from  $\sigma^2$ .

$$Q = \widehat{\sigma^2} N = 3.016 \times 9 = 27.56, P = 0.00056$$

$$I^2 = \frac{Q - df}{Q} = (27.56 - 8)/27.56 = 0.71$$

#### 2. Univariate outcome random effects meta-analysis

$$y_i \sim N(\theta + \nu_i, \ \sigma_i^2)$$
  
 $\nu_i \sim N(0, \ \tau^2)$ 

- Syntax 1: 9 studies 9 random effects
- Syntax 2: interact 1 random effect with standard errors (untransformed variables)
- Syntax 3: interact 1 random effect with the inverse standard error transformed variables
- ► Same example meta-analysis
- metan RE DL pooled log OR: -0.516 (95% CI -0.908, -0.124)
- $Q = 27.56 \text{ (p=0.001)}, I^2 = 71\%, \tau^2 = 0.2185$

### Syntax 3 – use 1/SE transformed variables

- Constrain coefficient of interaction of inverse SEs and RE to 1.
- Constrain variance of residuals to 1.
- ▶ Variance of RE, var(M), is estimate of  $\tau^2$ .

```
gsem (logortr <- invselogor c.invselogor#c.MQ1, nocons), ///
        var(e.logortr@1) latent(M) nolog nocnsreport
Generalized structural equation model
                                           Number of obs =
Log likelihood = -18.8726
               | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
logortr <-
     invselogor | -.5166151 .2059448 -2.51 0.012 -.9202594 -.1129708
c.invselogor#c.M | 1 (constrained)
                        0 (omitted)
         _cons
        var(M) | .2377469 .1950926
                                                       .0476023 1.187413
  var(e.logortr)|
                        1 (constrained)
```

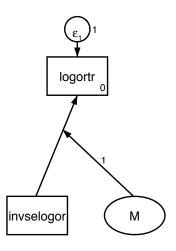
### Syntax 3 – use 1/SE transformed variables

- Constrain coefficient of interaction of inverse SEs and RE to 1.
- Constrain variance of residuals to 1.
- ▶ Variance of RE, var(M), is estimate of  $\tau^2$ .

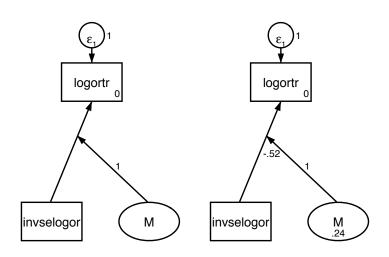
```
gsem (logortr <- invselogor c.invselogor#c.M@1, nocons), ///
       var(e.logortr@1) latent(M) nolog nocnsreport
Generalized structural equation model
                                          Number of obs =
Log likelihood = -18.8726
              Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
logortr <-
     invselogor | -.5166151 .2059448 -2.51 0.012 -.9202594 -.1129708
c.invselogor#c.M | 1 (constrained)
                 0 (omitted)
        var(M) | .2377469 .1950926
                                                     0476023 1 187413
  var(e.logortr)|
                        1 (constrained)
```

- gsem can't do REML estimation of  $\tau^2$  (metaSEM in R can).
- can derive a prediction interval for pooled estimate

## Stata SEM builder syntax 3 path diagram



## Stata SEM builder syntax 3 path diagram



# 3.1 Multivariate fixed effect meta-analysis with non-zero within study covariances

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_{11} \\ y_{12} \\ \dots \\ y_{N1} \\ y_{N2} \end{bmatrix}, \ \theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}, \ V_i = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{i,11}^2 & \sigma_{i,12} \\ \sigma_{i,12} & \sigma_{i,22}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} V_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & V_N \end{bmatrix} \quad Y \sim \mathsf{MVN}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \ \Sigma)$$

- ▶ Transformation multivariate equivalent of 1/SE scaling Cholesky decomposition of inverse of within study covariance matrix, i.e.  $W_i^{1/2} = V_i^{-1/2}$
- $W^{1/2}Y \sim \text{MVN}(W^{1/2}X\theta, W^{1/2}\Sigma(W^{1/2})')$
- ► Fibrinogen Studies Collaboration (2004): incidence of CHD (log hazard ratio), 31 studies using 2 outcomes

## Multivariate fixed effect meta-analysis with non-zero within study covariances

```
. use FSCstage1, clear
. * code to generate transformed outcome and outcome indicator variables
. sem (ystarstack <- xstarstack1 xstarstack2, nocons), ///
         var(e.ystarstack@1) nocapslatent nolog nocnsr nodescribe
                                           Number of obs
Structural equation model
                                                                      62
Estimation method = ml
Log likelihood = -384.49772
                                OTM
                     Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
Structural
 vstarstack <- |
    xstarstack1 | .2042387 .0529888 3.85 0.000 .1003826 .3080947
    xstarstack2 | .8639001 .0536208 16.11 0.000 .7588052
                                                                   .968995
                         0 (constrained)
var(e.ystarstack)|
                         1 (constrained)
I.R test of model vs. saturated: chi2(2) = 15.87, Prob > chi2 = 0.0004
```

### Heterogeneity test for both outcomes jointly

#### Again remove constraint from variance of residuals

```
. quietly sem (ystarstack <- xstarstack1 xstarstack2, nocons), nocapslatent
. di "var(e.ystarstack) = " _b[var(e.ystarstack):_cons]
var(e.ystarstack) = 1.8483607
. local Q = _b[var(e.ystarstack):_cons]*e(N)
. local df = e(N) - 2
. di "Het. test statistic = " 'Q'
Het. test statistic = 114.59836
. di "Het. test p-value = " chi2tail('df', 'Q')
Het. test p-value = .00002803</pre>
```

## Decompose the heterogeneity test for each outcome

- reshape data to wide format
- ► Specify model using 2 equations 1 for each outcome; each has a residual variance

Outcome	Approach	Q	Р	<i>I</i> <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
1	Multivariate	48.12	P=0.019 (sem)	18 (mvmeta)
1	Univariate	36.74	P=0.185	18 (0, 48)
2	Multivariate	66.50	P < 0.0001  (sem)	55 (mvmeta)
2	Univariate	66.19	P<0.0001	55 (32, 70)

## 3.2 Random effects multivariate meta-analysis with non-zero within study covariance

```
ightharpoonup Y \sim \mathsf{MVN}(\theta + \nu, \Sigma)

ho \nu \sim N(0, T^2), for a 2 outcome model T^2 = \begin{bmatrix} \tau_1^2 & \tau_{12} \\ \tau_{12} & \tau_2^2 \end{bmatrix}
   ▶ long format data – specify study level random effects
   gsem (ystarstack <- c.xstarstack1#c.M1[study]@1 c.xstarstack2#c.M2[study]@1 ///
        xstarstack1 xstarstack2, nocons), ///
        latent(M1 M2) nocnsreport nolog ///
        cov(e.vstarstack@1 (M1[studv]*M2[studv]))
Generalized structural equation model
                                                 Number of obs =
                                                                           62
Log likelihood = -101.66433
                              Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
vstarstack <-
                                                   2.71 0.007
                                                                  .0521531
                                                                                .3229675
           xstarstack1 | .1875603 .0690866
           xstarstack2 |
                           8585811
                                      0887304
                                                   9.68 0.000
                                                                    6846728
                                                                                1.032489
         var(M1[studv])|
                           .0221546
                                      0324089
                                                                    0012597
                                                                                3896245
         var(M2[studv])|
                           .0945799
                                      0614174
                                                                    0264883
cov(M2[study],M1[study])| .0272542 .0382754
                                                   0.71 0.476
                                  1 (constrained)
       var(e.ystarstack)|
```

#### Equivalent model for wide format data (2 equations).

```
. gsem (ystarstack1 <- c.xstarstack11#c.M1@1 c.xstarstack21#c.M2@1 ///
               xstarstack11 xstarstack21@c1, nocons) ///
        (vstarstack2 <- c.xstarstack22#c.M2@1 xstarstack22@c1. nocons), ///
>
        cov(e.ystarstack1@1 e.ystarstack2@1) latent(M1 M2) ///
        collinear nocnsreport nolog
Generalized structural equation model Number of obs =
                                                                  31
Log likelihood = -101.66433
                 | Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
vstarstack1 <-
     xstarstack11 | .1875603 .0690866 2.71 0.007 .0521531 .3229675
     xstarstack21 | .8585811 .0887304 9.68 0.000 .6846728 1.032489
vstarstack2 <-
     xstarstack22 | .8585811 .0887304 9.68 0.000 .6846728 1.032489
           var(M1) | .0221546 .0324089
                                                       .0012597 .3896245
           var(M2) | .0945799 .0614174
                                                       .0264883 .3377098
        cov(M2.M1) | .0272542 .0382754 0.71 0.476 -.0477642
 var(e.ystarstack1)| 1 (constrained)
 var(e.ystarstack2)| 1 (constrained)
. di "corr(M1,M2)=", _b[cov(M2,M1):_cons]/sqrt(_b[var(M1):_cons]*_b[var(M2):_cons])
corr(M1,M2) = .59539071
```

#### Summary

- Can fit these models using metan; metareg; mvmeta (White, 2009, 2011)
- Fixed effect meta-analysis 2 syntaxes
- ▶ Random effect meta-analysis 3 syntaxes
- Meta-regression FE and RE
- Multivariate outcome FE and RE with zero and non-zero within study covariances
- (and by extension) Multivariate meta-regression
- ► For RE models gsem cannot perform REML estimation metaSEM in R can.
- Cochran heterogeneity test after FE models (joint test and test for each multivariate outcome)

#### References

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- Medical and Pharmaceutical Statistics (MPS) Research Unit, Lancaster University

#### RE MA syntax 1: 9 random effects

- Constrain coefficients of study and RE interactions to 1.
- Constrain the studies to be independent with variance as estimated in each study.
- ▶ Variance of residuals var(e.logor) is estimate of  $\tau^2$

### Syntax 1: 9 random effects

```
. mkmat varlogor, mat(f)
. mat f = diag(f)
. qui tabulate trial, gen(tr)
. gsem (logor <- M1#c.tr1@1 M2#c.tr2@1 M3#c.tr3@1 ///
         M4#c.tr4@1 M5#c.tr5@1 M6#c.tr6@1 ///
        M7#c.tr7@1 M8#c.tr8@1 M9#c.tr9@1) ///
>
        , covstructure(_LEx, fixed(f)) intmethod(laplace) nocnsreport nolog
Generalized structural equation model
                                      Number of obs =
Log likelihood = -9.4552759
                Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
logor <-
 c.tr1#c.M1 | 1 (constrained)
      _cons | -.5166151 .2059448 -2.51 0.012 -.9202594 -.1129707
     var(M1) | .16 (constrained)
    var(M2) | .12 (constrained)
     var(M3) | .18 (constrained)
    var(M4) | .3 (constrained)
    var(M5)|
                  .11 (constrained)
    var(M6)|
                  .01 (constrained)
    var(M7)|
                .12 (constrained)
    var(M8) | .69 (constrained)
     var(M9)|
                  .07 (constrained)
var(e.logor)| .2377469 .1950926
                                                   .0476023
```

#### ► Can derive 95% prediction interval for pooled effect

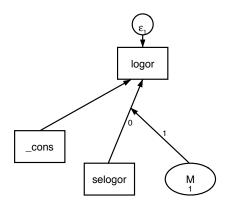
```
. local setotal = sqrt(_se[logor:_cons]^2 + _b[var(e.logor):_cons])
. local pilow = _b[logor:_cons] - invt(e(N) - 2, .975)*'setotal'
. local piupp = _b[logor:_cons] + invt(e(N) - 2, .975)*'setotal'
. di "95% Prediction interval:", 'pilow', 'piupp'
95% Prediction interval: -1.7682144 .73498424
```

#### Syntax 2: 1 random effect interacted with SEs

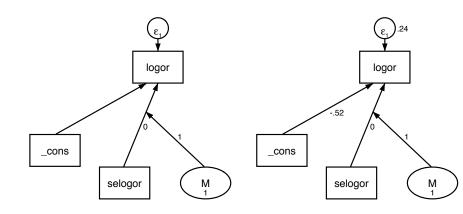
- Constrain interaction coefficients to 1.
- Constrain variance of REs to 1.
- ▶ Variance of residuals var(e.logor) is estimate of  $\tau^2$ .

```
. gsem (logor <- ibn.trial#c.selogor#c.M@1), var(M@1) nolog nocnsreport
Generalized structural equation model
                                                 Number of obs =
Log likelihood = -9.4552759
                          Coef
                                Std. Err
                                                     P>|z|
                                                               [95% Conf. Interval]
logor <-
trial#c.selogor#c.M
                              1 (constrained)
                                .2059448 -2.51
                              1 (constrained)
```

## Stata SEM builder random effects syntax 2 path diagram



## Stata SEM builder random effects syntax 2 path diagram



### 2.1 Fixed effect meta-regression

- $y_i \sim N(X_i\theta, \sigma_i^2)$
- ▶ Not recommend assumes het. explained by covariates
- Tends to give too small SEs with moderate/large heterogeneity
- We need to fit it to obtain heterogeneity test
- Example data (Thompson & Sharp 1999) 28 RCTs of cholesterol lowering interventions for reducing risk of IHD.
- Each study reports log odds ratio and its SE, and a variable summarising the cholesterol reduction in each trial.

#### Fixed effect meta-regression

```
. use cholesterol. clear
(Serum cholesterol reduction & THD)
. gen double invselogor = 1/sqrt(varlogor)
. gen double logortr = logor*invselogor
. gen double cholreductr = cholreduc*invselogor
. sem (logortr <- cholreductr invselogor, nocons), ///
         nodescribe nolog nocnsreport var(e.logortr@1)
Structural equation model
                                          Number of obs =
Estimation method = ml
Log likelihood = -165.21497
                           OTM
                  Coef. Std. Err. z P>|z| [95% Conf. Interval]
Structural
 logortr <- |
 cholreductr | -.4752451 .1382083 -3.44 0.001 -.7461284 -.2043617
  invselogor | .1207613 .0972033 1.24 0.214 -.0697538 .3112763
                      0 (constrained)
var(e.logortr) | 1 (constrained)
LR test of model vs. saturated: chi2(2) = 1.42, Prob > chi2 = 0.4907
```

#### Heterogeneity test for meta-regression

#### ▶ Remove constraint from variance of residuals

## 3.1 Fixed effect multivariate MA with zero within study covariances

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_{11} \\ y_{12} \\ \dots \\ y_{N1} \\ y_{N2} \end{bmatrix}, \ \theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \end{bmatrix}, \ V_i = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{i,11}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_{i,22}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} V_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & V_N \end{bmatrix}$$

- $Y \sim \mathsf{MVN}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \ \Sigma)$
- Example meta-analysis (Riley et al. 2007) 10 studies, diagnostic accuracy of tumour marker for bladder cancer, each report logit of sensitivity and specificity

```
. use telomerase, clear
(Riley's telomerase data)
. reshape long y s, i(study) j(outcome)
(note: i = 1 2)
Data
                                wide
                                           long
Number of obs.
                                10 ->
                                              20
Number of variables
                                 5 ->
j variable (2 values)
                                       ->
                                          outcome
xij variables:
                               v1 v2 ->
                               s1 s2 -> s
```

- . gen byte y2cons = (outcome == 2)
- . gen double invse = 1/s
- . gen double ytr = y\*invse
- . gen double y2constr = y2cons\*invse

. sem (ytr <-	y2constr inv	se, nocons),	nocaps	nodescri	be nolog nocns	r var(e.ytr@
Structural equ Estimation met Log likelihood	hod = ml	12748		Number	of obs =	20
I		OIM				
					[95% Conf.	
Structural   ytr <-						
y2constr	.0834338	.2104572	0.40	0.692	3290547	.4959223
invse	1.126318	.1177527	9.57	0.000	.8955267	1.357109
		(constrained				
var(e.ytr)	1	(constrained	)			
LR test of mod						
. lincom [ytr]	invse + [ytr	]y2constr				
( 1) [ytr]y2	constr + [yt	r]invse = 0				
1	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf.	Interval]
	1.209751	. 174432	6.94	0.000	.867871	

#### Heterogeneity test

#### Remove constraint from variance of residuals

```
. quietly sem (ytr <- y2constr invse, nocons), nocaps nodescribe nolog nocnsr
. local Q = _b[var(e.ytr):_cons]*e(N)
. local df = e(N) - 2
. di "Het. test statistic = " 'Q'
Het. test statistic = 90.865377
. di "Het. test p-value = " chi2tail('df', 'Q')
Het. test p-value = 1.009e-11</pre>
```

# 3.2 Random effects multivariate outcomes with zero within study covariances

- $ightharpoonup Y \sim \mathsf{MVN}(\theta + \nu, \Sigma)$
- $m 
  u \sim N(m 0, \ m T^2)$ , for a 2 outcome model  $m T^2 = egin{bmatrix} au_1^2 & au_{12} \ au_{12} & au_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$
- . use telomerase, clear
- . gen double y1tr = y1/s1
- . gen double invs1 = 1/s1
- . gen double y2tr = y2/s2
- . gen double invs2 = 1/s2

```
gsem (v1tr <- c.invs1#c.M1@1 invs1, nocons) ///
         (y2tr <- c.invs2#c.M2@1 invs2, nocons), ///
>
        cov(e.y1tr@1 e.y2tr@1 e.y1tr*e.y2tr@0) ///
        latent(M1 M2) nolog nocnsreport
Generalized structural equation model
                                           Number of obs =
                                                                    10
Log likelihood = -37.273657
                 Coef. Std. Err.
                                      z P>|z|
                                                    [95% Conf. Interval]
v1tr <-
      invs1
             1.158561 .1616837 7.17 0.000 .8416669 1.475455
v2tr <-
             2.00511 .4581216 4.38 0.000 1.107208 2.903012
      invs2 |
     var(M1)|
             .1179669
                        .0000813
                                                    1178077
                                                              1181264
     var(M2) | 1.628624
                        .0018461
                                                    1.62501
                                                              1.632246
  cov(M2,M1)| -.4383192 .0001342 -3265.57 0.000 -.4385823 -.4380561
 var(e.v1tr)|
                 1 (constrained)
 var(e.y2tr)|
                    1 (constrained)
```