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This article raises some questions about the usefulness of meta-analysis as a means of reviewing quantitative research in the social sciences. When a meta-analytic model for SAT coaching is used to predict results from future studies, the amount of prediction error is quite large. Interpretations of meta-analytic regressions and quantifications of program and study characteristics are shown to be equivocal. The match between the assumptions of the meta-analytic model and the data from SAT coaching studies is not good, making statistical inferences problematic. Researcher subjectivity is no less problematic in the context of a meta-analysis than in a narrative review.

Keywords: meta-analysis; literature review; SAT coaching; statistical inference

Meta-Analysis in Social Research (1981), Statistical Methods for Meta-Analysis (1985), 1980, meta-analysis (1980, 2003), 1,000, Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Design for Generalized Causal Inference,

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TABLE 1: Observed and Predicted Effects From New Coaching Studies

Re	S d	C ac	Effic	P ed c ed C ac		Effic F		Bec e (1990)	
				M de A	M de B	M de B	M de C	M de C	M de D
H e e (1984)	SAT-V	57		30	11.6	12.9	24.5		
	SAT-M	37		30	25.5	1.2	35.8		
F a e (1987)	SAT-V	16		30	11.6	1.9	0.8		
	SAT-M	16		30	25.5	13.6	12.1		
H a e (1988)	SAT-M	21		30	25.5	14.5	8.1		
	SAT-V	11		30	11.6	2.7	0.5		
S edec (1989)	SAT-M	16		30	25.5	14.4	11.8		
	SAT-V	0		30	11.6	2.7	0.2		

11) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{x} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-1 + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right) = \infty$

12) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[2\sqrt{x} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} (2 - 2\sqrt{\epsilon}) = 2$

13) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\ln x \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} (0 - \ln \epsilon) = \infty$

14) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^3} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^3} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{2x^2} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} \right) = \infty$

15) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{3}{2} x^{2/3} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{2} \epsilon^{2/3} \right) = \frac{3}{2}$

16) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^4} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^4} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{3x^3} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3\epsilon^3} \right) = \infty$

17) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{4}{3} x^{3/4} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{4}{3} - \frac{4}{3} \epsilon^{3/4} \right) = \frac{4}{3}$

18) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^5} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^5} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{4x^4} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4\epsilon^4} \right) = \infty$

19) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{5}{4} x^{4/5} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{5}{4} - \frac{5}{4} \epsilon^{4/5} \right) = \frac{5}{4}$

20) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^6} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^6} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{5x^5} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{5\epsilon^5} \right) = \infty$

21) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[6]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[6]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{6}{5} x^{5/6} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{6}{5} - \frac{6}{5} \epsilon^{5/6} \right) = \frac{6}{5}$

22) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^7} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^7} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{6x^6} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6\epsilon^6} \right) = \infty$

23) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[7]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[7]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{7}{6} x^{6/7} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{7}{6} - \frac{7}{6} \epsilon^{6/7} \right) = \frac{7}{6}$

24) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^8} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{x^8} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[-\frac{1}{7x^7} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{7\epsilon^7} \right) = \infty$

25) $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[8]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[8]{x}} dx = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{8}{7} x^{7/8} \right]_{\epsilon}^1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{8}{7} - \frac{8}{7} \epsilon^{7/8} \right) = \frac{8}{7}$

TABLE 4: Estimated Coaching Effects in Randomized Studies

Re a d S d	SAT-M	SAT-V
Ade a a d P e (1980)		
Sc A		22
Sc B		9
Sc C		14
Sc D		14
Sc E		1
Sc F		14
Sc G		18
Sc H		1
E a a d P e (1973)		
G A	12	
G B	25	
G C	11	
La c e e (1985)	8	0
R be a d O e e (1966)		
Sc A		17
Sc B	12	
Z a (1988)	51	14
Med a effec e a e	12	14

TABLE 5:

8 ... 30
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11-17
17
556
1,566
(Gill, A.)
(Baker, 1990, 397).
(Baker, 1982).
Gill, A.

Calculating effect sizes for meta-analytic regressions.
Baker, 1990
Baker, 1982
Gill, A.

$X_{hij}^C \sim N(\mu_{hi}^C, \sigma_{hi}^2)$ and $Y_{hij}^C \sim N(v_{hi}^C, \sigma_{hi}^2)$

$A_{hij}^C \sim N(h, \sigma_{hi}^2)$

At the population level, the observed data X_{hij}^C and Y_{hij}^C are assumed to follow normal distributions with unknown parameters μ_{hi}^C , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^C , and σ_{hi}^2 . The true values of these parameters are denoted by μ_{hi}^C , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^C , and σ_{hi}^2 . The observed data are assumed to be independent across i and j for a given h .

$$X_{hij}^C \sim N(\mu_{hi}^C, \sigma_{hi}^2) \text{ and } Y_{hij}^C \sim N(v_{hi}^C, \sigma_{hi}^2), \quad (4)$$

At the population level, the observed data X_{hij}^U and Y_{hij}^U are assumed to follow normal distributions with unknown parameters μ_{hi}^U , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^U , and σ_{hi}^2 . The true values of these parameters are denoted by μ_{hi}^U , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^U , and σ_{hi}^2 . The observed data are assumed to be independent across i and j for a given h .

$$X_{hij}^U \sim N(\mu_{hi}^U, \sigma_{hi}^2) \text{ and } Y_{hij}^U \sim N(v_{hi}^U, \sigma_{hi}^2). \quad (5)$$

The population parameters μ_{hi}^C , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^C , and σ_{hi}^2 are assumed to be unknown. The population parameters μ_{hi}^U , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^U , and σ_{hi}^2 are assumed to be unknown. The population parameters μ_{hi}^C , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^C , and σ_{hi}^2 are assumed to be unknown. The population parameters μ_{hi}^U , σ_{hi}^2 , v_{hi}^U , and σ_{hi}^2 are assumed to be unknown.

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90 -251.93

TABLE 6: Studies by Coaching Mode and Design

Cac	T e	Me d ca De		
		Ra d ed C	Obe a a C	N C
Sc	-ba ed	R be a d O e e (1966) E a a d P e (1973) A de a a d P e (1980) S a (1992)	D e (1953) F e c (1955) Dea (1958) Keefa e (1976) K c (1979) J (Sa Fa c c e) (1984) ^a B e (1986) R e d a d Obe a (1987) H a e (1988) W , C d , a d Ma e (1989) S c e d e (1992) W e (1996)	Pa e (1961) Ma (1965) J (A a a, Ne e) (1984) ^a Y

C	e ca-ba ed	F a e (1960) W a (1962) Fede a T ad g C B Re a Office (1978) B ea f C e P ec (1979) R c (1980) S d (1980) Se , Be a d, a d K a (1982) F a e (1987) W a (1988) Z a (1988) ^a S edec (1989) S (1989) S (1990) P a d R c (1999) B (2001)	K a a (2002)
C	e -ba ed	H ee (1984) L a c e e (1985)	














• It is a common mistake to think that the only way to improve your credit score is to pay off your debts. While this is certainly a good idea, it is not the only way. There are many other factors that can affect your credit score, such as the length of your credit history, the number of credit accounts you have, and the types of credit you use. For example, having a long history of on-time payments can help improve your score, while having too many credit cards can hurt it. It is important to understand all the factors that can affect your credit score so that you can take the right steps to improve it.

S a e S e^a (C ac ed/T a)

Grade

Yea ()

SES fb.9998 -7.9998 1.7004 79484019916 269.

Z a ( -SES a e) (1988)	21/55	21/55	11	M e b c (b a)	NY	1985-1986	H 
S (1989)	200/438	200/438	12	8 a e (b b a)	MD, D.C.	1987-1988	H 
S edec (1989)	264/535	264/535	12	10 b c a d a e	PA	1988-1989	H 
S (1990)	631/1,132	631/1,132	12	14 a e (b b a)	MD, NJ	1989	H 
P e a d R c (1999)	427/2,086	427/2,086	11 , 12	M e b c a d a e	USA	1995-1996	H 
B  (2001)	503/3,144	503/3,144	11 , 12	M e b c a d a e	USA	1991-1992	M ed
Ra d ed de  Sc -ba ed c ac  R be a d O e e (1966)	154/265	188/310	12	18 b c (a B a c , b a , a d a)	TN	1965	L
E a a d P e (1973)	NA	288/417	11	12 b c (b a a d b b a)	NJ, OH, PA	1970-1971	M ed
Ade a a d P e (1980)	239/559	NA	11	8 b c a d a e	7 Ne  E  a d a e	1977-1978	M ed
J (Sa Fa c c e) (1984)	23/35	23/35	11	M e b c (a B a c , b a)	CA	1983-1994	L
S a (1992)  C e c a c ac 	61/122	61/122	12	3 b c (b b a)	CA	1988	M ed
Z a (-SES a e) (1988)	16/33	16/33	11	M e b c (b a)	NY	1985-1986	L

(c ed)

S d	G a d Mea	C SAT-M	G	D	VI	MI	AI	IP	TP	TS	OA	HW	CI	WC	AC
H ee	1	1	1	3.5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fa e	1	1	1	15	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ha e	1	1	1	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wa	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
S e dec	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
W , C d , a d Ma e	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
S	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
S a	1	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sc ede	1	1	1	16	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
H e a d Keffe	1	0	1	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
W e	1	0	1	68	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
P e a d R c	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
B	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ka a Yea 1	1	1	0	30	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Ka a Yea 2	1	1	0	30	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

NOTE: D=d a f c ac (b d a e a e bee ed a Bec e ' [1990] e e), VI= e ba c , MI= a c-
, AI= a a c , IP= e ac ce, TP= e ac ce, TS= e - a e ac e , WC= a - c , AC= a e a-
e c .

S d	Yea	P b	Ma c	Ra d	ETS	Se	V
H ee	82	0	0	1	0	1	2
Fa e	87	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ha e	88	0	0	0	0	1	2
W a	88	1	0	0	0	2	2
S edec	89	1	0	0	0	2	2
W ., C d , a d Ma e	89	0	0	0	0	2	2
S a	90	1	0	0	0	2	2
S a	92	0	0	1	0	1	2
Sc ede	92	0	0	0	0	2	2
H e a d Keffe	95	1	0	1	0	2	2
W e	96	0	1	0	0	2	2
P a d R c	99	1	0	0	1	1	2
B .	101	1	0	0	0	1	2
Ka a Yea 1	101	1	0	0	0	2	2
Ka a Yea 2	101	1	0	0	0	2	2

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