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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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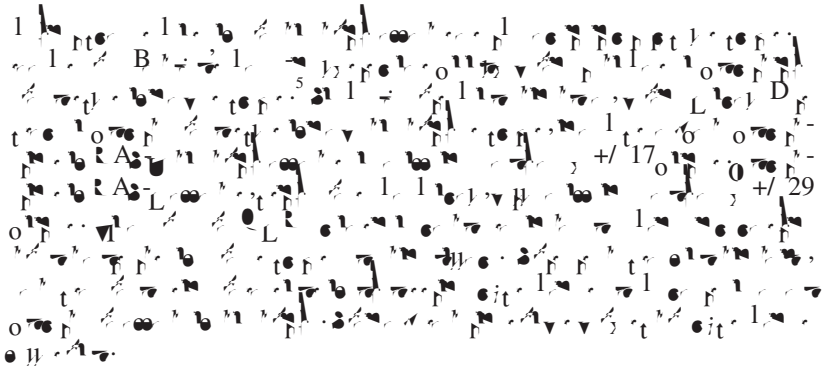
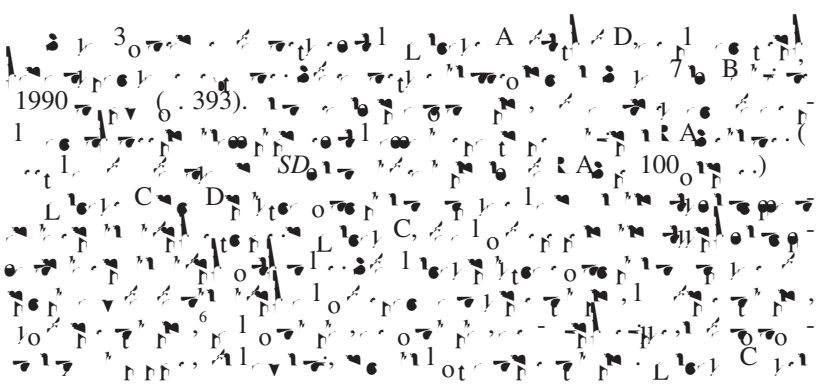
TABLE 1: Observed and Predicted Effects From New Coaching Studies

			Predicted Change in Effect From Bereby (1990)			
Re	*S d*	*C ac Effec*	*M de A*	*M de B*	*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
Ha e (1988)	SAT-M	21	30	25.5	14.5	8.1
W a (1988)	SAT-V	11	30	11.6	2.7	0.5
	SAT-M	16	30	25.5	14.4	11.8
S edec (1989)	SAT-V	0	30	11.6	2.7	0.2

TABLE 2: Average Prediction Error From Becker's (1990) Meta-Analytic Models





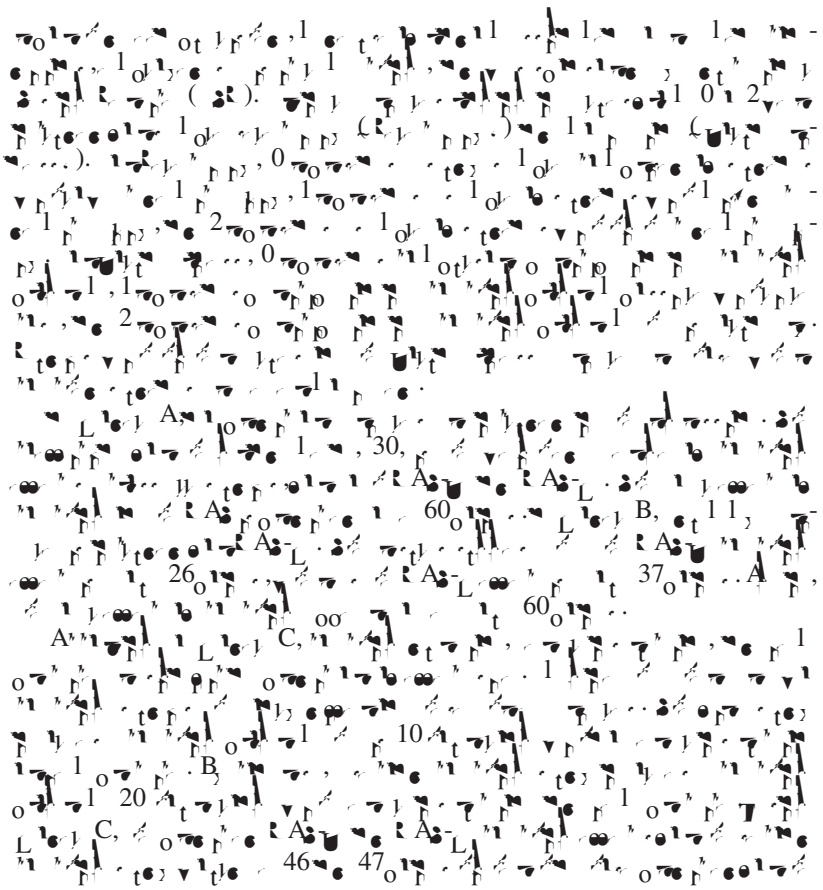


TABLE 4: Estimated Coaching Effects in Randomized Studies

Re a d S d	*SAT-M*	*SAT-V*
A de 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:

TABLE 6: Studies by Coaching Mode and Design

	Me d ca De		
C ac T e	*Ra d ed C*	*Ob e 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 F a c c e) (1984)[a] B e (1986) Re d a d Obe a (1987) Ha e (1988) W , C d , a d Ma e (1989) Sc ede (1992) W e (1996)	Pa e (1961) Ma (1965) J (A a a, Ne Y e) (1984)[a]

C e c a -ba e d

C e -ba e d H e e (1984)
La c e e (1985)

F a e (1960)
W a (1962)
Fede a T ade C d a d ea a e
B Re a Off ce (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 e a d R c (1999)
B (2001)

Ka a (2002)

Sa e S e[a] (C ac ed/T a)						
G ade	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 (ba)	NY	1985-1986	H
S (1989)	200/438	200/438	12	8 a e (b ba)	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 ba)	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	M ed
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 ac , ba , a d a)	TN	1965	L
E a a d P e (1973)	NA	288/417	11	12 b c (ba a d b ba)	NJ, OH, PA	1970-1971	M ed
A de 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 F a c c e) (1984)	23/35	23/35	11	M e b c (a B ac , ba)	CA	1983-1994	L
S a (1992)	61/122	61/122	12	3 b c (b ba)	CA	1988	M ed
C e ca c ac							
Z a (-SES a e) (1988)	16/33	16/33	11	M e b c (ba)	NY	1985-1986	L

(c ed)

C e -ba ed c ac							
H e e (1984)	42/71	61/93	9 , 10 , 11	1 b c (b ba)	FL	NR	M ed
La c e e (1985)	13/27	13/27	11	1 a e (b ba Ca c)	NY	NR	M ed

S d	*G a d Mea*	*SAT-M*	*C G*	*D*	*VI*	*MI*	*AI*	*IP*	*TP*	*TS*	*OA*	*HW*	*CI*	*WC*	*AC*
H e e	1	1	1	3.5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
F a 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
W a	1	1	1	**15**	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
S edec	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	0	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 , OA = 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 e e	82	0	0	1	0	1	2
F a 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	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 e 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

1. (1976) (1987).
2. A 1994, A :
3. g^{C}_{hi} g^{U}_{hi} B 1988).
4. G (1999) (1989) 1990
5. B 2.
6. D B (1989)
7. C D.
8. (1965).
9. A
10. A A A A.
11. G D, (1953), (1955), D (1958), (1988), A (1980).
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13. B (2004, o. 4).
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