

Package ‘netmeta’

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Title Network Meta-Analysis using Frequentist Methods

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Suggests Rgraphviz, graph, rgl, gridExtra, tictoc, writexl, R.rsp, cccp, brglm2, crossnma, gemtc, rmarkdown, knitr

URL <https://github.com/guido-s/netmeta>

Description A comprehensive set of functions providing frequentist methods for network meta-analysis (Balduzzi et al., 2023) <[doi:10.18637/jss.v106.i02](https://doi.org/10.18637/jss.v106.i02)> and supporting Schwarzer et al. (2015) <[doi:10.1007/978-3-319-21416-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-21416-0)>, Chapter 8 ‘Network Meta-Analysis’:

- frequentist network meta-analysis following Rücker (2012) <[doi:10.1002/jrsm.1058](https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1058)>;
- additive network meta-analysis for combinations of treatments (Rücker et al., 2020) <[doi:10.1002/bimj.201800167](https://doi.org/10.1002/bimj.201800167)>;
- network meta-analysis of binary data using the Mantel-Haenszel or non-central hypergeometric distribution method (Efthimiou et al., 2019) <[doi:10.1002/sim.8158](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.8158)>, or penalised logistic regression (Evrenoglou et al., 2022) <[doi:10.1002/sim.9562](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.9562)>;
- rankograms and ranking of treatments by the Surface under the cumulative ranking curve (SU-CRA) (Salanti et al., 2013) <[doi:10.1016/j.jclinepi.2010.03.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2010.03.016)>;
- ranking of treatments using P-scores (frequentist analogue of SUCRAs without resampling) according to Rücker & Schwarzer (2015) <[doi:10.1186/s12874-015-0060-8](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12874-015-0060-8)>;
- split direct and indirect evidence to check consistency (Dias et al., 2010) <[doi:10.1002/sim.3767](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.3767)>, (Efthimiou et al., 2019) <[doi:10.1002/sim.8158](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.8158)>;
- scatter plot to visualize local inconsistency (Wilson et al., 2026) <[doi:10.1017/rsm.2026.10082](https://doi.org/10.1017/rsm.2026.10082)>;
- league table with network meta-analysis results;
- 'comparison-adjusted' funnel plot (Chaimani & Salanti, 2012) <[doi:10.1002/jrsm.57](https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.57)>;
- net heat plot and design-based decomposition of Cochran's Q according to Krahn et al. (2013) <[doi:10.1186/1471-2288-13-35](https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-13-35)>;

- measures characterizing the flow of evidence between two treatments by König et al. (2013) <[doi:10.1002/sim.6001](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.6001)>;
- automated drawing of network graphs described in Rücker & Schwarzer (2016) <[doi:10.1002/jrsm.1143](https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1143)>;
- partial order of treatment rankings ('poset') and Hasse diagram for 'poset' (Carlsen & Brüggemann, 2014) <[doi:10.1002/cem.2569](https://doi.org/10.1002/cem.2569)>; (Rücker & Schwarzer, 2017) <[doi:10.1002/jrsm.1270](https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1270)>;
- contribution matrix as described in Papakonstantinou et al. (2018) <[doi:10.12688/f1000research.14770.3](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.14770.3)> and Davies et al. (2022) <[doi:10.1002/sim.9346](https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.9346)>;
- path-based approach for detecting and assessing inconsistency;
- network meta-regression with a single continuous or binary covariate (Kwarteng et al., 2026) <[doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-8235913/v1](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-8235913/v1)>;
- subgroup network meta-analysis.

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netmeta-package

*netmeta: Brief overview of methods and general hints***Description**

R package **netmeta** (Balduzzi et al., 2023) provides frequentist methods for network meta-analysis and supports Schwarzer et al. (2015), Chapter 8 on network meta-analysis, <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-21416-0>.

Details

R package **netmeta** is an add-on package for **meta** providing the following network meta-analysis models:

- frequentist network meta-analysis (function [netmeta](#)) based on Rücker (2012) and Rücker & Schwarzer (2014);
- additive network meta-analysis for combinations of treatments ([netcomb](#) for connected networks, [discomb](#) for disconnected networks) (Rücker et al., 2020a);
- network meta-analysis of binary data ([netmetabin](#)) using the Mantel-Haenszel or non-central hypergeometric distribution method (Efthimiou et al., 2019), or penalised logistic regression (Evrenoglou et al., 2022);
- network meta-regression ([netmeta-reg](#)) with a single continuous or binary covariate (Kwarteng et al., 2026);
- subgroup network meta-analysis ([subgroup.netmeta](#)).

The following methods are available to present results of a network meta-analysis:

- network graphs ([netgraph](#)) described in Rücker & Schwarzer (2016);
- forest plots ([forest.netmeta](#), [forest.netcomb](#));
- league tables with network meta-analysis results ([netleague](#));
- tables with network, direct and indirect estimates ([nettable](#)) looking similar to the statistical part of a GRADE table for a network meta-analysis (Puhan et al., 2014).

The following methods are implemented to rank treatments:

- rankograms ([rankogram](#)) (Salanti et al., 2011);
- ranking of treatments ([netrank](#)) based on P-scores (Rücker & Schwarzer, 2015), the Surface Under the Cumulative Ranking curve (SUCRA) (Salanti et al., 2011), and other ranking metrics;
- partial order of treatment rankings ([netposet](#), [plot.netposet](#)) and Hasse diagram ([hasse](#)) according to Carlsen & Bruggemann (2014) and Rücker & Schwarzer (2017);
- VišeKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Rešenje (VIKOR) multi-criteria decision analysis method ([vikor](#)) (Opricovic & Tzeng, 2004).

Available functions to evaluate network inconsistency:

- split direct and indirect evidence ([netsplit](#)) to check for consistency (Dias et al., 2010; Efthimiou et al., 2019);
- scatter plot of direct and indirect estimates ([plot.netmeta](#)) to visualise local consistency (Wilson et al., 2026);
- net heat plot ([netheat](#)) and design-based decomposition of Cochran's Q ([decomp.design](#)) described in Krahn et al. (2013).

Additional methods and functions:

- network meta-regression with a single continuous or binary covariate ([netmeta-reg](#));
- subgroup network meta-analysis ([subgroup.netmeta](#));

- information on network connectivity ([netconnection](#));
- contribution of direct comparisons to network estimates ([netcontrib](#)) (Papakonstantinou et al., 2018; Davies et al., 2022);
- importance of individual studies measured by reduction of precision if removed from network ([netimpact](#)) (Rücker et al., 2020b);
- ‘comparison-adjusted’ funnel plot ([funnel.netmeta](#)) to assess funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis (Chaimani & Salanti, 2012);
- conduct pairwise meta-analyses for all comparisons with direct evidence in a network meta-analysis ([netpairwise](#));
- results of several network meta-analyses can be combined with [netbind](#) to show these results in a forest plot ([forest.netbind](#)).
- measures characterizing the flow of evidence between two treatments ([netmeasures](#)) described in König et al. (2013);
- calculate comparison effects of two arbitrary complex interventions in component network meta-analysis ([netcomparison](#));
- calculate effect of arbitrary complex interventions in component network meta-analysis ([netcomplex](#)).

R package **netmeta** provides two vignettes:

- `vignette("netmeta-workflow")` with an overview of the work flow and the main functions,
- `vignette("netmeta")` with the PDF file for Balduzzi et al. (2023).

Functions and datasets from **netmeta** are utilised in Schwarzer et al. (2015), Chapter 8 "Network Meta-Analysis", <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-21416-0>.

Type `help(package = "netmeta")` for a listing of all R functions available in **netmeta**.

Type `citation("netmeta")` on how to cite **netmeta** in publications.

To report problems and bugs

- `type bug.report(package = "netmeta")` if you do not use RStudio,
- send an email to Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de> if you use RStudio.

The development version of **netmeta** is available on GitHub <https://github.com/guido-s/netmeta>.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

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See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/guido-s/netmeta>

as.data.frame.netconnection

Create a data frame from an object of class netconnection

Description

The `as.data.frame` method returns a data frame containing information on membership of studies / pairwise comparisons to a (sub)network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netconnection'  
as.data.frame(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class <code>netconnection</code> .
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Value

A data frame is returned by the function `as.data.frame`.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netconnection](#)

Examples

```
# Artificial example with two subnetworks
#
t1 <- c("G", "B", "B", "D", "A", "F")
t2 <- c("B", "C", "E", "E", "H", "A")
#
nc <- netconnection(t1, t2)
print(nc, details = TRUE)

as.data.frame(nc)
```

`as.data.frame.netmeta` *Create a data frame from an object of class netmeta*

Description

The `as.data.frame` method returns a data frame containing information on individual studies, e.g., estimated treatment effect and its standard error.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
as.data.frame(x, row.names = NULL, optional = FALSE, details = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>row.names</code>	NULL or a character vector giving the row names for the data frame.
<code>optional</code>	A logical. If TRUE, setting row names and converting column names (to syntactic names) is optional.
<code>details</code>	A logical. If TRUE, additional variables of less interest are included in data frame.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.

Value

A data frame is returned by the function `as.data.frame`.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)

# Transform data from arm-based format to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis and show data frame
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)
head(as.data.frame(nma))
head(as.data.frame(nma, details = TRUE))
```

Baker2009

Network meta-analysis of pharmacologic treatments for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Description

This dataset comes from a systematic review of randomized controlled trials on pharmacologic treatments for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (Baker et al., 2009).

The primary outcome, occurrence of one or more episodes of COPD exacerbation, is binary (yes / no). For this outcome, five drug treatments (fluticasone, budesonide, salmeterol, formoterol, tiotropium) and two combinations (fluticasone + salmeterol, budesonide + formoterol) were compared to placebo. The authors considered the two combinations as separate treatments instead of evaluating the individual components.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>study</i>	study label
<i>year</i>	year of publication
<i>id</i>	study ID
<i>treatment</i>	treatment
<i>exac</i>	one or more episodes of COPD exacerbation
<i>total</i>	number of individuals in treatment arm

Note

The dataset Baker2009 is identical to dataset [Baker2009](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Baker WL, Baker EL, Coleman CI (2009): Pharmacologic Treatments for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Mixed-Treatment Comparison Meta-analysis. *Pharmacotherapy: The Journal of Human Pharmacology and Drug Therapy*, **29**, 891–905

See Also

[Baker2009](#), [pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmeta](#), [netcomb](#)

Examples

```
head(Baker2009)

# Example using pairwise(), netmeta() and netcomb():
# example(Baker2009, package = "metabook")
```

createC

Auxiliary functions for component network meta-analysis

Description

Auxiliary functions to (i) create a combination / C matrix with information on treatment combinations and interaction terms and (ii) a vector with all combinations in a component network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
createC(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
createC(
  x,
  comb.ia,
  inactive = NULL,
  sep.comps = gs("sep.comps"),
  sep.ia = gs("sep.ia"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
createC(x, comb.ia = NULL, inactive = NULL, sep.ia = x$sep.ia, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
createC(x, inactive = NULL, sep.comps = gs("sep.comps"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'netconnection'
createC(x, inactive = NULL, sep.comps = gs("sep.comps"), ...)
```

```
## Default S3 method:
createC(x, n = 1, ...)

combinations(x, n = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A netcomb , netmeta or netconnection object, a matrix or the number of components.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.
<code>comb.ia</code>	A character vector specifying treatment combinations which will be considered as interactions.
<code>inactive</code>	A character string defining the inactive treatment component (see netcomb).
<code>sep.comps</code>	A single character to define separator between treatment components.
<code>sep.ia</code>	A single character to define separator for interactions.
<code>n</code>	A single number specifying the number of components in combinations.

Value

R function `createC` returns a combination matrix / C matrix with studies in rows and component and interaction terms in columns.

R function `combinations` returns a character vector with combinations.

Author(s)

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See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netcomb)
```

crossnma2netmeta

Create a netmeta object from a crossnma object

Description

Auxiliary function to create a netmeta object from a crossnma object.

Usage

```
crossnma2netmeta(
  x,
  keep.samples = TRUE,
  level = gs("level"),
  level.ma = x$model$level.ma,
  reference.group = x$model$reference,
  baseline.reference = gs("baseline.reference"),
  small.values = x$model$small.values,
  all.treatments = gs("all.treatments"),
  seq = gs("seq"),
  backtransf = x$model$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = gs("nchar.trts"),
  nchar.studlab = gs("nchar.studlab")
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A crossnma object created with R package crossnma .
<code>keep.samples</code>	A logical indicating whether to keep the generated samples.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual comparisons.
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment (first treatment is used if argument is missing).
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>small.values</code>	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect (passed on to netrank , can be abbreviated.
<code>all.treatments</code>	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in print-outs.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
<code>nchar.studlab</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.

Value

A netmeta object with additional class "netmeta.crossnma".

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("crossnma", quietly = TRUE)) {
  library("crossnma")
  # Create a JAGS model
  mod <- crossnma.model(treat, id, relapse, n, design,
    prt.data = ipddata, std.data = stddata,
    reference = "A", trt.effect = "random", method.bias = "naive")
  # Fit JAGS model
  set.seed(1909)
  fit <- crossnma(mod)

  # Print results in netmeta layout
  nma <- crossnma2netmeta(fit)
  nma
  # SUCRAs
  netrank(nma)
  # Rankogram
  rankogram(nma)
}
```

decomp.design

Design-based decomposition of Cochran's Q in network meta-analysis

Description

This function performs a design-based decomposition of Cochran's Q for assessing the homogeneity in the whole network, the homogeneity within designs, and the homogeneity/consistency between designs. It allows also an assessment of the consistency assumption after detaching the effect of single designs.

Usage

```
decomp.design(
  x,
  tau.preset = x$tau.preset,
  warn = gs("warn"),
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>tau.preset</code>	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 (see Details).
<code>warn</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.

Details

In the context of network meta-analysis and the assessment of the homogeneity and consistency assumption, a generalised Cochran's Q statistic for multivariate meta-analysis can be used as shown in Krahn et al. (2013). This Q statistic can be decomposed in a sum of within-design Q statistics and one between-designs Q statistic that incorporates the concept of design inconsistency, see Higgins et al. (2012).

For assessing the inconsistency in a random effects model, the between-designs Q statistic can be calculated based on a full design-by-treatment interaction random effects model (see Higgins et al., 2012). This Q statistic will be automatically given in the output (τ^2 estimated by the method of moments (see Jackson et al., 2012). Alternatively, the square-root of the between-study variance can be prespecified by argument `tau.preset` to obtain a between-designs Q statistic (in `Q.inc.random`), its design-specific contributions `Q.inc.design.random.preset` as well as residuals after detaching of single designs (`residuals.inc.detach.random.preset`).

Since an inconsistent treatment effect of one design can simultaneously inflate several residuals, Krahn et al. (2013) suggest for locating the inconsistency in a network to fit a set of extended models allowing for example for a deviating effect of each study design in turn. The recalculated between-designs Q statistics are given in list component `Q.inc.detach`. The change of the inconsistency contribution of single designs can be investigated in more detail by a net heat plot (see function [netheat](#)). Designs where only one treatment is involved in other designs of the network or where the removal of corresponding studies would lead to a splitting of the network do not contribute to the inconsistency assessment. These designs are not included in `Q.inc.detach`.

Value

Network meta-analysis with a single design: NULL. Otherwise, a list containing the following components:

<code>Q.decomp</code>	Data frame with Q statistics (variable <code>Q</code>) based on the common effects model to assess the homogeneity/consistency in the whole network, within designs, and between designs. Corresponding degrees of freedom (<code>df</code>) and p-values (<code>p.val</code>) are also given.
<code>Q.het.design</code>	Data frame with design-specific decomposition of the within-designs Q statistic (<code>Q</code>) of the common effects model, corresponding degrees of freedom (<code>df</code>) and p-values (<code>p.val</code>) are given.
<code>Q.inc.detach</code>	Data frame with between-designs Q statistics (<code>Q</code>) of the common effects model after detaching of single designs, corresponding degrees of freedom (<code>df</code>) and p-values (<code>p.val</code>) are given.

<code>Q.inc.design</code>	A named vector with contributions of single designs to the between design Q statistic given in <code>Q.decomp</code> .
<code>Q.inc.random</code>	Data frame with between-designs Q statistic (Q) based on a random effects model with square-root of between-study variance <code>tau.within</code> estimated embedded in a full design-by-treatment interaction model, corresponding degrees of freedom (df) and p-value (<code>p.val</code>).
<code>Q.inc.random.preset</code>	Data frame with between-designs Q statistic (Q) based on a random effects model with prespecified square-root of between-study variance <code>tau.preset</code> in the case if argument <code>tau.preset</code> is not NULL, corresponding degrees of freedom (df) and p-value (<code>p.val</code>).
<code>Q.inc.design.random.preset</code>	A named vector with contributions of single designs to the between design Q statistic based on a random effects model with prespecified square-root of between-study variance <code>tau.preset</code> in the case if argument <code>tau.preset</code> is given.
<code>residuals.inc.detach</code>	Matrix with residuals, i.e. design-specific direct estimates minus the corresponding network estimates after detaching the design of the column.
<code>residuals.inc.detach.random.preset</code>	Matrix with residuals analogous to <code>residuals.inc.detach</code> but based on a random effects model with prespecified square-root of between-study variance <code>tau.preset</code> in the case if argument <code>tau.preset</code> is not NULL.
<code>call</code>	Function call.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package <code>netmeta</code> used to create object.

Author(s)

Ulrike Krahn <ulrike.krahn@bayer.com>, Jochem König <koenigjo@uni-mainz.de>

References

- Higgins JPT, Jackson D, Barrett JK, Lu G, Ades AE, White IR (2012): Consistency and inconsistency in network meta-analysis: concepts and models for multi-arm studies. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 98–110
- Krahn U, Binder H, König J (2013): A graphical tool for locating inconsistency in network meta-analyses. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **13**, 35
- Jackson D, White IR and Riley RD (2012): Quantifying the impact of between-study heterogeneity in multivariate meta-analyses. *Statistics in Medicine*, **31**, 3805–20

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netheat](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider first five studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
studies <- unique(Senn2013$study)
Senn2013.5 <- subset(Senn2013, study %in% studies[1:5])

# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013.5,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# Decomposition of Cochran's Q
#
decomp.design(nma)
```

dietaryfat

Network meta-analysis of dietary fat

Description

Network meta-analysis comparing the effects of two diets to control on mortality.

The data are rates, given as the number of deaths and person-years. These data are used as an example in the supplemental material of Dias et al. (2013).

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>treat1</i>	treatment 1
<i>treat2</i>	treatment 2
<i>treat3</i>	treatment 3
<i>years1</i>	person years arm 1
<i>years2</i>	person years arm 2
<i>years3</i>	person years arm 3
<i>d1</i>	events (deaths) arm 1
<i>d2</i>	events (deaths) arm 2
<i>d3</i>	events (deaths) arm 3
<i>ID</i>	study ID

Source

Dias S, Sutton AJ, Ades AE and Welton NJ (2013): Evidence synthesis for decision making 2: A generalized linear modeling framework for pairwise and network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Medical Decision Making*, **33**, 607–17

See Also

[pairwise](#), [metainc](#), [netmeta](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(dietaryfat)
head(dietaryfat)

# Examples: example(netmeta)
```

discomb	<i>Additive network meta-analysis for combinations of treatments (disconnected networks)</i>
---------	--

Description

Some treatments in a network meta-analysis may be combinations of other treatments or have common components. The influence of individual components can be evaluated in an additive network meta-analysis model assuming that the effect of treatment combinations is the sum of the effects of its components. This function implements this additive model in a frequentist way and is particularly intended for disconnected networks.

Usage

```
discomb(
  TE,
  seTE,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  studlab,
  data = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  inactive = NULL,
  sep.comps = gs("sep.comps"),
  C.matrix,
  sm,
  level = gs("level"),
  level.ma = gs("level.ma"),
  common = gs("common"),
  random = gs("random") | !is.null(tau.preset),
  reference.group,
```

```

baseline.reference = gs("baseline.reference"),
seq = gs("sep"),
tau.preset = NULL,
tol.multiarm = gs("tol.multiarm"),
tol.multiarm.se = gs("tol.multiarm.se"),
details.chkmultiarm = gs("details.chkmultiarm"),
details.chkident = FALSE,
sep.trts = gs("sep.trts"),
nchar.comps = gs("nchar.comps"),
sep.ia = gs("sep.ia"),
func.inverse = invmat,
n1 = NULL,
n2 = NULL,
event1 = NULL,
event2 = NULL,
incr = NULL,
overall.hetstat = gs("overall.hetstat"),
backtransf = gs("backtransf"),
na.unident = gs("na.unident"),
title = gs("title"),
keepdata = gs("keepdata"),
warn = gs("warn"),
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
nchar.trts = nchar.comps,
...
)

```

Arguments

TE	Estimate of treatment effect, i.e. difference between first and second treatment (e.g. log odds ratio, mean difference, or log hazard ratio). Or an R object created with pairwise .
seTE	Standard error of treatment estimate.
treat1	Label/Number for first treatment.
treat2	Label/Number for second treatment.
studlab	An optional - but important! - vector with study labels (see netmeta).
data	An optional data frame containing the study information.
subset	An optional vector specifying a subset of studies to be used.
inactive	A character string defining the inactive treatment component (see Details).
sep.comps	A single character to define separator between treatment components.
C.matrix	C matrix (see Details).
sm	A character string indicating underlying summary measure, e.g., "RD", "RR", "OR", "ASD", "HR", "MD", "SMD", or "ROM".
level	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual comparisons.
level.ma	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.

<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a common effects / common effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a random effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment (first treatment is used if argument is missing).
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in printouts.
<code>tau.preset</code>	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>tol.multiarm</code>	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of treatment estimates in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design.
<code>tol.multiarm.se</code>	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of standard errors in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design. This check is not conducted if the argument is NULL.
<code>details.chkmultiarm</code>	A logical indicating whether treatment estimates and / or variances of multi-arm studies with inconsistent results or negative multi-arm variances should be printed.
<code>details.chkident</code>	A logical indicating whether details on unidentifiable components should be printed.
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
<code>nchar.comps</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components (see Details).
<code>sep.ia</code>	A single character to define separator for interactions.
<code>func.inverse</code>	R function used to calculate the pseudoinverse of the Laplacian matrix L (see netmeta).
<code>n1</code>	Number of observations in first treatment group.
<code>n2</code>	Number of observations in second treatment group.
<code>event1</code>	Number of events in first treatment group.
<code>event2</code>	Number of events in second treatment group.
<code>incr</code>	Numerical value added to cell frequencies.
<code>overall.hetstat</code>	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>na.unident</code>	A logical indicating whether unidentifiable components and combinations should be set to missing values.

<code>title</code>	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
<code>keepdata</code>	A logical indicating whether original data(set) should be kept in <code>netmeta</code> object.
<code>warn</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed (e.g., if studies are excluded from meta-analysis due to zero standard errors).
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	Deprecated argument (replaced by <code>nchar.comps</code>).
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Details

Treatments in network meta-analysis (NMA) can be complex interventions. Some treatments may be combinations of others or have common components. The standard analysis provided by `netmeta` is a NMA where all existing (single or combined) treatments are considered as different nodes in the network. Exploiting the fact that some treatments are combinations of common components, an additive component network meta-analysis (CNMA) model can be used to evaluate the influence of individual components. This model assumes that the effect of a treatment combination is the sum of the effects of its components which implies that common components cancel out in comparisons.

This R function can be used for disconnected networks. Use `netmeta` and `netcomb` for connected networks.

The additive CNMA model has been implemented using Bayesian methods (Mills et al., 2012; Welton et al., 2013). This function implements the additive model in a frequentist way (Rücker et al., 2020).

The underlying multivariate model is given by

$$\delta = B\theta, \theta = C\beta$$

with

δ vector of true treatment effects (differences) from individual studies,

B design matrix describing the structure of the network,

θ parameter vector that represents the existing combined treatments,

C matrix describing how the treatments are composed,

β parameter vector representing the treatment components.

All parameters are estimated using weighted least squares regression.

Argument `inactive` can be used to specify a single component that does not have any therapeutic value. Accordingly, it is assumed that the treatment effect of the combination of this component with an additional treatment component is equal to the treatment effect of the additional component alone.

Argument `sep.comps` can be used to specify the separator between individual components. By default, the matrix C is calculated internally from treatment names. However, it is possible to specify a different matrix using argument `C.matrix`.

By default, component names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.comps` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated component names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function `treats` is utilised internally to create abbreviated component names.

Value

An object of classes `discomb` and `netcomb` with corresponding `print`, `summary`, and `forest` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>studlab</code>	Study labels.
<code>treat1</code>	Label/Number for first treatment.
<code>treat2</code>	Label/Number for second treatment.
<code>TE</code>	Estimate of treatment effect, i.e. difference between first and second treatment.
<code>seTE</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate.
<code>seTE.adj.common</code> , <code>seTE.adj.random</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate, adjusted for multi-arm studies.
<code>event1</code>	Number of events in first treatment group.
<code>event2</code>	Number of events in second treatment group.
<code>n1</code>	Number of observations in first treatment group.
<code>n2</code>	Number of observations in second treatment group.
<code>k</code>	Total number of studies.
<code>m</code>	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
<code>n</code>	Total number of treatments.
<code>d</code>	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
<code>c</code>	Total number of components.
<code>trts</code>	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
<code>comps</code>	Unique list of components present in the network.
<code>TE.cnma.common</code> , <code>TE.cnma.random</code>	A vector of length m of consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.
<code>seTE.cnma.common</code> , <code>seTE.cnma.random</code>	A vector of length m with standard errors estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.
<code>lower.cnma.common</code> , <code>lower.cnma.random</code>	A vector of length m of lower confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.
<code>upper.cnma.common</code> , <code>upper.cnma.random</code>	A vector of length m of upper confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.
<code>statistic.cnma.common</code> , <code>statistic.cnma.random</code>	A vector of length m of z-values for the test of an overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`pval.cnma.common`, `pval.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of p-values for the test of an overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`TE.common`, `TE.random`
 nxn matrix with overall treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`seTE.common`, `seTE.random`
 nxn matrix with standard errors estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`lower.common`, `upper.common`, `lower.random`, `upper.random`
 nxn matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`statistic.common`, `pval.common`, `statistic.random`, `pval.random`
 nxn matrices with z-values and p-values for test of overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`Comp.common`, `Comp.random`
 A vector of component effects (common and random effects model).

`seComp.common`, `seComp.random`
 A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).

`lower.Comp.common`, `lower.Comp.random`
 A vector with lower confidence limits for components (common and random effects model).

`upper.Comp.common`, `upper.Comp.random`
 A vector with upper confidence limits for components (common and random effects model).

`statistic.Comp.common`, `statistic.Comp.random`
 A vector with z-values for the overall effect of components (common and random effects model).

`pval.Comp.common`, `pval.Comp.random`
 A vector with p-values for the overall effect of components (common and random effects model).

`Comb.common`, `Comb.random`
 A vector of combination effects (common and random effects model).

`seComb.common`, `seComb.random`
 A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).

`lower.Comb.common`, `lower.Comb.random`
 A vector with lower confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).

`upper.Comb.common`, `upper.Comb.random`
 A vector with upper confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).

`statistic.Comb.common`, `statistic.Comb.random`
 A vector with z-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).

`pval.Comb.common`, `pval.Comb.random`
 A vector with p-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).

Q.additive	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic (additive model).
df.Q.additive	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (additive model).
pval.Q.additive	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (additive model).
tau	Square-root of between-study variance (additive model).
I ²	I-squared (additive model).
Q.standard	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic (standard model).
df.Q.standard	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (standard model).
pval.Q.standard	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (standard model).
Q.diff	Test statistic for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.
df.Q.diff	Degrees of freedom for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.
pval.Q.diff	P-value for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.
X.matrix	Design matrix ($m \times n$).
B.matrix	Edge-vertex incidence matrix ($m \times n$).
C.matrix	As defined above.
sm	Summary measure.
level.ma	Level for confidence intervals.
common, random, tau.preset	As defined above.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique component names.
inactive, sep.comps	As defined above.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
x	As defined above.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Note

This function calculates effects for individual components and complex interventions present in the network.

R function [netcomplex](#) can be used to calculate the effect for arbitrary complex interventions in a component network meta-analysis. Furthermore, R function [netcomparison](#) can be used to calculate the effect for comparisons of two arbitrary complex intervention in a component network meta-analysis.

Author(s)

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References

- König J, Krahn U, Binder H (2013): Visualizing the flow of evidence in network meta-analysis and characterizing mixed treatment comparisons. *Statistics in Medicine*, **32**, 5414–29
- Mills EJ, Thorlund K, Ioannidis JP (2012): Calculating additive treatment effects from multiple randomized trials provides useful estimates of combination therapies. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **65**, 1282–8
- Rücker G, Petropoulou M, Schwarzer G (2020): Network meta-analysis of multicomponent interventions. *Biometrical Journal*, **62**, 808–21
- Welton NJ, Caldwell DM, Adamopoulos E, Vedhara K (2009): Mixed treatment comparison meta-analysis of complex interventions: psychological interventions in coronary heart disease. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, **169**: 1158–65

See Also

[netcomb](#), [forest.netcomb](#), [summary.netcomb](#), [netmeta](#), [netconnection](#), [netcomplex](#), [netcomparison](#)

Examples

```
# Artificial dataset
#
t1 <- c("A + B", "A + C", "A"      , "A"      , "D", "D", "E")
t2 <- c("C"      , "B"      , "B + C", "A + D", "E", "F", "F")
#
mean  <- c(4.1, 2.05, 0, 0, 0.1, 0.1, 0.05)
se.mean <- rep(0.1, 7)
#
study <- paste("study", c(1:4, 5, 5, 5))
#
dat <- data.frame(mean, se.mean, t1, t2, study,
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
#
trts <- c("A", "A + B", "A + C", "A + D",
  "B", "B + C", "C", "D", "E", "F")
#
comps <- LETTERS[1:6]

# Use netconnection() to display network information
#
netconnection(t1, t2, study)

dc1 <- discomb(mean, se.mean, t1, t2, study, seq = trts)
dc1

forest(dc1, ref = "F")
```

```

# Define C matrix manually (which will produce the same results)
#
C <- rbind(c(1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0), # A
  c(1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0), # A + B
  c(1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0), # A + C
  c(1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0), # A + D
  c(0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0), # B
  c(0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0), # B + C
  c(0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0), # C
  c(0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0), # D
  c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0), # E
  c(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1)) # F
#
colnames(C) <- comps
rownames(C) <- trts
#
dc2 <- discomb(mean, se.mean, t1, t2, study, seq = trts,
  C.matrix = C)
#
# Compare C matrices
#
all.equal(dc1$C.matrix, dc2$C.matrix)

```

Dogliotti2014

Network meta-analysis of antithrombotic treatments in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation

Description

This dataset comes from a systematic review aiming to determine the effects of eight antithrombotic treatments in reducing the incidence of major thrombotic events in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (Dogliotti et al., 2014). The review included 20 studies (79,808 participants), four of which were three-arm studies. The primary outcome is stroke reduction.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>study</i>	study label
<i>id</i>	study ID
<i>treatment</i>	treatment
<i>stroke</i>	number of strokes
<i>total</i>	number of individuals in treatment arm

Note

The dataset Dogliotti2014 is identical to dataset [Dogliotti2014](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Dogliotti A, Paolasso E, Giugliano RP (2014): Current and new oral antithrombotics in non-valvular atrial fibrillation: a network meta-analysis of 79 808 patients. *Heart*, **100**, 396–405

See Also

[Dogliotti2014](#), [pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmetabin](#)

Examples

```
head(Dogliotti2014)

# Example using pairwise(), netmeta() and netmetabin():
# example(Dogliotti2014, package = "metabook")
```

Dong2013

Network meta-analysis for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Description

Network meta-analysis comparing inhaled medications in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>id</i>	study ID
<i>treatment</i>	treatment
<i>death</i>	mortality
<i>randomized</i>	number of individuals in treatment arm

Note

The dataset Dong2013 is identical to dataset [Dong2013](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Dong Y-H, Lin H-H, Shau W-Y, Wu Y-C, Chang C-H, Lai M-S (2013): Comparative safety of inhaled medications in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: systematic review and mixed treatment comparison meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. *Thorax*, **68**, 48–56

See Also

[Dong2013](#), [pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmetabin](#)

Examples

```
head(Dong2013)

# Example using pairwise() and netmetabin():
# example(Dong2013, package = "metabook")
```

forest.netbind

Forest plot showing results of two or more network meta-analyses

Description

Forest plot to show network estimates of two or more network meta-analyses.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netbind'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$x$random, "random", "common"),
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  leftcols = "studlab",
  leftlabs = "Treatment",
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci"),
  rightlabs = NULL,
  subset.treatments,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  digits.prop = max(gs("digits.pval") - 2, 2),
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
  smlab,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netbind'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netbind.
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
equal.size	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
leftcols	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot (see Details).
leftlabs	A character vector specifying labels for columns on left side of the forest plot.

<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot (see Details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for columns on right side of the forest plot.
<code>subset.treatments</code>	A character vector specifying treatments to show in forest plot as comparators to the reference.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.prop</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for the direct evidence proportion.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>lab.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>smlab</code>	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for forest.meta function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window.

The arguments `leftcols` and `rightcols` can be used to specify columns which are plotted on the left and right side of the forest plot, respectively. If argument `rightcols` is `FALSE`, no columns will be plotted on the right side.

For more information see help page of [forest.meta](#) function.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netbind](#), [netcomb](#), [forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netbind)
```

forest.netcomb

*Forest plot for additive network meta-analysis***Description**

Draws a forest plot in the active graphics window (using grid graphics system).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  reference.group = x$reference.group,
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  leftcols = "studlab",
  leftlabs = "Treatment",
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci"),
  rightlabs = NULL,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  smlab = NULL,
  sortvar = x$seq,
  overall.hetstat = gs("overall.hetstat"),
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
  add.data,
  addrows.below.overall = if (x$overall.hetstat) 2 else gs("addrows.below.overall"),
  drop.reference.group = gs("drop.reference.group"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netcomb.
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
reference.group	Reference treatment(s).
baseline.reference	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa.

<code>equal.size</code>	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
<code>leftcols</code>	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>leftlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on left side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on right side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>smlab</code>	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
<code>sortvar</code>	An optional vector used to sort the individual studies (must be of same length as the total number of treatments).
<code>overall.hetstat</code>	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>lab.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>add.data</code>	An optional data frame with additional columns to print in forest plot (see Details).
<code>addrows.below.overall</code>	A numeric value indicating how many empty rows are printed between meta-analysis results and heterogeneity statistics.
<code>drop.reference.group</code>	A logical indicating whether the reference group should be printed in the forest plot.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for forest.meta function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window.

Argument `sortvar` can be either a numeric or character vector with length of number of treatments. If `sortvar` is numeric the [order](#) function is utilised internally to determine the order of values. If `sortvar` is character it must be a permutation of the treatment names. It is also possible to sort by treatment comparisons (`sortvar = TE`, etc.), standard error (`sortvar = seTE`), and number of studies with direct treatment comparisons (`sortvar = k`).

Argument `add.data` can be used to add additional columns to the forest plot. This argument must be a data frame with the same row names as the treatment effects matrices in R object `x`, i.e., `x$TE.common` or `x$TE.random`.

For more information see help page of [forest.meta](#) function.

Author(s)

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See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netcomb)
```

forest.netcomparison	<i>Forest plot for complex interventions in component network meta-analysis</i>
----------------------	---

Description

Draws a forest plot in the active graphics window (using grid graphics system).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomparison'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  leftcols = c("studlab", "treat1", "treat2"),
  leftlabs = c("Comparison", "Trt 1", "Trt 2"),
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci", "statistic", "pval"),
  rightlabs = c(NA, NA, "z", "p-value"),
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  smlab = NULL,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomparison'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netcomparison</code> .
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>leftcols</code>	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>leftlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on left side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on right side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).
<code>nchar.comps</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.stat</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for tests of overall effect, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall effects, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>smlab</code>	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>lab.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>equal.size</code>	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for forest.meta function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window. For more information see help page of [forest.meta](#) function.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netcomparison](#), [netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netcomparison)
```

forest.netcomplex	<i>Forest plot for complex interventions in component network meta-analysis</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Draws a forest plot in the active graphics window (using grid graphics system).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomplex'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  leftcols = "studlab",
  leftlabs = NULL,
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci", "statistic", "pval"),
  rightlabs = c(NA, NA, "z", "p-value"),
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  smlab = NULL,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomplex'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netcomplex.
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
leftcols	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
leftlabs	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on left side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).
rightcols	A character vector specifying (additional) columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot or a logical value (see forest.meta help page for details).
rightlabs	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on right side of the forest plot (see forest.meta help page for details).

nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.stat	Minimal number of significant digits for tests of overall effect, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall effects, see <code>print.default</code> .
smlab	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
lab.NA	A character string to label missing values.
equal.size	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
...	Additional arguments for <code>forest.meta</code> function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window. For more information see help page of `forest.meta` function.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

`netcomplex`, `netcomb`, `discomb`, `forest.meta`

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce
# runtime of example)
#
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))

# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)

# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive
```

```

# treatment)
#
cnma <- netcomb(nma, inactive = "placebo")

# Some complex interventions
#
ints <- c("F + TCA", "F + Plac", "SSRI + Plac + TCA")
netcomplex(cnma, ints)
#
forest(netcomplex(cnma, ints))
forest(netcomplex(cnma, ints), nchar.comps = 4)

# Component effects
#
forest(netcomplex(cnma, cnma$comps))

## End(Not run)

```

forest.netmeta

Forest plot for network meta-analysis

Description

Draws a forest plot in the active graphics window (using grid graphics system).

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  reference.group = x$reference.group,
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  labels = x$trts,
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  leftcols = "studlab",
  leftlabs,
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci"),
  rightlabs,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  small.values = x$small.values,
  nsim = gs("nsim"),
  digits.prop = 2,
  smlab = NULL,
  sortvar = x$seq,
  overall.hetstat = gs("overall.hetstat"),
  print.tau2 = gs("forest.tau2"),

```

```

    print.tau = gs("forest.tau"),
    print.I2 = gs("forest.I2"),
    backtransf = x$backtransf,
    lab.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
    add.data,
    addrows.below.overall = if (x$overall.hetstat) 2 else gs("addrows.below.overall"),
    drop.reference.group = gs("drop.reference.group"),
    col.subgroup = "black",
    print.subgroup.name = FALSE,
    ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
plot(x, ...)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment(s).
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa.
<code>labels</code>	An optional vector with treatment labels.
<code>equal.size</code>	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
<code>leftcols</code>	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot or a logical value (see Details).
<code>leftlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on left side of the forest plot (see Details).
<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot or a logical value (see Details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for (additional) columns on right side of the forest plot (see Details).
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>small.values</code>	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect, can be abbreviated; see netrank .
<code>nsim</code>	Number of repetitions to calculate SUCRAs.
<code>digits.prop</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for P-scores, SUCRAs and direct evidence proportions, see print.default and netrank .

smlab	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
sortvar	An optional vector used to sort treatments (must be of same length as the total number of treatments).
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
print.tau2	A logical value indicating whether to print the value of the between-study variance τ^2 .
print.tau	A logical value indicating whether to print τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
print.I2	A logical value indicating whether to print the value of the I-squared statistic.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
lab.NA	A character string to label missing values.
add.data	An optional data frame with additional columns to print in forest plot (see Details).
addrows.below.overall	A numeric value indicating how many empty rows are printed between meta-analysis results and heterogeneity statistics.
drop.reference.group	A logical indicating whether the reference group should be printed in the forest plot.
col.subgroup	The colour to print information on subgroups.
print.subgroup.name	A logical indicating whether the name of the grouping variable should be printed in front of the group labels.
...	Additional arguments for forest.meta function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window.

Argument `sortvar` can be either a numeric or character vector with length of number of treatments. If `sortvar` is numeric the [order](#) function is utilised internally to determine the order of values. If `sortvar` is character it must be a permutation of the treatment names. It is also possible to provide either `sortvar = Pscore`, `sortvar = "Pscore"`, `sortvar = -Pscore`, or `sortvar = "-Pscore"` in order to sort treatments according to the ranking generated by [netrank](#) which is called internally. It is also possible to use "SUCRA" instead of "Pscore". Similar expressions are possible to sort by treatment comparisons (`sortvar = TE`, etc.), standard error (`sortvar = seTE`), number of studies with direct treatment comparisons (`sortvar = k`), and direct evidence proportion (`sortvar = prop.direct`, see also [netmeasures](#)).

The arguments `leftcols` and `rightcols` can be used to specify columns which are plotted on the left and right side of the forest plot, respectively. The following columns are available:

Name	Definition
"studlab"	Treatments
"TE"	Network estimates (either from common or random effects model)
"seTE"	Corresponding standard errors
"Pscore"	P-scores (see netrank)
"SUCRA"	SUCRAs (see netrank)
"n.trts"	Number of participants per treatment arm
"k"	Number of studies in pairwise comparisons
"prop.direct"	Direct evidence proportions (see netmeasures)
"effect"	(Back-transformed) network estimates
"ci"	Confidence intervals
"effect.ci"	(Back-transformed) network estimates and confidence intervals

As a sidenote, the rather odd column name "studlab" to describe the treatment comparisons comes from internally calling [forest.meta](#) which uses study labels as the essential information.

Argument `add.data` can be used to add additional columns to the forest plot. This argument must be a data frame with row names equal to the treatment names in R object `x`, i.e., `x$trts`.

See help page of [forest.meta](#) for more information on the generation of forest plots and additional arguments.

Author(s)

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See Also

[forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netmeta)
```

forest.netsplit

Forest plot for direct and indirect evidence

Description

Forest plot to show direct and indirect evidence in network meta-analysis. Furthermore, estimates from network meta-analysis as well as prediction intervals can be printed.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netsplit'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$x$random, "random", "common"),
  show = x$show,
  subgroup = "comparison",
  overall = x$overall,
  direct = x$direct,
  indirect = x$indirect,
  prediction = x$prediction,
  only.reference = x$only.reference,
  sortvar = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  text.overall = "Network estimate",
  text.direct = "Direct estimate",
  text.indirect = "Indirect estimate",
  text.predict = "Prediction interval",
  type.overall,
  type.direct,
  type.indirect,
  col.square = "gray",
  col.square.lines = col.square,
  col.inside = "white",
  col.diamond = "gray",
  col.diamond.lines = "black",
  col.predict = "red",
  col.predict.lines = "black",
  col.subgroup = "black",
  equal.size = TRUE,
  leftcols,
  leftlabs,
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci"),
  rightlabs = NULL,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  digits.prop = max(gs("digits.pval") - 2, 2),
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = "",
  smlab,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netsplit</code> .
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>show</code>	A character string indicating which comparisons should be printed (see Details).

subgroup	A character string indicating which layout should be used in forest plot: subgroups by comparisons ("comparison") or subgroups by estimates ("estimate"). Can be abbreviated.
overall	A logical indicating whether network meta-analysis estimates should be printed.
direct	A logical indicating whether direct estimates should be printed.
indirect	A logical indicating whether indirect estimates should be printed.
prediction	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
only.reference	A logical indicating whether only comparisons with the reference group should be printed.
sortvar	An optional vector used to sort comparisons (must be of same length as the total number of comparisons).
subset	An optional logical vector specifying a subset of comparisons to print (must be of same length as the total number of comparisons).
text.overall	A character string used in the plot to label the network estimates.
text.direct	A character string used in the plot to label the direct estimates.
text.indirect	A character string used in the plot to label the indirect estimates.
text.predict	A character string used in the plot to label the prediction interval.
type.overall	A character string specifying how to plot treatment effects and confidence intervals for the overall network evidence.
type.direct	A character string specifying how to plot treatment effects and confidence intervals for the direct evidence.
type.indirect	A character string specifying how to plot treatment effects and confidence intervals for the indirect evidence.
col.square	The colour for squares.
col.square.lines	The colour for the outer lines of squares.
col.inside	The colour for results and confidence limits if confidence limits are completely within squares squares.
col.diamond	The colour of diamonds.
col.diamond.lines	The colour of the outer lines of diamonds.
col.predict	Background colour of prediction intervals.
col.predict.lines	Colour of outer lines of prediction intervals.
col.subgroup	The colour to print information on subgroups, i.e., pairwise comparisons.
equal.size	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
leftcols	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot (see Details).
leftlabs	A character vector specifying labels for columns on left side of the forest plot.

<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot (see Details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for columns on right side of the forest plot.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.prop</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for the direct evidence proportion.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>lab.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>smlab</code>	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for <code>forest.meta</code> function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window.

The arguments `leftcols` and `rightcols` can be used to specify columns which are plotted on the left and right side of the forest plot, respectively. If argument `rightcols` is `FALSE`, no columns will be plotted on the right side.

If direct estimates are included in the forest plot (`direct = TRUE`, default), the following columns will be printed on the left side of the forest plot: the comparisons (column "`studlab`" in `forest.meta`), number of pairwise comparisons ("`k`"), direct evidence proportion ("`k`"), and I^2 from pairwise comparison ("`I2`").

If direct estimates are not included in the forest plot (`direct = FALSE`), only the comparisons ("`studlab`") are printed on the left side of the forest plot.

For more information see help page of `forest.meta` function.

Argument `show` determines which comparisons are printed:

"all"	All comparisons
"both"	Only comparisons contributing both direct and indirect evidence
"with.direct"	Comparisons providing direct evidence
"direct.only"	Comparisons providing only direct evidence
"indirect.only"	Comparisons providing only indirect evidence

Author(s)

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See Also

[forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netsplit)
```

forest.subgroup.netmeta

Forest plot showing results of network meta-analysis with subgroups

Description

Forest plot to show subgroup estimates of network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'subgroup.netmeta'
forest(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$x$random, "random", "common"),
  equal.size = gs("equal.size"),
  leftcols = c("studlab", "Q", "df.Q", "pval.Q"),
  leftlabs = c("Comparison /\nSubgroup", "Q", "d.f.", "p-value"),
  rightcols = c("effect", "ci", "k", if (pooled == "random") "tau"),
  rightlabs = c(NA, NA, "Number of\nStudies", if (pooled == "random") "Tau"),
  calcwidth.subgroup = gs("calcwidth.subgroup"),
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  digits.pval.Q = gs("digits.pval.Q"),
  digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
  digits.tau = gs("digits.tau"),
  sep.trts = " vs ",
  backtransf = x$x$backtransf,
  lab.NA = ". ",
  smlab,
  col.subgroup = "black",
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'subgroup.netmeta'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class subgroup.netmeta.
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
equal.size	A logical indicating whether all squares should be of equal size. Otherwise, the square size is proportional to the precision of estimates.
leftcols	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the left side of the forest plot (see Details).
leftlabs	A character vector specifying labels for columns on left side of the forest plot.

<code>rightcols</code>	A character vector specifying columns to be plotted on the right side of the forest plot (see Details).
<code>rightlabs</code>	A character vector specifying labels for columns on right side of the forest plot.
<code>calcwidth.subgroup</code>	A logical indicating whether text with comparison labels should be considered to calculate width of the column with treatment labels.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistic Q, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity test, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance τ^2 , see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character string used to label treatment comparisons.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>lab.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>smlab</code>	A label printed at top of figure. By default, text indicating either common or random effects model is printed.
<code>col.subgroup</code>	The colour to print information on subgroups.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for forest.meta function.

Details

A forest plot, also called confidence interval plot, is drawn in the active graphics window.

The arguments `leftcols` and `rightcols` can be used to specify columns which are plotted on the left and right side of the forest plot, respectively. If argument `rightcols` is `FALSE`, no columns will be plotted on the right side.

For more information see help page of [forest.meta](#) function.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[subgroup.netmeta](#), [netmeta](#), [forest.meta](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
data("Senn2013")
# Add variable with (fictitious) risk of bias values
Senn2013$rob <- NA
```

```

set.seed(1909)
for (i in unique(Senn2013$studlab))
  Senn2013$rob[Senn2013$studlab == i] <- sample(1:3, 1)
Senn2013$rob <- factor(Senn2013$rob, levels = 1:3,
  labels = c("low", "moderate", "high"))
# Conduct network meta-analysis
net <- netmeta(TE, seTE, treat1.long, treat2.long, studlab,
  data = Senn2013, sm = "MD", reference = "plac", nchar.trts = 4)
# Conduct subgroup network meta-analysis
sg <- subgroup(net, rob, common = FALSE)
sg
# Forest plot
forest(sg)

## End(Not run)

```

Franchini2012

Network meta-analysis of treatments for Parkinson's disease

Description

Network meta-analysis comparing the effects of a number of treatments for Parkinson's disease.

The data are the mean lost work-time reduction in patients given dopamine agonists as adjunct therapy in Parkinson's disease (Franchini et al. 2012). The data are given as sample size, mean and standard deviation in each trial arm. Treatments are placebo and four active drugs. These data are used as an example in the supplemental material of Dias et al. (2013) where placebo is coded as 1 and the four active drugs as 2 to 5.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>Study</i>	study label
<i>Treatment1</i>	treatment 1
<i>y1</i>	treatment effect arm 1
<i>sd1</i>	Standard deviation arm 1
<i>n1</i>	Sample size arm 1
<i>Treatment2</i>	treatment 2
<i>y2</i>	treatment effect arm 2
<i>sd2</i>	Standard deviation arm 2
<i>n2</i>	Sample size arm 2
<i>Treatment3</i>	treatment 3
<i>y3</i>	treatment effect arm 3
<i>sd3</i>	Standard deviation arm 3
<i>n3</i>	Sample size arm 3

Note

The dataset Franchini2012 is identical to dataset [Franchini2012](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Dias S, Sutton AJ, Ades AE and Welton NJ (2013): Evidence synthesis for decision making 2: A generalized linear modeling framework for pairwise and network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Medical Decision Making*, **33**, 607–17

Franchini AJ, Dias S, Ades AE, Jansen JP, Welton NJ (2012): Accounting for correlation in network meta-analysis with multi-arm trials. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 142–60

See Also

[Franchini2012](#), [pairwise](#), [metacont](#), [netmeta](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
head(Franchini2012)

# Example using pairwise() and netmeta():
# example(Franchini2012, package = "metabook")
```

funnel.netmeta	<i>‘Comparison-adjusted’ funnel plot</i>
----------------	--

Description

Draw a ‘comparison-adjusted’ funnel plot to assess funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
funnel(
  x,
  order,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  xlab = NULL,
  level = x$level,
  pch,
  col = "black",
  legend = TRUE,
  pos.legend = "topright",
  pos.tests = "topleft",
  lump.comparator = FALSE,
  text.comparator = "comparator",
  method.bias,
  text.linreg = "(Egger)",
```

```

text.rank = "(Begg-Mazumdar)",
text.mm = "(Thompson-Sharp)",
sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
backtransf = x$backtransf,
digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
linreg = FALSE,
rank = FALSE,
mm = FALSE,
...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>order</code>	A mandatory character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments or list of comparators (see Details).
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>xlab</code>	A label for the x-axis.
<code>level</code>	The confidence level utilised in the plot. For the funnel plot, confidence limits are not drawn if <code>yaxis = "size"</code> .
<code>pch</code>	The plotting symbol(s) used for individual studies within direct comparisons.
<code>col</code>	The colour(s) used for individual studies within direct comparisons.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend with information on direct comparisons should be added to the plot.
<code>pos.legend</code>	The position of the legend describing plotting symbols and colours for direct comparisons.
<code>pos.tests</code>	The position of results for test(s) of funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>lump.comparator</code>	A logical indicating whether comparators should be lumped, e.g., to specify inactive treatments. information on direct comparisons should be added to the plot.
<code>text.comparator</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the comparator if <code>lump.comparator</code> is TRUE.
<code>method.bias</code>	A character vector indicating which test(s) for funnel plot asymmetry to use. Admissible values are "Begg", "Egger", and "Thompson", can be abbreviated. See function metabias .
<code>text.linreg</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the Egger test for funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>text.rank</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the Begg test for funnel plot asymmetry.

text.mm	A character string used in the plot to label the Thompson-Sharp test for funnel plot asymmetry.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see netmeta).
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results for relative summary measures (argument sm equal to "OR", "RR", "HR", or "IRR") should be back transformed in funnel plots. If backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of test(s) for funnel plot asymmetry.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
linreg	Deprecated argument (replaced by method.bias).
rank	Deprecated argument (replaced by method.bias).
mm	Deprecated argument (replaced by method.bias).
...	Additional graphical arguments passed as arguments to funnel.meta .

Details

A ‘comparison-adjusted’ funnel plot (Chaimani & Salanti, 2012) is drawn in the active graphics window.

Argument order is mandatory to determine the order of treatments (Chaimani et al., 2013):

“Before using this plot, investigators should order the treatments in a meaningful way and make assumptions about how small studies differ from large ones. For example, if they anticipate that newer treatments are favored in small trials, then they could name the treatments from oldest to newest so that all comparisons refer to ‘old versus new intervention’. Other possibilities include defining the comparisons so that all refer to an active treatment versus placebo or sponsored versus non-sponsored intervention.”

Alternatively, it is possible to only provide a single or few treatment name(s) in argument order to define the comparator(s). In this case only comparisons with this / these treatment(s) will be considered. If argument lump.comparator is TRUE, all comparators will be lumped into a single group. The text for this group can be specified with argument text.comparator.

In the funnel plot, if yaxis is "se", the standard error of the treatment estimates is plotted on the y-axis which is likely to be the best choice (Sterne & Egger, 2001). Other possible choices for yaxis are "invvar" (inverse of the variance), "invse" (inverse of the standard error), and "size" (study size).

Value

A data frame with the following columns:

studlab	Study label.
treat1	Label/Number for first treatment.

treat2	Label/Number for second treatment.
comparison	Treatment comparison.
TE	Estimate of treatment effect, e.g., log odds ratio.
TE.direct	Pooled estimate from direct evidence.
TE.adj	'Comparison-adjusted' treatment effect (TE - TE.direct).
seTE	Standard error of treatment estimate.
pch	Plotting symbol(s).
col	Colour of plotting symbol(s).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Chaimani A & Salanti G (2012): Using network meta-analysis to evaluate the existence of small-study effects in a network of interventions. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 161–76
- Chaimani A, Higgins JP, Mavridis D, Spyridonos P, Salanti G (2013): Graphical tools for network meta-analysis in STATA. *PLOS ONE*, **8**, e76654
- Sterne JAC & Egger M (2001): Funnel plots for detecting bias in meta-analysis: Guidelines on choice of axis. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **54**, 1046–55

See Also

[netmeta](#), [funnel.meta](#), [metabias](#)

Examples

```
# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# 'Comparison-adjusted' funnel plot not created as argument 'order'
# is missing
#
try(funnel(nma))

# Only show comparisons with placebo
#
funnel(nma, order = "pl")

# Add result for Egger test of funnel plot asymmetry
```

```
#
funnel(nma, order = "pl", method.bias = "Egger",
       digits.pval = 2)

# (Nonsensical) alphabetic order of treatments with placebo as
# last treatment
#
ord <- c("a", "b", "me", "mi", "pi", "r", "si", "su", "v", "pl")
funnel(nma, order = ord)

# Add results for tests of funnel plot asymmetry and use different
# plotting symbols and colours
#
funnel(nma, order = ord,
       pch = rep(c(15:18, 1), 3), col = 1:3,
       method.bias = c("Egger", "Begg", "Thompson"), digits.pval = 2)

# Same results for tests of funnel plot asymmetry using reversed
# order of treatments
#
funnel(nma, order = rev(ord),
       pch = rep(c(15:18, 1), 3), col = 1:3,
       method.bias = c("Egger", "Begg", "Thompson"), digits.pval = 2)

# Calculate tests for funnel plot asymmetry
#
f1 <- funnel(nma, order = ord)
#
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1))
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1), method = "Begg")
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1), method = "Thompson")
```

gemtc2netmeta

Create a netmeta object from a gemtc object

Description

Auxiliary function to create a netmeta object from a gemtc object (experimental feature).

Usage

```
gemtc2netmeta(
  x,
  keep.samples = TRUE,
  level = gs("level"),
  level.ma = gs("level.ma"),
  reference.group = levels(x$model$network$treatments$id)[1],
  baseline.reference = gs("baseline.reference"),
```

```

    small.values = gs("small.values"),
    all.treatments = gs("all.treatments"),
    seq = gs("seq"),
    backtransf = gs("backtransf"),
    nchar.trts = gs("nchar.trts"),
    nchar.studlab = gs("nchar.studlab")
  )

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A gemtc object created with R package gemtc .
<code>keep.samples</code>	A logical indicating whether to keep the generated samples.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual comparisons.
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment (first treatment is used if argument is missing).
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>small.values</code>	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect (passed on to netrank , can be abbreviated.
<code>all.treatments</code>	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in printouts.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
<code>nchar.studlab</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.

Value

A netmeta object with additional class "netmeta.gemtc".

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("gemtc", quietly = TRUE)) {
  library("gemtc")
  # Load the example network and generate a consistency model:
  model <- mtc.model(smoking, type="consistency")
  results <- mtc.run(model, thin = 10)
  detach("package:gemtc")

  # Print results in netmeta layout
  mtc <- gemtc2netmeta(results)
  mtc
  # SUCRAs
  netrank(mtc)
  # Rankogram
  rankogram(mtc)
}
```

Gurusamy2011

Network meta-analysis on blood loss during liver transplantation

Description

Network meta-analysis comparing the effects of a number of interventions for decreasing blood loss and blood transfusion requirements during liver transplantation.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>study</i>	study information (first author, year)
<i>treatment</i>	treatment
<i>death</i>	mortality at 60 days post-transplantation
<i>n</i>	number of individuals in treatment arm

Note

The dataset Gurusamy2011 is identical to dataset [Gurusamy2011](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Gurusamy KS, Pissanou T, Pikhart H, Vaughan J, Burroughs AK, Davidson BR (2011): Methods to decrease blood loss and transfusion requirements for liver transplantation. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, CD009052

See Also

[Gurusamy2011](#), [pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmetabin](#)

Examples

```
head(Gurusamy2011)

# Example using pairwise() and netmetabin():
# example(Gurusamy2011, package = "metabook")
```

hasse.netposet	<i>Hasse diagram</i>
----------------	----------------------

Description

This function generates a Hasse diagram for a partial order of treatment ranks in a network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netposet'
hasse(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  newpage = TRUE,
  shape = "roundrect",
  col.lines = "black",
  col.nodes = "black",
  lwd = 1,
  ...
)

hasse(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netposet (mandatory).
pooled	A character string indicating whether Hasse diagram show be drawn for common ("common") or random effects model ("random"). Can be abbreviated.
newpage	A logical value indicating whether a new figure should be printed in an existing graphics window. Otherwise, the Hasse diagram is added to the existing figure.
shape	Shape of node borders, either "roundrect", "rect", or "none", can be abbreviated.
col.lines	Line colour.
col.nodes	Colour for treatment node borders.
lwd	Width of lines and node borders.
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Details

Generate a Hasse diagram (Carlsen & Bruggemann, 2014) for a partial order of treatment ranks in a network meta-analysis (Rücker & Schwarzer, 2017).

This R function is a wrapper function for a modified version of R function `hasse` in R package **hasseDiagram** (Krzysztof Ciomek, <https://github.com/kciomek/hasseDiagram>) which is available under the MIT license.

Author(s)

Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Carlsen L, Bruggemann R (2014): Partial order methodology: a valuable tool in chemometrics. *Journal of Chemometrics*, **28**, 226–34

Rücker G, Schwarzer G (2017): Resolve conflicting rankings of outcomes in network meta-analysis: Partial ordering of treatments. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **8**, 526–36

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netposet](#), [netrank](#), [plot.netrank](#), [Linde2015](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Only run example if R package 'Rgraphviz' from Bioconductor is available
#
if (requireNamespace("Rgraphviz", quietly = TRUE)) {
# Define order of treatments in depression dataset Linde2015
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI",
         "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa", "rMAO-A", "Hypericum", "Placebo")

# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission")

# (1) Early response
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
               event = list(resp1, resp2, resp3),
               n = list(n1, n2, n3),
               studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE,
               seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")

# (2) Early remission
#
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
```

```

    event = list(remi1, remi2, remi3),
    n = list(n1, n2, n3),
    studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")

# Partial order of treatment rankings
#
po <- netposet(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2), outcomes = outcomes)

# Hasse diagram
#
hasse(po)
}

## End(Not run)

```

hatmatrix

Derive hat matrix from network meta-analysis

Description

Auxiliary function to derive hat matrix from network meta-analysis

Usage

```

hatmatrix(
  x,
  method = "Ruecker",
  type,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  nchar.studlab = x$nchar.studlab
)

## S3 method for class 'hatmatrix'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  nchar.trts = x$x$nchar.trts,
  nchar.studlab = x$x$nchar.studlab,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  legend.studlab = TRUE,
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A netmeta object.
<code>method</code>	A character string indicating which method is used to derive the hat matrix. Either "Ruecker", "Krahn" or "Davies" (can be abbreviated, see Details).
<code>type</code>	A character string indicating which specific hat matrix should be derived (can be abbreviated, see Details).
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a hat matrix should be printed for the common effects network meta-analysis.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a hat matrix should be printed for the random effects network meta-analysis.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>nchar.studlab</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
<code>legend.studlab</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed for abbreviated study labels.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (ignored).

Details

This auxiliary function can be used to derive various hat matrices from a network meta-analysis object.

Hat matrix by Rücker (2012):

This hat matrix is estimated if `method = "Ruecker"`.

Let n be the number of different treatments (nodes, vertices) in a network and let m be the number of existing comparisons (edges) between the treatments. If there are only two-arm studies, m is equal to the number of studies, k . Let `seTE.adj.common` and `seTE.adj.random` be the vectors of adjusted standard errors under the common and random effects model (see [netmeta](#)). Let $\mathbf{W}$ be the $m \times m$ diagonal matrix that contains the inverse variance $1 / \text{seTE.adj.common}^2$ or $1 / \text{seTE.adj.random}^2$.

The given comparisons define the network structure. Therefrom an $m \times n$ design matrix $\mathbf{X}$ (edge-vertex incidence matrix) is formed; for more precise information, see Rücker (2012). Moreover, the $n \times n$ Laplacian matrix $\mathbf{L}$ and its Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse $\mathbf{L}^+$ are calculated (both matrices play an important role in graph theory and electrical network theory). Using these matrices, the variances based on both direct and indirect comparisons can be estimated. The hat matrix $\mathbf{H}$ is estimated by $\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{L}^+\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X})^+\mathbf{X}^T\mathbf{W}$.

Hat matrices by Krahn et al. (2013):

One of the following hat matrices is estimated if `method = "Krahn"`.

Use of `type = "design"` (default) results in a hat matrix of dimension $n(n-1)/2 \times s$, where s is the sum of the number of independent comparisons from each design.

Use of `type = "studies"` results in a hat matrix of dimension $n(n-1)/2 \times l$, where l is the number of independent pairwise comparisons, i.e., a three-arm study contributes two pairwise comparisons.

Hat matrices by Davies et al. (2022):

One of three hat matrices is estimated if `method = "Davies"`.

Here, we focus on the hat matrix of the aggregate (two-step) version of the graph theoretical NMA model. In the first step, a pairwise meta-analysis is performed across each edge using the adjusted weights (these account for correlations due to multi-arm trials). From this we obtain direct treatment effect estimates (and corresponding aggregate weights) associated with each edge. In step two, we combine these direct estimates in a network meta analysis to obtain the network estimates. This is done using weighted least squares regression. The hat matrix associated with this second step is called the *aggregate hat matrix*.

All three versions of the aggregate hat matrix contain the same information: the second two can be derived directly from the first. They differ in their dimensionality.

Each row of the hat matrix that represents a treatment comparison (ij) describes the flow of evidence through each edge for that comparison. This defines a directed acyclic 'flow graph' from node i to node j .

(1) Use of `type = "short"` (default) results in a hat matrix of dimension $e \times e$, where e is the number of (unique) edges (direct comparisons) in the network. This is the aggregate hat matrix described in Davies et al. (2022). Each row and column represents a pair of treatments for which there is at least one direct comparison.

(2) Use of `type = "long"` results in a hat matrix of dimension $n(n-1)/2 \times e$. There is a row for every possible pair of treatments in the network - regardless of whether there is direct evidence for this comparison. Each column represents a pair of treatments for which there is at least one direct comparison. The extra rows can be calculated from the short hat matrix using consistency equations.

(3) Use of `type = "full"` results in a hat matrix of dimension $n(n-1)/2 \times n(n-1)/2$. In comparison to the long hat matrix, columns of zeroes are added for comparisons that do not have any direct evidence. Therefore, there is a row and column for every pair of treatments in the network. This hat matrix is used to calculate the transition matrices for the random walk in [netcontrib](#).

Value

A list with two hat matrices: `common` (common effects model) and `random` (random effects model).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Davies AL, Papakonstantinou T, Nikolakopoulou A, Rücker G, Galla T (2022): Network meta-analysis and random walks. *Statistics in Medicine*, **41**, 2091–2114
- Krahn U, Binder H, König J (2013): A graphical tool for locating inconsistency in network meta-analyses. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **13**, 35
- Rücker G (2012): Network meta-analysis, electrical networks and graph theory. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 312–24

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netcontrib](#), [netheat](#), [Dong2013](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider first ten studies for concise output
first10 <- subset(Dong2013, id <= 10)
pw <- pairwise(treatment, death, randomized, studlab = id,
  data = first10, sm = "OR")
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)

hatmatrix(nma)
hatmatrix(nma, method = "k")
hatmatrix(nma, method = "k", type = "studies")
hatmatrix(nma, method = "d")
hatmatrix(nma, method = "d", type = "long")
hatmatrix(nma, method = "d", type = "full")
```

heatplot

Generic function for heat plots

Description

Generic function for heat plots

Usage

```
heatplot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An R object.
...	Additional arguments.

Details

For more details, look at the following function to generate heat plots:

- [heatplot.netmeta](#)
- [heatplot.crossnma](#) (if installed)

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

Examples

```
# Only consider first five studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
studies <- unique(Senn2013$study)
Senn2013.5 <- subset(Senn2013, study %in% studies[1:5])

# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013.5,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis with
# placebo as reference treatment
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE, reference = "plac")

# Generate a heat plot (with abbreviated treatment labels)
#
heatplot(nma, nchar.trts = 4)
```

heatplot.netmeta	<i>Heat Plot</i>
------------------	------------------

Description

Produces a heat plot containing treatment estimates with confidence intervals for all possible pairwise comparisons.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
heatplot(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  seq = x$seq,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  low.colour = "red",
  mid.colour = "white",
  high.colour = "springgreen4",
  size = 6,
  size.trt = 16,
  size.axis = 12,
  digits = gs("digits.forest"),
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in rows and columns of the heat plot.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>low.colour</code>	A string indicating the colour of low relative treatment effects for the heat plot (e.g odds ratio of ~0.5)
<code>mid.colour</code>	A string indicating the colour of null relative treatment effects for the heat plot (e.g odds ratio of ~1.0).
<code>high.colour</code>	A string indicating the colour of high relative treatment effects for the heat plot (e.g odds ratio of ~2.0).
<code>size</code>	The size of cell entries with the relative treatment effect and confidence intervals.
<code>size.trt</code>	The size of treatment names placed on the top and left of the plot.
<code>size.axis</code>	The size of labels on the top and left of the plot
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for treatment effects and confidence intervals, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.

Value

League heat plot, where a color scale is used to represent the values of relative treatment effects.

Examples

```
# Only consider first five studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
studies <- unique(Senn2013$study)
Senn2013.5 <- subset(Senn2013, study %in% studies[1:5])

# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013.5,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis with
# placebo as reference treatment
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE, reference = "plac")
```

```
# Generate a heat plot (with abbreviated treatment labels)
#
heatplot(nma, nchar.trts = 4)
```

heatplot.netpath	<i>Heat plot for network path</i>
------------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Produces a heat plot to visualize the results of a path-based inconsistency test for a specific comparison, as generated by [netpath](#). The plot shows a standardized matrix derived from the linearly independent paths connecting the two selected nodes, allowing visual inspection of the agreement of each path.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netpath'
heatplot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netmeta.
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Value

A heat plot where the darker colors indicate a larger conflict between the two paths.

Author(s)

Noosheen R. Tahmasebi <noosheen.rajabzadehtahmasebi@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Tahmasebi NR, Davies AL, Papakonstantinou T, Rücker G, Nikolakopoulou A (2025): Path-based approach for detecting and assessing inconsistency in network meta-analysis: A novel method. *arXiv*, doi:[10.48550/arXiv.2506.20364](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2506.20364)

See Also

[netpath](#), [netmeta](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct common effects network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, random = FALSE, nchar.trts = 4)

np <- netpath(nma, node1 = "Placebo", node2 = "Sulfonylurea")
heatplot(np)

## End(Not run)
```

 invmat

Moore-Penrose Pseudoinverse of a Matrix

Description

Calculates the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse of a square matrix **X**.

Usage

```
invmat(X)
```

Arguments

X A square matrix.

Details

This function is used by default in R package **netmeta** to calculate the Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse $\mathbf{L}^+$ of the Laplacian matrix **L** (Rücker, 2012):

$\mathbf{L}^+ = (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{J} / n)^{-1} + \mathbf{J} / n$ with identity matrix **J** of dimension $n \times n$.

Value

The Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse for matrix **X**.

Author(s)

Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Rücker G (2012): Network meta-analysis, electrical networks and graph theory. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 312–24

See Also

[netmeta](#), [solve](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)

pw <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")
net <- netmeta(pw)

L1 <- net$L.matrix.common
L2 <- invmat(net$Lplus.matrix.common)
all.equal(round(L1, 10), round(L2, 10))
```

Linde2015

Network meta-analysis of treatments for depression

Description

Network meta-analysis of nine classes of antidepressants including placebo for the primary care setting; partly shown in Linde et al. (2015), supplementary Table 2.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>id</i>	Study ID
<i>author</i>	First author
<i>year</i>	Publication year
<i>treatment1</i>	First treatment
<i>treatment2</i>	Second treatment
<i>treatment3</i>	Third treatment
<i>n1</i>	Number of patients receiving first treatment
<i>resp1</i>	Number of early responder (treatment 1)
<i>remi1</i>	Number of early remissions (treatment 1)
<i>loss1</i>	Number of patients loss to follow-up (treatment 1)
<i>loss.ae1</i>	Number of patients loss to follow-up due to adverse events (treatment 1)
<i>ae1</i>	Number of patients with adverse events (treatment 1)
<i>n2</i>	Number of patients receiving second treatment

resp2 Number of early responder (treatment 2)
remi2 Number of early remissions (treatment 2)
loss2 Number of patients loss to follow-up (treatment 2)
loss.ae2 Number of patients loss to follow-up due to adverse events (treatment 2)
ae2 Number of patients with adverse events (treatment 2)
n3 Number of patients receiving third treatment
resp3 Number of early responder (treatment 3)
remi3 Number of early remissions (treatment 3)
loss3 Number of patients loss to follow-up (treatment 3)
loss.ae3 Number of patients loss to follow-up due to adverse events (treatment 3)
ae3 Number of patients with adverse events (treatment 3)

Note

The dataset Linde2015 is identical to dataset [Linde2015](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Linde K, Kriston L, Rücker G, et al. (2015): Efficacy and acceptability of pharmacological treatments for depressive disorders in primary care: Systematic review and network meta-analysis. *Annals of Family Medicine*, **13**, 69–79

See Also

[Dong2013](#), [pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmeta](#), [netposet](#)

Examples

```
head(Linde2015)

# Example using pairwise(), netmeta(), netrank() and netposet():
# example(Linde2015, package = "metabook")
```

Linde2016

Network meta-analysis of primary care depression treatments

Description

Network meta-analysis of 22 treatments (including placebo and usual care) for the primary care of depression.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

id	Study ID
author	First author
year	Year of publication

<i>treat1</i>	First treatment (abbreviated)
<i>treat2</i>	Second treatment (abbreviated)
<i>treat1.long</i>	First treatment
<i>treat2.long</i>	Second treatment
<i>lnOR</i>	Response after treatment (log odds ratio)
<i>selnOR</i>	Standard error of log odds ratio
<i>resp1</i>	Responder (first treatment)
<i>n1</i>	Sample size (first treatment)
<i>resp2</i>	Responder (second treatment)
<i>n2</i>	Sample size (second treatment)

Source

Linde K, R  cker G, Schneider A et al. (2016): Questionable assumptions hampered interpretation of a network meta-analysis of primary care depression treatments. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **71**, 86–96

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netcomb](#)

Examples

```
head(Linde2016)

# Example using pairwise(), netmeta() and netcomb():
# example(Linde2016, package = "metabook")
```

merge.pairwise	Merge pairwise object with additional data
----------------	--

Description

Merge pairwise object with additional data, e.g., information on network connectivity.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'pairwise'
merge(x, y, all.x = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class pairwise.
y	A data frame or an object of class netconnection.
all.x	A logical indicating whether to keep all observations from the pairwise object, i.e., also include observations not belonging to a subnetwork due to missing estimates or standard errors.
...	Other arguments (passed on to merge).

Value

An object of class pairwise.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[pairwise](#), [netconnection](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
# Transform data from long arm-based format to contrast-based
# format Argument 'sm' has to be used for odds ratio as summary
# measure; by default the risk ratio is used in the metabin
# function called internally.
#
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N,
  studlab = author, data = Woods2010, sm = "OR",
  append = FALSE)
head(pw)

# Add information on network connectivity
nc <- netconnection(pw)
pw.nc <- merge(pw, nc)
head(pw.nc)
```

metabias.netmeta

Test of funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis

Description

Test of funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
metabias(
  x,
  order,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  method.bias = "Egger",
  lump.comparator = gs("lump.comparator"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netmeta.
order	A mandatory character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments or list of comparators (see Details).
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be used in test of funnel plot asymmetry. Can be abbreviated.
method.bias	A character vector indicating which test(s) for funnel plot asymmetry to use. Admissible values are "Begg", "Egger", and "Thompson", can be abbreviated. See function metabias.meta .
lump.comparator	A logical indicating whether comparators should be lumped, e.g., to specify inactive treatments. information on direct comparisons should be added to the plot.
...	Additional arguments (passed on to metabias.meta).

Details

Test of funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis

Argument order is mandatory to determine the order of treatments (Chaimani et al., 2013):

"[...] investigators should order the treatments in a meaningful way and make assumptions about how small studies differ from large ones. For example, if they anticipate that newer treatments are favored in small trials, then they could name the treatments from oldest to newest so that all comparisons refer to 'old versus new intervention'. Other possibilities include defining the comparisons so that all refer to an active treatment versus placebo or sponsored versus non-sponsored intervention."

Alternatively, it is possible to only provide a single or few treatment name(s) in argument order to define the comparator(s). In this case only comparisons with this / these treatment(s) will be considered. If argument lump.comparator is TRUE, all comparators will be lumped into a single group.

Value

A list with class metabias containing the following components if a test for funnel plot asymmetry is conducted:

statistic	Test statistic.
df	The degrees of freedom of the test statistic in the case that it follows a t distribution.
pval	The p-value for the test.
estimate	Estimates used to calculate test statistic.
method	A character string indicating what type of test was used.
title	Title of Cochrane review.
complab	Comparison label.

outclab	Outcome label.
var.model	A character string indicating whether none, multiplicative, or additive residual heterogeneity variance was assumed.
method.bias	As defined above.
x	Network meta-analysis object.
version	Version of R package meta used to create object.
version.netmeta	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Or a list with the following elements if test is not conducted due to the number of studies:

k	Number of comparisons.
k.min	Minimum number of comparisons to perform test for funnel plot asymmetry.
version	Version of R package meta used to create object.
version.netmeta	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Chaimani A & Salanti G (2012): Using network meta-analysis to evaluate the existence of small-study effects in a network of interventions. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 161–76
- Chaimani A, Higgins JP, Mavridis D, Spyridonos P, Salanti G (2013): Graphical tools for network meta-analysis in STATA. *PLOS ONE*, **8**, e76654

See Also

[netmeta](#), [funnel.netmeta](#), [metabias](#)

Examples

```
# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# Test for asymmetry in 'comparison-adjusted' funnel plot not
# conducted as argument 'order' is missing
#
try(metabias(nma))
```

```

# Test for funnel plot asymmetry comparing active treatments with
# placebo
metabias(nma, order = "pl")

# Rank test
#
metabias(nma, order = "pl", method.bias = "Begg")

# Test for funnel plot asymmetry based on (non-sensical) alphabetic
# order of treatments with placebo as last treatment
#
ord <- c("a", "b", "me", "mi", "pi", "r", "si", "su", "v", "pl")
metabias(nma, order = ord)

```

netbind

Combine network meta-analysis objects

Description

This function can be used to combine network meta-analysis objects which is especially useful to generate a forest plot with results of several network meta-analyses.

Usage

```

netbind(
  ...,
  name,
  common,
  random,
  col.study = "black",
  col.inside = "white",
  col.square = "gray",
  col.square.lines = col.square,
  backtransf,
  reference.group,
  baseline.reference,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  fixed,
  comb.fixed,
  comb.random
)

```

Arguments

... Any number of network meta-analysis objects or a single list with network meta-analyses.

<code>name</code>	An optional character vector providing descriptive names for network meta-analysis objects.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be reported.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be reported.
<code>col.study</code>	The colour for network estimates and confidence limits.
<code>col.inside</code>	The colour for network estimates and confidence limits if confidence limits are completely within squares.
<code>col.square</code>	The colour for squares.
<code>col.square.lines</code>	The colour for the outer lines of squares.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> (default), results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment.
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>fixed</code>	Deprecated argument; replaced by <code>common</code> .
<code>comb.fixed</code>	Deprecated argument; replaced by <code>common</code> .
<code>comb.random</code>	Deprecated argument; replaced by <code>random</code> .

Value

An object of class "netbind" with corresponding forest function. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>common</code>	A data frame with results for the common effects model.
<code>random</code>	A data frame with results for the random effects model.
<code>sm</code>	Summary measure used in network meta-analyses.
<code>level.ma</code>	Level for confidence intervals.
<code>reference.group, baseline.reference</code>	As defined above.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [forest.netbind](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce
# runtime of example)
#
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))

# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)

# Additive CNMA model with placebo as inactive component and
# reference
#
cnma <- netcomb(nma, inactive = "placebo")

# Combine results of standard NMA and CNMA
#
nb <- netbind(cnma, nma,
  name = c("Additive CNMA", "Standard NMA"),
  col.study = c("red", "black"), col.square = c("red", "black"))
#
nb
#
forest(nb,
  col.subgroup = "black", addrow.subgroups = FALSE,
  fontsize = 10, spacing = 0.7, squaresize = 0.9,
  label.left = "Favours Placebo",
  label.right = "Favours other")

# Also show results for common effects model
#
print(nb, common = TRUE)
```

Description

Some treatments in a network meta-analysis may be combinations of other treatments or have common components. The influence of individual components can be evaluated in an additive network meta-analysis model assuming that the effect of treatment combinations is the sum of the effects of its components. This function implements this additive model in a frequentist way.

Usage

```
netcomb(
  x,
  inactive = NULL,
  sep.comps = gs("sep.comps"),
  C.matrix,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random | !is.null(tau.preset),
  tau.preset = NULL,
  details.chkident = FALSE,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.trts,
  sep.ia = gs("sep.ia"),
  func.inverse = invmat,
  overall.hetstat = x$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  na.unident = gs("na.unident"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>inactive</code>	A character string defining the inactive treatment component (see Details).
<code>sep.comps</code>	A single character to define separator between treatment components.
<code>C.matrix</code>	C matrix (see Details).
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a common effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a random effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>tau.preset</code>	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>details.chkident</code>	A logical indicating whether details on unidentifiable components should be printed.
<code>nchar.comps</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components (see Details).
<code>sep.ia</code>	A single character to define separator for interactions.
<code>func.inverse</code>	R function used to calculate the pseudoinverse of the Laplacian matrix <code>L</code> (see netmeta).

<code>overall.hetstat</code>	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots.
<code>na.unident</code>	A logical indicating whether unidentifiable components and combinations should be set to missing values.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Details

Treatments in network meta-analysis (NMA) can be complex interventions. Some treatments may be combinations of others or have common components. The standard analysis provided by [netmeta](#) is a NMA where all existing (single or combined) treatments are considered as different nodes in the network. Exploiting the fact that some treatments are combinations of common components, an additive component network meta-analysis (CNMA) model can be used to evaluate the influence of individual components. This model assumes that the effect of a treatment combination is the sum of the effects of its components which implies that common components cancel out in comparisons.

The additive CNMA model has been implemented using Bayesian methods (Mills et al., 2012; Welton et al., 2013). This function implements the additive model in a frequentist way (Rücker et al., 2020).

The underlying multivariate model is given by

$$\delta = B\theta, \theta = C\beta$$

with

δ vector of true treatment effects (differences) from individual studies,

B design matrix describing the structure of the network,

θ parameter vector that represents the existing combined treatments,

C matrix describing how the treatments are composed,

β parameter vector representing the treatment components.

All parameters are estimated using weighted least squares regression.

Argument `inactive` can be used to specify a single component that does not have any therapeutic value. Accordingly, it is assumed that the treatment effect of the combination of this component with an additional treatment component is equal to the treatment effect of the additional component alone.

Argument `sep.comps` can be used to specify the separator between individual components. By default, the matrix C is calculated internally from treatment names. However, it is possible to specify a different matrix using argument `C.matrix`.

By default, component names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.comps` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated component names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function [treats](#) is utilised internally to create abbreviated component names.

Value

An object of class `netcomb` with corresponding `print`, `summary`, and `forest` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>studlab</code>	Study labels.
<code>treat1</code>	Label/Number for first treatment.
<code>treat2</code>	Label/Number for second treatment.
<code>TE</code>	Estimate of treatment effect, i.e. difference between first and second treatment.
<code>seTE</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate.
<code>seTE.adj.common</code> , <code>seTE.adj.random</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate, adjusted for multi-arm studies.
<code>design</code>	Design of study providing pairwise comparison.
<code>event1</code>	Number of events in first treatment group.
<code>event2</code>	Number of events in second treatment group.
<code>n1</code>	Number of observations in first treatment group.
<code>n2</code>	Number of observations in second treatment group.
<code>k</code>	Total number of studies.
<code>m</code>	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
<code>n</code>	Total number of treatments.
<code>d</code>	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
<code>c</code>	Total number of components.
<code>trts</code>	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
<code>k.trts</code>	Number of studies evaluating a treatment.
<code>n.trts</code>	Number of observations receiving a treatment (if arguments <code>n1</code> and <code>n2</code> are provided).
<code>events.trts</code>	Number of events observed for a treatment (if arguments <code>event1</code> and <code>event2</code> are provided).
<code>studies</code>	Study labels coerced into a factor with its levels sorted alphabetically.
<code>narms</code>	Number of arms for each study.
<code>designs</code>	Unique list of designs present in the network. A design corresponds to the set of treatments compared within a study.
<code>comps</code>	Unique list of components present in the network.
<code>TE.nma.common</code> , <code>TE.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (nma) (common and random effects model).
<code>seTE.nma.common</code> , <code>seTE.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of effective standard errors estimated by network meta-analysis (common and random effects model).

`lower.nma.common, lower.nma.random`
 A vector of length m of lower confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (common and random effects model).

`upper.nma.common, upper.nma.random`
 A vector of length m of upper confidence interval limits for the consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (common and random effects model).

`statistic.nma.common, statistic.nma.random`
 A vector of length m of z-values for test of treatment effect for individual comparisons (common and random effects model).

`pval.nma.common, pval.nma.random`
 A vector of length m of p-values for test of treatment effect for individual comparisons (common and random effects model).

`TE.cnma.common, TE.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`seTE.cnma.common, seTE.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m with standard errors estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`lower.cnma.common, lower.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of lower confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`upper.cnma.common, upper.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of upper confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`statistic.cnma.common, statistic.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of z-values for the test of an overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`pval.cnma.common, pval.cnma.random`
 A vector of length m of p-values for the test of an overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`TE.common, TE.random`
 $n \times n$ matrix with overall treatment effects estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`seTE.common, seTE.random`
 $n \times n$ matrix with standard errors estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`lower.common, upper.common, lower.random, upper.random`
 $n \times n$ matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`statistic.common, pval.common, statistic.random, pval.random`
 $n \times n$ matrices with z-values and p-values for test of overall effect estimated by the additive (common and random effects) model.

`Comp.common, Comp.random`
 A vector of component effects (common and random effects model).

<code>seComp.common</code> , <code>seComp.random</code>	A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).
<code>lower.Comp.common</code> , <code>lower.Comp.random</code>	A vector with lower confidence limits for components (common and random effects model).
<code>upper.Comp.common</code> , <code>upper.Comp.random</code>	A vector with upper confidence limits for components (common and random effects model).
<code>statistic.Comp.common</code> , <code>statistic.Comp.random</code>	A vector with z-values for the overall effect of components (common and random effects model).
<code>pval.Comp.common</code> , <code>pval.Comp.random</code>	A vector with p-values for the overall effect of components (common and random effects model).
<code>Comb.common</code> , <code>Comb.random</code>	A vector of combination effects (common and random effects model).
<code>seComb.common</code> , <code>seComb.random</code>	A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).
<code>lower.Comb.common</code> , <code>lower.Comb.random</code>	A vector with lower confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>upper.Comb.common</code> , <code>upper.Comb.random</code>	A vector with upper confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>statistic.Comb.common</code> , <code>statistic.Comb.random</code>	A vector with z-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>pval.Comb.common</code> , <code>pval.Comb.random</code>	A vector with p-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>Q.additive</code>	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic (additive model).
<code>df.Q.additive</code>	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (additive model).
<code>pval.Q.additive</code>	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (additive model).
<code>tau</code>	Square-root of between-study variance (additive model).
<code>I2</code> , <code>lower.I2</code> , <code>upper.I2</code>	I-squared, lower and upper confidence limits.
<code>Q.standard</code>	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic (standard model).
<code>df.Q.standard</code>	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (standard model).
<code>pval.Q.standard</code>	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (standard model).
<code>Q.diff</code>	Test statistic for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.
<code>df.Q.diff</code>	Degrees of freedom for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.

pval.Q.diff	P-value for difference in goodness of fit between standard and additive model.
A.matrix	Adjacency matrix (nxn).
B.matrix	Edge-vertex incidence matrix (mxn).
C.matrix	As defined above.
sm	Summary measure.
level.ma	Level for confidence intervals.
common, random, tau.preset	As defined above.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique component names.
inactive, sep.comps, sep.ia	As defined above.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
x	As defined above.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Note

This function calculates effects for individual components and complex interventions present in the network.

R function [netcomplex](#) can be used to calculate the effect for arbitrary complex interventions in a component network meta-analysis. Furthermore, R function [netcomparison](#) can be used to calculate the effect for comparisons of two arbitrary complex intervention in a component network meta-analysis.

Author(s)

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References

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- Mills EJ, Thorlund K, Ioannidis JP (2012): Calculating additive treatment effects from multiple randomized trials provides useful estimates of combination therapies. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **65**, 1282–8
- Rücker G, Petropoulou M, Schwarzer G (2020): Network meta-analysis of multicomponent interventions. *Biometrical Journal*, **62**, 808–21
- Welton NJ, Caldwell DM, Adamopoulos E, Vedhara K (2009): Mixed treatment comparison meta-analysis of complex interventions: psychological interventions in coronary heart disease. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, **169**: 1158–65

See Also

[discomb](#), [netmeta](#), [forest.netcomb](#), [print.netcomb](#), [netcomplex](#), [netcomparison](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce
# runtime of example)
#
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))

# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE)
nma1

# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive
# treatment)
#
cnma1 <- netcomb(nma1, inactive = "placebo")
cnma1

# Print results with two digits and test statistics with three digits
print(cnma1, digits = 2, digits.stat = 3)

# Print detailed results
print(summary(cnma1), digits = 2, digits.stat = 3)

# All available combinations in CNMA
combinations(cnma1) # only "Face-to-face PST + SSRI"

# Create C matrix with all available interactions, i.e., one interaction
# for each combination
colnames(createC(cnma1))

# Run interaction CNMA model with all available interactions
# (same result as standard NMA)
netcomb(nma1, C.matrix = createC(cnma1))

forest(nma1, xlim = c(0.2, 50))
forest(cnma1, xlim = c(0.2, 50))

# Specify, order of treatments
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI", "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa",
  "rMAO-A", "Ind drug", "Hypericum", "Face-to-face CBT",
```

```

    "Face-to-face PST", "Face-to-face interpsy", "Face-to-face psychodyn",
    "Other face-to-face", "Remote CBT", "Self-help CBT", "No contact CBT",
    "Face-to-face CBT + SSRI", "Face-to-face interpsy + SSRI",
    "Face-to-face PST + SSRI", "UC", "Placebo")
#
# Note, three treatments are actually combinations of 'SSRI' with
# other components:
# "Face-to-face CBT + SSRI",
# "Face-to-face interpsy + SSRI",
# "Face-to-face PST + SSRI"

pw2 <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = Linde2016, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE)
nma2
forest(nma2, xlim = c(0.2, 50))

# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive
# treatment)
#
cnma2 <- netcomb(nma2, inactive = "placebo")
cnma2
forest(cnma2, xlim = c(0.2, 50))

```

netcomparison	<i>Calculate comparison effects of two arbitrary complex interventions in component network meta-analysis</i>
---------------	---

Description

Calculate comparison effects of two arbitrary complex interventions (i.e., combinations of several components) in component network meta-analysis.

Usage

```

netcomparison(
  x,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  level = x$level.ma,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.comps,

```

```

    backtransf = x$backtransf,
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomparison'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.comps,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
  JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netcomb</code> or <code>netcomparison</code> (print function).
<code>treat1</code>	A character vector defining the first complex intervention(s).
<code>treat2</code>	A character vector defining the second complex intervention(s).
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether results for common effects model should be conducted.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether results for random effects model should be conducted.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for combinations of components.
<code>nchar.comps</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components (see Details).
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether printed results should be back transformed. If <code>backtransf=TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm="OR"</code> are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.stat</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for z-value of test for overall effect, see <code>print.default</code> .

<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-values, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>scientific.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
<code>zero.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
<code>JAMA.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of combination effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.

Details

R functions `netcomb` and `discomb` calculate effects for individual components and complex interventions present in the component network meta-analysis (CNMA). This function can be used to calculate the effect for comparisons of two arbitrary complex interventions defined by arguments `treat1` and `treat2`.

All complex interventions occurring in the network are considered for the first complex intervention if argument `treat1` is missing. The reference group defined in the (C)NMA is used as second complex intervention if argument `treat2` is missing. The first complex intervention in the (C)NMA is used if the reference group is not defined.

The following matrices are needed to calculate comparison effects of arbitrary complex interventions, (Rücker et al., 2020, Section 3.2):

- B matrix describing how comparisons are composed by complex interventions,
- C matrix describing how the complex interventions are composed by the components.

Internally, both matrices are constructed based on arguments `x`, `treat1` and `treat2`.

By default, component names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.comps` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated component names (see `abbreviate`, argument `minlength`). R function `treats` is utilised internally to create abbreviated component names.

Value

A list is returned by the function `netcomparison` with the following elements:

<code>comparison</code>	Comparison.
<code>TE.common</code> , <code>TE.random</code>	A vector of comparison effects (common and random effects model).
<code>seTE.common</code> , <code>seTE.random</code>	A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).
<code>lower.common</code> , <code>lower.random</code>	A vector with lower confidence limits for comparisons (common and random effects model).
<code>upper.common</code> , <code>upper.random</code>	A vector with upper confidence limits for comparisons (common and random effects model).

statistic.common, statistic.random	A vector with z-values for the overall effect of comparisons (common and random effects model).
pval.common, pval.random	A vector with p-values for the overall effect of comparisons (common and random effects model).
trts	Treatments included in comparisons.
comps	Components included in comparisons.
treat1, treat2	A defined above.
common, random	A defined above.
level, nchar.comps, backtransf, x	A defined above.
B.matrix	B matrix.
C.matrix	C matrix.

Note

R function [netcomplex](#) can be used to calculate the effect for arbitrary complex interventions in a component network meta-analysis.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Rücker G, Petropoulou M, Schwarzer G (2020): Network meta-analysis of multicomponent interventions. *Biometrical Journal*, **62**, 808–21

See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [netcomplex](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce
# runtime of example)
#
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))

# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)
```

```

# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive
# treatment)
#
cnma1 <- netcomb(nma1, inactive = "placebo")

# Result for comparison Face-to-face PST vs TCA
netcomparison(cnma1, "Face-to-face PST", "TCA", nchar.comps = 4)
netcomparison(cnma1, "F", "T", nchar.comps = 4)

# Result for comparison Face-to-face PST vs TCA + Placebo
netcomparison(cnma1, "Face-to-face PST", "TCA + Plac", nchar.comps = 4)

# Forest plots
#
t1 <- c("F + TCA", "F + Plac", "SSRI + Plac + TCA")
t2 <- c("UC", "Plac", "UC")
#
netcomparison(cnma1, t1, t2)
#
forest(netcomparison(cnma1, t1, t2))
forest(netcomparison(cnma1, t1, t2), nchar.comps = 4)
forest(netcomparison(cnma1, c("F", "TCA"), "UC"), nchar.comps = 4)

# Artificial example
#
treat1 <- rep("A", 3)
treat2 <- c("B+C", "A+C", "C+D")
TE <- c(0, 1, 0)
seTE <- rep(1, 3)
# Conduct (C)NMA
nma2 <- netmeta(TE, seTE, treat1, treat2, random = FALSE)
cnma2 <- netcomb(nma2)

# Result for comparison A vs B + D
netcomparison(cnma2, "A", "B + D")
# Same results
netcomparison(cnma2, "A", "B+D")
netcomparison(cnma2, "A", "D+B")
netcomparison(cnma2, "a", "d+b")

# Generated B matrix
netcomparison(cnma2, "A", "B + D")$C.matrix
# Generated B matrix
netcomparison(cnma2, "A", "B + D")$B.matrix

```

netcomplex	<i>Calculate effect of arbitrary complex interventions in component network meta-analysis</i>
------------	---

Description

Calculate effect of arbitrary complex interventions (i.e., combinations of several components) in component network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
netcomplex(
  x,
  complex,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  level = x$level.ma,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.trts,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomplex'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.comps,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
  JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netcomb or netcomplex (print function).
complex	A matrix, vector or single numeric defining the complex intervention(s) (see Details).

common	A logical indicating whether results for common effects model should be conducted.
random	A logical indicating whether results for random effects model should be conducted.
level	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for combinations of components.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components (see Details).
backtransf	A logical indicating whether printed results should be back transformed. If backtransf=TRUE, results for sm="OR" are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default.
digits.stat	Minimal number of significant digits for z-value of test for overall effect, see print.default.
digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-values, see print.default.
scientific.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
zero.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
JAMA.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of combination effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
big.mark	A character used as thousands separator.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.

Details

R functions [netcomb](#) and [discomb](#) only report results for complex interventions present in the network. This function can be used to calculate the effect for arbitrary complex interventions.

Complex interventions can be specified using argument `complex`:

- a character vector with definition of complex interventions,
- a single numeric defining the number of components to combine in a complex intervention,
- a dedicated C matrix.

In order to calculate effects of arbitrary complex interventions, a C matrix is needed which describes how the complex interventions are composed by the components (Rücker et al., 2020, Section 3.2). The C matrix is constructed internally if not provided by argument `complex`. All complex interventions occurring in the network are considered if argument `complex` is missing.

By default, component names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.comps` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated component names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function [treats](#) is utilised internally to create abbreviated component names.

Value

A list is returned by the function `netcomplex` with the following elements:

<code>complex</code>	Complex intervention(s).
<code>Comb.common</code> , <code>Comb.random</code>	A vector of combination effects (common and random effects model).
<code>seComb.common</code> , <code>seComb.random</code>	A vector with corresponding standard errors (common and random effects model).
<code>lower.Comb.common</code> , <code>lower.Comb.random</code>	A vector with lower confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>upper.Comb.common</code> , <code>upper.Comb.random</code>	A vector with upper confidence limits for combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>statistic.Comb.common</code> , <code>statistic.Comb.random</code>	A vector with z-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>pval.Comb.common</code> , <code>pval.Comb.random</code>	A vector with p-values for the overall effect of combinations (common and random effects model).
<code>common</code> , <code>random</code>	A defined above.
<code>level</code> , <code>nchar.comps</code> , <code>backtransf</code> , <code>x</code>	A defined above.
<code>C.matrix</code>	C matrix.

Note

R function [netcomparison](#) can be used to calculate the effect for comparisons of two arbitrary complex intervention in a component network meta-analysis.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Rücker G, Petropoulou M, Schwarzer G (2020): Network meta-analysis of multicomponent interventions. *Biometrical Journal*, **62**, 808–21

See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [netcomparison](#)

Examples

```

# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce
# runtime of example)
#
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))

# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(treat = int,
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)

# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive
# treatment)
#
cnma1 <- netcomb(nma1, inactive = "placebo")

# Result for combination Face-to-face PST + SSRI
netcomplex(cnma1, "Face-to-face PST + SSRI", nchar.comps = 4)
netcomplex(cnma1, "F + S", nchar.comps = 4)

# Result for combination Face-to-face PST + SSRI + Placebo
netcomplex(cnma1, "Face-to-face PST + SSRI + Plac", nchar.comps = 4)

# Artificial example
t1 <- rep("A", 3)
t2 <- c("B+C", "A+C", "C+D")
TE <- c(0, 1, 0)
seTE <- rep(1, 3)
# Conduct (C)NMA
nma2 <- netmeta(TE, seTE, t1, t2, random = FALSE)
cnma2 <- netcomb(nma2)

# Result for combination A + B + C
netcomplex(cnma2, "A + B + C")
# Same results
netcomplex(cnma2, "A+B+C")
netcomplex(cnma2, "B+C+A")
netcomplex(cnma2, "C+B+A")
netcomplex(cnma2, "c+b+a")

# Generated C matrix
netcomplex(cnma2, c(LETTERS[1:4], "A+B+C"))$C.matrix

# Results for all possible combinations of two components
netcomplex(cnma2, 2)
# Results for all possible combinations of three components

```

```
netcomplex(cnma2, 3)
```

```
netconnection.default
```

Get information on network connectivity (number of subnetworks, distance matrix)

Description

To determine the network structure and to test whether a given network is fully connected. Network information is provided as a triple of vectors `treat1`, `treat2`, and `studlab` where each row corresponds to an existing pairwise treatment comparison (`treat1`, `treat2`) in a study (`studlab`). The function calculates the number of subnetworks (connectivity components; value of 1 corresponds to a fully connected network) and the distance matrix (in block-diagonal form in the case of subnetworks). If some treatments are combinations of other treatments or have common components, an analysis based on the additive network meta-analysis model might be possible, see [discomb](#) function.

Usage

```
## Default S3 method:
netconnection(
  data = NULL,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  studlab = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  sep.trts = ":",
  nchar.trts = 666,
  title = "",
  details.disconnected = FALSE,
  warn = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'pairwise'
netconnection(
  data,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  studlab = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  sep.trts = ":",
  drop.NA = TRUE,
  nchar.trts = 666,
  title = "",
```

```

    details.disconnected = FALSE,
    warn = FALSE,
    ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netconnection(
  data,
  sep.trts = data$sep.trts,
  nchar.trts = data$nchar.trts,
  title = data$title,
  details.disconnected = FALSE,
  warn = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
netconnection(
  data,
  sep.trts = data$sep.trts,
  nchar.trts,
  title = data$title,
  details.disconnected = FALSE,
  warn = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netconnection'
print(
  x,
  digits = max(4, .Options$digits - 3),
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  details = FALSE,
  details.disconnected = x$details.disconnected,
  ...
)

netconnection(data, ...)

```

Arguments

data	A data frame, e.g., created with pairwise .
treat1	Label / number for first treatment (ignored if data was created with pairwise).
treat2	Label / number for second treatment (ignored if data was created with pairwise).
studlab	Study labels (ignored if data was created with pairwise).
subset	An optional vector specifying a subset of studies to be used.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.

nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
details.disconnected	A logical indicating whether to print more details for disconnected networks.
warn	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed.
...	Additional arguments (ignored at the moment)
drop.NA	A logical indicating whether comparisons with missing treatment estimates or standard errors should be considered.
x	An object of class netconnection.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default .
details	A logical indicating whether to print the distance matrix.

Value

An object of class netconnection with corresponding print function. The object is a list containing the following components:

treat1, treat2, studlab, title, warn, nchar.trts	As defined above.
k	Total number of studies.
m	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
n	Total number of treatments.
n.subnets	Number of subnetworks; equal to 1 for a fully connected network.
D.matrix	Distance matrix.
A.matrix	Adjacency matrix.
L.matrix	Laplace matrix.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netdistance](#), [discomb](#)

Examples

```
# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
```

```

nc1 <- netconnection(pw)
nc1

# Extract number of (sub)networks
#
nc1$n.subnets

# Extract distance matrix
#
nc1$D.matrix

# Artificial example with two subnetworks
#
t1 <- c("G", "B", "B", "D", "A", "F")
t2 <- c("B", "C", "E", "E", "H", "A")
#
nc2 <- netconnection(t1, t2)
print(nc2, details = TRUE)

# Number of subnetworks
#
nc2$n.subnets

# Extract distance matrix
#
nc2$D.matrix

# Conduct network meta-analysis (results in an error message due to
# unconnected network)
try(nma <- netmeta(1:6, 1:6, t1, t2, 1:6))

# Conduct network meta-analysis on first subnetwork
#
nma.1 <- netmeta(1:6, 1:6, t1, t2, 1:6, subset = nc2$subnet == 1)

# Conduct network meta-analysis on second subnetwork
#
nma.2 <- netmeta(1:6, 1:6, t1, t2, 1:6, subset = nc2$subnet == 2)

nma.1
nma.2

```

Description

This function generates the contribution of direct comparisons to every network treatment comparison. The output is a matrix where rows represent network treatment effects and columns represent the contribution of direct treatment effects.

Usage

```
netcontrib(
  x,
  method = "shortestpath",
  hatmatrix.F1000 = FALSE,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  study = FALSE,
  path = FALSE,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netcontrib'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  digits = 4,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  legend = gs("legend"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> or <code>netcontrib</code> .
<code>method</code>	A character string indicating which method is to calculate the contribution matrix. Either <code>"randomwalk"</code> , <code>"shortestpath"</code> , <code>"cccp"</code> , or <code>"pseudoinverse"</code> , can be abbreviated.
<code>hatmatrix.F1000</code>	A logical indicating whether hat matrix given in F1000 article should be used for <code>method = "shortestpath"</code> .
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a contribution matrix should be printed for the common effects network meta-analysis.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a contribution matrix should be printed for the random effects network meta-analysis.

study	A logical indicating whether contributions of individual studies for each comparison should be returned (currently only supported for the "shortestpath" method).
path	A logical indicating whether contributions of individual paths for each comparison should be returned (currently only supported for the "shortestpath" method).
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
verbose	A logical indicating whether progress information should be printed.
...	Additional arguments.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.

Details

In network meta-analysis (NMA), it is important to assess the influence of limitations or other characteristics of individual studies on the estimates obtained from the network. To this end, the contribution matrix shows how much each direct treatment effect contributes to each treatment effect estimate from network meta-analysis.

We use ideas from graph theory to derive the proportion that is contributed by each direct treatment effect using R package **igraph**. We start with the 'projection' matrix in a two-step network meta-analysis model, called the H matrix, which is analogous to the hat matrix in a linear regression model. H entries are translated to proportion contributions based on the observation that the rows of H can be interpreted as flow networks. A stream is defined as the composition of a path and its associated flow (Papakonstantinou et al., 2018).

To account for multi-arm trials, we use the H matrix from a two-step (aggregate) version of the graph theoretical NMA model (Davies et al., 2022). This H matrix can be obtained from `hatmatrix` with argument `method = "davies"`.

Four methods are implemented to estimate the proportion contributions:

(1) If argument `method = "randomwalk"`, an analytical random-walk (RW) approach is used (Davies et al., 2022). Here, the "full" version of the aggregate H matrix (`hatmatrix` with arguments `method = "davies"` and `type = "full"`) is used to define RW transition matrices. For each pair of treatments (ij) in the network, the elements in the corresponding row of H-full define a transition matrix from node i to node j. We use the **igraph** package to find every (directed) path from node i to node j. The flow through each path is then equal to the probability that a walker takes that path. This is simply the product of the transition probabilities associated with each edge along the path.

(2) If argument `method = "shortestpath"`, an iterative algorithm is used (Papakonstantinou et al., 2018). Broadly speaking, each iteration of the algorithm consists of the following steps:

- A path in the evidence flow network is selected.
- The minimum flow through the edges making up the path is identified. This is assigned as the flow associated with the path.

- The flow of the path is subtracted from the values of flow in the edges that make up that path. This means that the edge corresponding to the minimum flow in that path is removed from the graph.
- A new path is then selected from the remaining graph. The process repeats until all the evidence flow in the edges has been assigned to a path.

In the original F1000 paper (Papakonstantinou et al., 2018), the hat matrix used did not account for correlations due to multi-arm trials. For reproducibility the result of this version can be obtained by specifying `hatmatrix.F1000 = TRUE` for `method = "shortestpath"`. For other purposes, this method is not recommended.

(3) If argument `method = "cccp"`, contributions are estimated using [11](#) from R package **cccp** which must be available (Rücker et al., 2024).

(4) If argument `method = "pseudoinverse"`, contributions are derived from an L2 solution based on a Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse (Rücker et al., 2024).

Once the streams have been identified by any method, the proportion contribution of each direct comparison is equal to the sum over the flow of evidence in each path containing that edge divided by the number of edges that make up that path.

By default, treatment names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.trts` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated treatment names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function `treats` is utilised internally to create abbreviated treatment names.

Calculation of network contributions can be compute-intensive for the random-walk approach in large networks. Crude information on the computation progress is printed if argument `verbose` is `TRUE`. In addition, computation times are printed if R package **tictoc** is installed.

Value

An object of class `netcontrib` with corresponding print function. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>common</code>	Numeric matrix of percentage contributions of direct comparisons for each network comparison for the common effects model.
<code>random</code>	Numeric matrix of percentage contributions of direct comparisons for each network comparison for the random effects model.
<code>study.common</code>	Data frame containing study contributions for each comparison for the common effects model.
<code>study.random</code>	Data frame containing study contributions for each comparison for the random effects model.
<code>path.common</code>	Data frame containing path contributions for each comparison for the common effects model.
<code>path.random</code>	Data frame containing path contributions for each comparison for the random effects model.
<code>x</code>	As defined above.
<code>tictoc.common</code>	Computation times under common effects model (if R package tictoc is installed).

`tictoc.random` Computation times under random effects model (if R package **tictoc** is installed).

with the contribution matrices for common and random NMA. Each matrix has the percentage contributions of each direct comparison as columns for each network comparison, direct or indirect as rows.

Author(s)

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References

Davies AL, Papakonstantinou T, Nikolakopoulou A, Rücker G, Galla T (2022): Network meta-analysis and random walks. *Statistics in Medicine*, **41**, 2091–2114

Papakonstantinou T, Nikolakopoulou A, Rücker G, Chaimani A, Schwarzer G, Egger M, Salanti G (2018): Estimating the contribution of studies in network meta-analysis: paths, flows and streams. *F1000Research*

Rücker G, Papakonstantinou T, Nikolakopoulou A, Schwarzer G, Galla T, Davies AL (2024): Shortest path or random walks? A framework for path weights in network meta-analysis. *Statistics in Medicine*.

See Also

[netmeta](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
# Use the Woods dataset
#
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N,
  studlab = author, data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")

nma <- netmeta(pw)

# Shortest path approach (default)
netcontrib(nma)

## Not run:
# Random walk approach
netcontrib(nma, method = "r")

## End(Not run)
```

netdistance.default	<i>Calculate distance matrix for an adjacency matrix</i>
---------------------	--

Description

Calculate distance matrix for an adjacency matrix based on distance algorithm by Müller et al. (1987).

Usage

```
## Default S3 method:
netdistance(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netdistance(x, sort = gs("sort.distance"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
netdistance(x, sort = gs("sort.distance"), ...)

## S3 method for class 'netconnection'
netdistance(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netdistance'
print(x, lab.Inf = ".", ...)

netdistance(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Either a netmeta or netcomb object or an adjacency matrix.
...	Additional arguments.
sort	A logical indicating whether to sort within (sub)networks by treatment names.
lab.Inf	A character string to label infinite values.

Author(s)

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References

Müller WR, Szymanski K, Knop JV, and Trinajstić N (1987): An algorithm for construction of the molecular distance matrix. *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, **8**, 170–73

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netconnection](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)

pw1 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE)

netdistance(nma1)

pw2 <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2)

netdistance(nma2)
netdistance(nma2$A.matrix)
```

netgraph

Generic function for network graphs

Description

Generic function for network graphs

Usage

```
netgraph(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An R object.
...	Additional arguments.

Details

For more details, look at the following functions to generate network graphs:

- [netgraph.netmeta](#)
- [netgraph.netimpact](#)
- [netgraph.netconnection](#)
- [netgraph.netcomb](#)
- [netgraph.discomb](#)

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de >

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netgraph.netmeta)
```

netgraph.discomb	<i>Network graph for objects of class discomb</i>
------------------	---

Description

This function generates a graph of the evidence network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'discomb'
netgraph(
  x,
  labels = x$trts,
  adj = NULL,
  offset = if (!is.null(adj) && all(unique(adj) == 0.5)) 0 else 0.0175,
  rotate = 0,
  points = !missing(cex.points),
  cex.points = 1,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class discomb.
labels	An optional vector with treatment labels.
adj	One, two, or three values in [0, 1] (or a vector / matrix with length / number of rows equal to the number of treatments) specifying the x (and optionally y and z) adjustment for treatment labels.
offset	Distance between nodes (i.e. treatments) in graph and treatment labels for 2-D plots (value of 0.0175 corresponds to a difference of 1.75% of the range on x- and y-axis).
rotate	A single numeric with value between -180 and 180 specifying the degrees to rotate nodes in a circular network clockwise or anticlockwise.
points	A logical indicating whether points should be printed at nodes (i.e. treatments) of the network graph.
cex.points	Corresponding point size. Can be a vector with length equal to the number of treatments.
...	Additional arguments passed on to netgraph.netmeta .

Details

The arguments `seq` and `iterate` are used internally and cannot be specified by the user.

Author(s)

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See Also

[discomb](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Artificial dataset
#
t1 <- c("A + B", "A + C", "A"      , "A"      , "D", "D", "E")
t2 <- c("C"      , "B"      , "B + C", "A + D", "E", "F", "F")
#
mean <- c(4.1, 2.05, 0, 0, 0.1, 0.1, 0.05)
se.mean <- rep(0.1, 7)
#
study <- paste("study", c(1:4, 5, 5, 5))
#
dat <- data.frame(mean, se.mean, t1, t2, study,
                  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
#
trts <- c("A", "A + B", "A + C", "A + D",
         "B", "B + C", "C", "D", "E", "F")
#
comps <- LETTERS[1:6]

# Use netconnection() to display network information
#
netconnection(t1, t2, study)

dc1 <- discomb(mean, se.mean, t1, t2, study, seq = trts)

netgraph(dc1)
```

netgraph.netcomb

Network graph for objects of class netcomb

Description

This function generates a graph of the evidence network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomb'  
netgraph(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netcomb.
...	Additional arguments passed on to netgraph.netmeta .

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netcomb](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider studies including Face-to-face PST (to reduce  
# runtime of example)  
#  
face <- subset(Linde2016, id %in% c(16, 24, 49, 118))  
  
# Use pairwise() to transform data to comparison-based format  
#  
pw <- pairwise(treat = int,  
  event = resp, n = n, studlab = paste(author, year),  
  data = face, reference = "plac", sm = "OR")  
  
# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis  
#  
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE)  
  
# Additive model for treatment components (with placebo as inactive  
# treatment)  
#  
cnma <- netcomb(nma, inactive = "placebo")  
  
netgraph(cnma)
```

netgraph.netconnection

Network graph for objects of class netconnection

Description

This function generates a graph of the evidence network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netconnection'
netgraph(
  x,
  seq,
  col = seq_len(x$n.subnets),
  reference.group = NULL,
  plastic = gs("plastic"),
  start.layout = "circle",
  iterate = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netconnection</code> .
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments arrangement (anticlockwise if <code>start.layout = "circle"</code>).
<code>col</code>	A single color (or vector of colors) for lines connecting treatments if argument <code>plastic = FALSE</code> (see Details).
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment (only relevant for disconnected networks).
<code>plastic</code>	A logical indicating whether the appearance of the comparisons should be in '3D look'.
<code>start.layout</code>	A character string indicating which starting layout is used (see netgraph.netmeta).
<code>iterate</code>	A logical indicating whether the stress majorization algorithm is carried out for optimization of the layout (see netgraph.netmeta).
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed on to netgraph.netmeta (see Details).

Details

Argument `col` can be a single color for all lines / edges, a vector of length equal to the number of edges, or a vector of length equal to the number of subnetworks. Argument `reference.group` is only considered in disconnected networks, i.e., if more than one (sub)network exists, and if argument `col` provides colors for subnetworks. In this case, the first color provided in argument `col` defines the color for the subnetwork with the reference treatment.

Author(s)

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See Also

[netconnection](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Artificial example with two subnetworks
#
t1 <- c("G", "B", "B", "D", "A", "F")
t2 <- c("B", "C", "E", "E", "H", "A")
#
nc1 <- netconnection(t1, t2)
print(nc1, details = TRUE)

netgraph(nc1, points = TRUE, adj = 0.5, bg.points = "lightgray")
netgraph(nc1, points = TRUE, adj = 0.5, bg.points = "lightgray",
  plastic = TRUE)
```

netgraph.netimpact	<i>Network graph for objects of class netimpact</i>
--------------------	---

Description

This function generates a graph of the evidence network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netimpact'
netgraph(
  x,
  col.ignore = "red",
  number.of.studies = TRUE,
  main,
  sub,
  multiarm = gs("multiarm"),
  col.multiarm = NULL,
  alpha.transparency = 0.5,
  col.ignore.multiarm = "transparent",
  col = "black",
  plastic = gs("plastic"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netimpact</code> .
<code>col.ignore</code>	A character string indicating color for comparisons removed from network, either "transparent" or any color defined in colours .
<code>number.of.studies</code>	A logical indicating whether number of studies should be added to network graph.

main	Main title.
sub	Subtitle.
multiarm	A logical indicating whether multi-arm studies should be marked in plot.
col.multiarm	Either a function from R package colorspace or grDevice to define colors for multi-arm studies or a character vector with colors to highlight multi-arm studies.
alpha.transparency	The alpha transparency of colors used to highlight multi-arm studies (0 means transparent and 1 means opaque).
col.ignore.multiarm	A character string indicating color to mark multi-arm studies removed from network, either "transparent" or any color defined in colours .
col	A single color (or vector of colors) for lines connecting treatments if argument plastic = FALSE. Length of the vector must be equal to the number of lines / edges.
plastic	A logical indicating whether the appearance of the comparisons should be in '3D look'.
...	Additional arguments passed on to netgraph.netmeta .

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netimpact](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#), [Franchini2012](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netimpact)
```

netgraph.netmeta	<i>Network graph</i>
------------------	----------------------

Description

This function generates a graph of the evidence network.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netgraph(
  x,
  seq = x$seq,
  labels = x$trts,
  cex = 1,
  adj = NULL,
  srt.labels = 0,
  offset = if (!is.null(adj) && all(unique(adj) == 0.5)) 0 else 0.0175,
  scale = 1.1,
  col = gs("col.netgraph"),
  plastic = gs("plastic"),
  thickness = gs("thickness"),
  lwd = 5,
  lwd.min = lwd/2.5,
  lwd.max,
  rescale.thickness,
  dim = "2d",
  rotate = 0,
  highlight = NULL,
  col.highlight = "red2",
  scale.highlight = 1,
  multiarm = gs("multiarm"),
  col.multiarm = NULL,
  alpha.transparency = 0.5,
  points = !missing(cex.points),
  cex.points = 1,
  pch.points = 20,
  col.points = if (length(pch.points) == 1 && pch.points == 21) "black" else "red",
  bg.points = "red",
  points.min,
  points.max,
  rescale.pointsize,
  number.of.studies = gs("number.of.studies"),
  cex.number.of.studies = cex,
  col.number.of.studies = "white",
  bg.number.of.studies = "black",
  pos.number.of.studies = 0.5,
  start.layout = ifelse(dim == "2d", "circle", "eigen"),
  eig1 = 2,
  eig2 = 3,
  eig3 = 4,
  iterate = FALSE,
  tol = 1e-04,
  maxit = 500,
  allfigures = FALSE,
  A.matrix = x$A.matrix,
```

```

    N.matrix = sign(A.matrix),
    D.matrix = netdistance(N.matrix),
    xpos = NULL,
    ypos = NULL,
    zpos = NULL,
    figure = TRUE,
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> (mandatory).
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments arrangement (anticlockwise if <code>start.layout = "circle"</code>).
<code>labels</code>	An optional vector with treatment labels.
<code>cex</code>	The magnification to be used for treatment labels.
<code>adj</code>	One, two, or three values in <code>[0, 1]</code> (or a vector / matrix with length / number of rows equal to the number of treatments) specifying the x (and optionally y and z) adjustment for treatment labels.
<code>srt.labels</code>	The character string "orthogonal" (can be abbreviated), a single numeric or numerical vector with value(s) between -180 and 180 specifying the angle to rotate treatment labels (see Details).
<code>offset</code>	Distance between nodes (i.e. treatments) in graph and treatment labels for 2-D plots (value of 0.0175 corresponds to a difference of 1.75% of the range on x- and y-axis).
<code>scale</code>	Additional space added outside of nodes (i.e. treatments). Increase this value for larger treatment labels (value of 1.10 corresponds to an additional space of 10% around the network graph).
<code>col</code>	A single color (or vector of colors) for lines connecting treatments (edges) if argument <code>plastic = FALSE</code> . Length of the vector must be equal to the number of edges (see list element 'comparisons' in <code>netmeta</code>).
<code>plastic</code>	A logical indicating whether the appearance of the comparisons should be in '3D look' (not to be confused with argument <code>dim</code>).
<code>thickness</code>	Either a character variable to determine the method to plot line widths (see Details) or a matrix of the same dimension and row and column names as argument <code>A.matrix</code> with information on line width.
<code>lwd</code>	A numeric for scaling the line width of comparisons.
<code>lwd.min</code>	Minimum line width in network graph. All connections with line widths below this values will be set to <code>lwd.min</code> .
<code>lwd.max</code>	Maximum line width in network graph. The connection with the largest value according to argument <code>thickness</code> will be set to this value.
<code>rescale.thickness</code>	A logical value or R function to scale the thickness of lines (see Details).
<code>dim</code>	A character string indicating whether a 2- or 3-dimensional plot should be produced, either "2d" or "3d".

<code>rotate</code>	A single numeric with value between -180 and 180 specifying the degree to rotate nodes in a circular network clockwise or anticlockwise.
<code>highlight</code>	A character vector identifying comparisons that should be marked in the network graph, e.g. <code>highlight = "treat1:treat2"</code> .
<code>col.highlight</code>	Color(s) to highlight the comparisons given by <code>highlight</code> .
<code>scale.highlight</code>	Scaling factor(s) for the line width(s) to highlight the comparisons given by <code>highlight</code> .
<code>multiarm</code>	A logical indicating whether multi-arm studies should be marked in plot.
<code>col.multiarm</code>	Either a function from R package colorspace or grDevice to define colors for multi-arm studies or a character vector with colors to highlight multi-arm studies.
<code>alpha.transparency</code>	The alpha transparency of colors used to highlight multi-arm studies (0 means transparent and 1 means opaque).
<code>points</code>	A logical indicating whether points should be printed at nodes (i.e. treatments) of the network graph.
<code>cex.points, pch.points, col.points, bg.points</code>	Corresponding size, type, color, and background color for points. Can be a vector with length equal to the number of treatments.
<code>points.min</code>	Minimum point size. All points with size below this values will be set to <code>points.min</code> .
<code>points.max</code>	Maximum point size in network graph. The node with the largest value according to argument <code>cex.points</code> will be set to this value.
<code>rescale.pointsize</code>	A logical value or R function to scale the point size (see Details).
<code>number.of.studies</code>	A logical indicating whether number of studies should be added to network graph.
<code>cex.number.of.studies</code>	The magnification to be used for number of studies.
<code>col.number.of.studies</code>	Color for number of studies.
<code>bg.number.of.studies</code>	Color for shadow around number of studies.
<code>pos.number.of.studies</code>	A single value (or vector of values) in [0, 1] specifying the position of the number of studies on the lines connecting treatments (edges). Length of the vector must be equal to the number of edges.
<code>start.layout</code>	A character string indicating which starting layout is used if <code>iterate = TRUE</code> . If "circle" (default), the iteration starts with a circular ordering of the vertices; if "eigen", eigenvectors of the Laplacian matrix are used, calculated via generic function <code>eigen</code> (spectral decomposition); if "prcomp", eigenvectors of the Laplacian matrix are calculated via generic function <code>prcomp</code> (principal component analysis); if "random", a random layout is used, drawn from a bivariate normal.

eig1	A numeric indicating which eigenvector is used as x coordinate if start = "eigen" or "prcomp" and iterate = TRUE. Default is 2, the eigenvector to the second-smallest eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix.
eig2	A numeric indicating which eigenvector is used as y-coordinate if start = "eigen" or "prcomp" and iterate = TRUE. Default is 3, the eigenvector to the third-smallest eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix.
eig3	A numeric indicating which eigenvector is used as z-coordinate if start = "eigen" or "prcomp" and iterate = TRUE. Default is 4, the eigenvector to the fourth-smallest eigenvalue of the Laplacian matrix.
iterate	A logical indicating whether the stress majorization algorithm is carried out for optimization of the layout.
tol	A numeric for the tolerance for convergence if iterate = TRUE.
maxit	An integer defining the maximum number of iteration steps if iterate = TRUE.
allfigures	A logical indicating whether all iteration steps are shown if iterate = TRUE. May slow down computations if set to TRUE (especially if plastic = TRUE).
A.matrix	Adjacency matrix ($n \times n$) characterizing the structure of the network graph. Row and column names must be the same set of values as provided by argument seq.
N.matrix	Neighborhood matrix ($n \times n$) replacing A.matrix if neighborhood is to be specified differently from node adjacency in the network graph, for example content-based. Row and column names must be the same set of values as provided by argument seq.
D.matrix	Distance matrix ($n \times n$) replacing A.matrix and N.matrix if distances should be provided directly. Row and column names must be the same set of values as provided by argument seq.
xpos	Vector (n) of x coordinates.
ypos	Vector (n) of y coordinates.
zpos	Vector (n) of z coordinates.
figure	A logical indicating whether network graph should be shown.
...	Additional graphical arguments (passed on to plot.default).

Details

This function generates a network graph for an R object created with [netmeta](#). R function [plot.default](#) is used to create the network graph.

Layout of network graph: The network is laid out in the plane, where the nodes in the graph layout correspond to the treatments and edges display the observed treatment comparisons. For the default setting, nodes are placed on a circle. Other starting layouts are "eigen", "prcomp", and "random" (Rücker & Schwarzer 2015). If `iterate = TRUE`, the layout is further optimized using the stress majorization algorithm. This algorithm specifies an 'ideal' distance (e.g., the graph distance) between two nodes in the plane. In the optimal layout, these distances are best approximated in the sense of least squares. Starting from an initial layout, the optimum is approximated in an iterative process called stress majorization (Kamada and Kawai 1989, Michailidis and de Leeuw 2001, Hu 2012). The starting layout can be chosen as a circle or coming from eigenvectors of the Laplacian matrix (corresponding to Hall's algorithm, Hall 1970), calculated

in different ways, or random. Moreover, it can be chosen whether the iteration steps are shown (argument `allfigures = TRUE`).

An optimized circular presentation which typically has a reduced (sometimes minimal) number of crossings can be achieved by using argument `seq = "optimal"` in combination with argument `start.layout`. Note, it is not possible to prespecify the best value for argument `start.layout` for any situation as the result depends on the network structure.

Definition of line widths: Argument `thickness` providing the line width of edges (comparisons) can be a matrix of the same dimension as argument `A.matrix` or any of the following character strings (which can be abbreviated):

- Proportional to number of studies comparing two treatments (`thickness = "number.of.studies"`, default)
- Proportional to inverse standard error of common effects model comparing two treatments (`thickness = "se.common"`)
- Proportional to inverse standard error of random effects model comparing two treatments (`thickness = "se.random"`)
- Weight from common effects model comparing two treatments (`thickness = "w.common"`)
- Weight from random effects model comparing two treatments (`thickness = "w.random"`)
- Same line width for all comparisons (`thickness = "equal"`)

Only evidence from direct treatment comparisons is considered to determine the line width if argument `thickness` is equal to any but the last method.

Line widths are determined by argument `lwd` if all lines have the same width. This is possible if either argument `thickness = "equal"`, all pairwise comparisons have the same number of studies for `thickness = "number.of.studies"` or all direct comparisons are equally precise.

Otherwise, the line width of the thickest line is equal to the value of argument `lwd.max` and all lines with a thickness below the value of argument `lwd.min` are set to this value. Default for argument `lwd.max` is $4 * lwd$.

Argument `rescale.thickness` can be used to provide a function to specify the relative line width of edges (comparisons). By default, the square root function `sqrt` is used in order to lessen differences in line widths. Argument `rescale.thickness = FALSE` or `rescale.thickness = I`, i.e., the identity function `I`, can be used to not rescale line widths.

Definition of point sizes: Points are printed at nodes (treatments) if argument `points = TRUE` or argument `cex.points` is provided.

Point sizes are equal to the value of argument `cex.points` if all points are of equal size.

Otherwise, the point size of the largest point is equal to the value of argument `points.max` and all points smaller than the value of argument `points.min` are set to this value. The default for argument `points.max` is equal to the largest value provided in argument `cex.points` if this largest value is below or equal to 25. Otherwise the default is `points.max = 8`.

Argument `rescale.pointsize` can be used to provide a function to specify relative point sizes. Point sizes are not rescaled at all if they are all equal or the largest `cex.points` value is below or equal to 25. Otherwise, the square root function `sqrt` is used in order to lessen the differences in point sizes. Argument `rescale.pointsize = FALSE` or `rescale.pointsize = I`, i.e., the identity function `I`, can be used to not rescale point sizes.

Other settings: Argument `srt.labels` can be used to specify the rotation (in degrees) of the treatment labels. If `srt.labels` is equal to `"orthogonal"`, treatment labels are orthogonal to the

circle. If `srt.labels` is a single numeric, all labels are rotated by this degree. If `srt.labels` is a numeric vector, it must be of the same length as the number of treatments and labels are rotated counter-clockwise starting on the right side. Finally, if `srt.labels` is a named numeric vector, it must be of the same length as the number of treatments and the names must be equal to the treatment names (and treatment labels are rotated according to the specified values).

Further, a couple of graphical parameters can be specified, such as color and appearance of the nodes (treatments) and the edges (comparisons), whether special comparisons should be highlighted and whether multi-arm studies should be indicated as colored polygons. By default, the `sequential_hcl` function is used to highlight multi-arm studies.

In order to generate 3-D plots (argument `dim = "3d"`), R package **rgl** is necessary. Note, under macOS the X.Org X Window System must be available (see <https://www.xquartz.org>).

Value

A list containing two data frames with information on nodes and edges.

List element 'nodes'

<code>trts</code>	Treatment names.
<code>labels</code>	Treatment labels.
<code>seq</code>	Sequence of treatment labels.
<code>srt</code>	String rotation.
<code>xpos</code>	Position of treatment / node on x-axis.
<code>ypos</code>	Position of treatment / node on y-axis.
<code>zpos</code>	Position of treatment / node on z-axis (for 3-D plots).
<code>xpos.labels</code>	Position of treatment labels on x-axis (for 2-D plots).
<code>ypos.labels</code>	Position of treatment labels on y-axis (for 2-D plots).
<code>offset.x</code>	Offset of treatment labels on x-axis (for 2-D plots).
<code>offset.y</code>	Offset of treatment labels on y-axis (for 2-D plots).
<code>cex</code>	Point size of treatments / nodes
<code>col</code>	Color for points.
<code>pch</code>	Point type.
<code>bg</code>	Background color for points.
<code>adj.x</code>	Adjustment for treatment label on x-axis.
<code>adj.y</code>	Adjustment for treatment label on y-axis.
<code>adj.z</code>	Adjustment for treatment label on z-axis (for 3-D plots).

List element 'edges'

<code>treat1</code>	Name of first treatment.
<code>treat2</code>	Name of second treatment.
<code>n.stud</code>	Number of studies directly comparing treatments.
<code>xpos</code>	Position of number of studies on x-axis.
<code>ypos</code>	Position of number of studies on y-axis.

adj Adjustment of number of studies.
 pos.number.of.studies Position of number of studies on edge.
 col Color for lines / edges.

Author(s)

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References

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 Hu Y (2012): *Combinatorial Scientific Computing*, Chapter Algorithms for Visualizing Large Networks, pages 525–49. Chapman and Hall / CRC, Computational Science.
 Kamada T, Kawai S (1989): An algorithm for drawing general undirected graphs. *Information Processing Letters*, **31**, 7–15
 Krahn U, Binder H, König J (2013): A graphical tool for locating inconsistency in network meta-analyses. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **13**, 35
 Michailidis G, de Leeuw J (2001): Data visualization through graph drawing. *Computational Statistics*, **16**, 435–50
 Rücker G, Schwarzer G (2016): Automated drawing of network plots in network meta-analysis. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **7**, 94–107

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)

# Transform data from arm-based format to contrast-based format
#
pw1 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE)

# Network graph with default settings
#
netgraph(nma1)

# Generation of an object of class 'netmeta' with reference
```

```
# treatment 'plac'
#
pw2 <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, reference = "plac")

# Network graph with default settings
#
netgraph(nma2)

# Network graph with specified order of the treatments and one
# highlighted comparison
#
trts <- c("plac", "benf", "mig1", "acar", "sulf",
  "metf", "rosi", "piog", "sita", "vild")
netgraph(nma2, highlight = "rosi:plac", seq = trts)

# Same network graph using argument 'seq' in netmeta function
#
nma3 <- netmeta(pw2, reference = "plac", seq = trts)
netgraph(nma3, highlight = "rosi:plac")

# Network graph optimized, starting from a circle, with multi-arm
# study colored
#
netgraph(nma2, start = "circle", iterate = TRUE,
  multiarm = TRUE, col.multiarm = "purple")

# Network graph optimized, starting from a circle, with multi-arm
# study colored and all intermediate iteration steps visible
#
netgraph(nma2, start = "circle", iterate = TRUE,
  multiarm = TRUE, col.multiarm = "purple",
  allfigures = TRUE)

# Network graph optimized, starting from Laplacian eigenvectors,
# with multi-arm study colored
#
netgraph(nma2, start = "eigen",
  multiarm = TRUE, col.multiarm = "purple")

# Network graph optimized, starting from different Laplacian
# eigenvectors, with multi-arm study colored
#
netgraph(nma2, start = "prcomp",
  multiarm = TRUE, col.multiarm = "purple")

# Network graph optimized, starting from random initial layout,
# with multi-arm study colored
#
netgraph(nma2, start = "random",
  multiarm = TRUE, col.multiarm = "purple")
```

```

# Network graph without plastic look and one highlighted comparison
#
netgraph(nma2, plastic = FALSE, highlight = "rosi:plac")

# Network graph with same thickness for all comparisons
#
netgraph(nma2, thickness = "equal")

# Network graph with changed labels and specified order of the
# treatments
#
netgraph(nma2, seq = c(1, 3, 5, 2, 9, 4, 7, 6, 8, 10),
  labels = LETTERS[1:10])

# Rotate treatment labels (orthogonal to circle)
#
netgraph(nma2, srt.labels = "o")

## Not run:
# Network graph in 3-D (opens a new device, where you may rotate and
# zoom the plot using the mouse / the mouse wheel).
# The rgl package must be installed for 3-D plots.
#
if (requireNamespace("rgl", quietly = TRUE)) {
  netgraph(nma2, dim = "3d")
  rgl::rglwidget()
}

## End(Not run)

```

netheat

Net heat plot

Description

This function creates a net heat plot, a graphical tool for locating inconsistency in network meta-analyses.

Usage

```

netheat(
  x,
  random = FALSE,
  tau.preset = NULL,
  showall = TRUE,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether the net heat plot should be based on a random effects model.
<code>tau.preset</code>	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 for a random effects model on which the net heat plot will be based.
<code>showall</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be shown for all designs or only a sensible subset (see Details).
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.

Details

The net heat plot is a matrix visualization proposed by Krahn et al. (2013) that highlights hot spots of inconsistency between specific direct evidence in the whole network and renders transparent possible drivers.

In this plot, the area of a gray square displays the contribution of the direct estimate of one design in the column to a network estimate in a row. In combination, the colors show the detailed change in inconsistency when relaxing the assumption of consistency for the effects of single designs. The colors on the diagonal represent the inconsistency contribution of the corresponding design. The colors on the off-diagonal are associated with the change in inconsistency between direct and indirect evidence in a network estimate in the row after relaxing the consistency assumption for the effect of one design in the column. Cool colors indicate an increase and warm colors a decrease: the stronger the intensity of the color, the greater the difference between the inconsistency before and after the detachment. So, a blue colored element indicates that the evidence of the design in the column supports the evidence in the row. A clustering procedure is applied to the heat matrix in order to find warm colored hot spots of inconsistency. In the case that the colors of a column corresponding to design d are identical to the colors on the diagonal, the detaching of the effect of design d dissolves the total inconsistency in the network.

The pairwise contrasts corresponding to designs of three- or multi-arm studies are marked by ' _ ' following the treatments of the design.

Designs where only one treatment is involved in other designs of the network or where the removal of corresponding studies would lead to a splitting of the network do not contribute to the inconsistency assessment. By default (`showall = TRUE`), these designs are not incorporated into the net heat plot. If `showall = FALSE`, additional designs with minimal contribution to the inconsistency Q statistic are not incorporated (i.e., designs with `abs(Q.inc.design) <= .Machine$double.eps^0.5`).

In the case of `random = TRUE`, the net heat plot is based on a random effects model generalised for multivariate meta-analysis in which the between-study variance τ^2 is estimated by the method of moments (see Jackson et al., 2012) and embedded in a full design-by-treatment interaction model (see Higgins et al., 2012).

Author(s)

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References

- Krahn U, Binder H, König J (2013): A graphical tool for locating inconsistency in network meta-analyses. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **13**, 35
- Jackson D, White IR and Riley RD (2012): Quantifying the impact of between-study heterogeneity in multivariate meta-analyses. *Statistics in Medicine*, **31**, 3805–20
- Higgins JPT, Jackson D, Barrett JK, Lu G, Ades AE, White IR (2012): Consistency and inconsistency in network meta-analysis: concepts and models for multi-arm studies. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 98–110

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider first five studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
studies <- unique(Senn2013$study)
Senn2013.5 <- subset(Senn2013, study %in% studies[1:5])

# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013.5,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct common effects network meta-analysis with
# placebo as reference treatment
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw, random = FALSE, reference = "plac")

# Generate a net heat plot based on the common effects model
#
netheat(nma1)

# Conduct common and random effects network meta-analysis with placebo as
# reference treatment
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw, reference = "plac")

# Generate a net heat plot based on the random effects model
#
netheat(nma2)
```

netimpact	<i>Determine the importance of individual studies in network meta-analysis</i>
-----------	--

Description

This function measures the importance of individual studies in network meta-analysis by the reduction of the precision if the study is removed / ignored from the network (Rücker et al., 2020).

Usage

```
netimpact(
  x,
  seTE.ignore = 1000 * max(x$seTE, na.rm = TRUE),
  event.ignore = 0.01,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  nchar.studlab = x$nchar.studlab,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>seTE.ignore</code>	Assumed (large) standard error in order to mimicking the removal of individual studies from the network meta-analysis (ignored for <code>netmetabin</code> objects).
<code>event.ignore</code>	Assumed event number mimicking the removal of individual studies from the network meta-analysis (considered for <code>netmetabin</code> objects).
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
<code>nchar.studlab</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.
<code>verbose</code>	A logical indicating whether information on the estimation progress should be printed.

Value

An object of class "netimpact" with corresponding `netgraph` and `print` function. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>impact.common</code>	A matrix with contributions of individual studies (columns) to comparisons (rows) under the common effects model.
<code>impact.random</code>	A matrix with contributions of individual studies (columns) to comparisons (rows) under the random effects model.
<code>ignored.comparisons</code>	List with comparisons of ignored study.

seTE.ignore, event.ignore, x
 As defined above.

nets List of all network meta-analyses (removing a single study).

version Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Rücker G, Nikolakopoulou A, Papakonstantinou T, Salanti G, Riley RD, Schwarzer G (2020): The statistical importance of a study for a network meta-analysis estimate. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **20**, 190

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netmetabin](#), [netgraph.netimpact](#), [print.netimpact](#), [Franchini2012](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider first two studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
studies <- unique(Franchini2012$Study)
pw1 <- pairwise(list(Treatment1, Treatment2, Treatment3),
  n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  mean = list(y1, y2, y3), sd = list(sd1, sd2, sd3),
  data = subset(Franchini2012, Study %in% studies[1:2]),
  studlab = Study)

nma1 <- netmeta(pw1)
ni1 <- netimpact(nma1, verbose = TRUE)
ni1

netgraph(ni1)

netgraph(ni1, plastic = TRUE)

pw2 <- pairwise(list(Treatment1, Treatment2, Treatment3),
  n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  mean = list(y1, y2, y3), sd = list(sd1, sd2, sd3),
  data = Franchini2012,
  studlab = Study)

nma2 <- netmeta(pw2)
ni2 <- netimpact(nma2, verbose = TRUE)
netgraph(ni2)
```

netleague

*Create league table with network meta-analysis results***Description**

A league table is a square matrix showing all pairwise comparisons in a network meta-analysis. Typically, both treatment estimates and confidence intervals are shown.

Usage

```
netleague(
  x,
  y,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  seq = x$seq,
  ci = TRUE,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  direct,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  text.NA = ".",
  bracket = gs("CIBracket"),
  separator = gs("CIseparator"),
  lower.blank = gs("CIlower.blank"),
  upper.blank = gs("CIupper.blank"),
  writexl = !missing(path),
  path = "leaguetable.xlsx",
  overwrite = FALSE,
  details = gs("details"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netleague'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x An object created with `netmeta`, `netcomb`, `discomb`, or `netleague` (mandatory).

<code>y</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> , <code>netcomb</code> , or <code>discomb</code> (optional).
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a league table should be printed for the common effects network meta-analysis.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a league table should be printed for the random effects network meta-analysis.
<code>seq</code>	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in rows and columns of a league table.
<code>ci</code>	A logical indicating whether confidence intervals should be shown.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether printed results should be back transformed. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>direct</code>	A logical indicating whether league tables with network estimates or estimates from direct comparisons should be shown if (i) argument <code>y</code> is provided and the input for arguments <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> was created with <code>netmeta</code> or (ii) input for argument <code>x</code> was created with <code>netmeta</code> or <code>netcomb</code> .
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>text.NA</code>	A character string to label missing values.
<code>bracket</code>	A character with bracket symbol to print lower confidence interval: "[", "(", "{", "".
<code>separator</code>	A character string with information on separator between lower and upper confidence interval.
<code>lower.blank</code>	A logical indicating whether blanks between left bracket and lower confidence limit should be printed.
<code>upper.blank</code>	A logical indicating whether blanks between separator and upper confidence limit should be printed.
<code>writexl</code>	A logical indicating whether an Excel file should be created (R package writexl must be available).
<code>path</code>	A character string specifying the filename of the Excel file.
<code>overwrite</code>	A logical indicating whether an existing Excel file should be overwritten.
<code>details</code>	A logical specifying whether details on rows and columns should be printed.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (passed on to <code>write_xlsx</code> to create Excel file).

Details

A league table is a square matrix showing all pairwise comparisons in a network meta-analysis (Hutton et al., 2015). Typically, both treatment estimates and confidence intervals are shown.

If argument `y` is not provided, the league table contains

- the network estimates in the lower triangle and the direct treatment estimates from pairwise comparisons in the upper triangle, if the input for argument `x` was created with `netmeta`;
- the network estimates from the component network meta-analysis in the lower triangle, if the input for argument `x` was created with `netcomb`, and, in the upper triangle, (i) the network estimates from the network meta-analysis, if argument `direct = FALSE`, or (ii) the direct treatment estimates from pairwise comparisons, if argument `direct = TRUE`;
- the network estimates from the component network meta-analysis in the lower and upper triangle, if the input for argument `x` was created with `discomb`.

Note, for the random-effects model, the direct treatment estimates are based on the common between-study variance τ^2 from the network meta-analysis, i.e. the square of list element `x$tau`.

If argument `y` is provided, the league table contains information on treatment comparisons from (component) network meta-analysis object `x` in the lower triangle and from (component) network meta-analysis object `y` in the upper triangle. This is, for example, useful to print information on efficacy and safety in the same league table. If argument `direct = TRUE`, direct estimates are shown both in the lower and upper triangle if the input for arguments `x` and `y` was created with `netmeta`.

By default, an R object with the league tables is generated. Alternatively, an Excel file is created if argument `writexl = TRUE`.

This implementation reports pairwise comparisons of the treatment in the column versus the treatment in the row in the lower triangle and row versus column in the upper triangle. This is a common presentation for network meta-analyses which allows to easily compare direction and magnitude of treatment effects. For example, given treatments A, B, and C, the results reported in the first row and second column as well as second row and first column are from the pairwise comparison A versus B. Note, this presentation is different from the printout of a network meta-analysis object which reports opposite pairwise comparisons in the lower and upper triangle, e.g., A versus B in the first row and second column and B versus A in the second row and first column.

If the same (component) network meta-analysis object is used for arguments `x` and `y`, reciprocal treatment estimates will be shown in the upper triangle (see examples), e.g., the comparison B versus A.

R function `netrank` can be used to change the order of rows and columns in the league table (see examples). If argument `seq` is a `netrank` object, treatments are ordered by decreasing P-scores, SUCRAs, or probabilities of being best, or by increasing mean or median ranks.

Value

An object of class `netleague` with corresponding print function if `writexl = FALSE`. The object is a list containing the league tables in list elements `'common'` and `'random'`. An Excel file is created if `writexl = TRUE`. In this case, `NULL` is returned in R.

Author(s)

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References

Hutton B, Salanti G, Caldwell DM, et al. (2015): The PRISMA Extension Statement for Reporting of Systematic Reviews Incorporating Network Meta-analyses of Health Care Interventions: Checklist and Explanations. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, **162**, 777

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [netposet](#), [netrank](#), [Woods2010](#), [Linde2015](#)

Examples

```
# Network meta-analysis of count mortality statistics
#
pw0 <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N,
  studlab = author, data = Woods2010, sm = "OR",
  reference.group = "Placebo")
nma0 <- netmeta(pw0)

oldopts <- options(width = 100)

# League table for common and random effects model with
# - network estimates in lower triangle
# - direct estimates in upper triangle
#
netleague(nma0, digits = 2, bracket = "(", separator = " - ")

# League table for common effects model
#
netleague(nma0, random = FALSE, digits = 2)

# Change order of treatments according to treatment ranking (random
# effects model)
#
netleague(nma0, common = FALSE, digits = 2, seq = netrank(nma0))
#
print(netrank(nma0), common = FALSE)

# Create a temporary CSV file with league table for random effects model
#
league0 <- netleague(nma0, digits = 2, bracket = "(", separator = " to ")
#
.tmp_file_csv <- tempfile(fileext = ".csv")
write.table(league0$random, file = .tmp_file_csv,
  row.names = FALSE, col.names = FALSE, sep = ",")
#
# Create Excel files with league tables
# (if R package writexl is available)
#
netleague(nma0, digits = 2, bracket = "(", separator = " to ",
  path = tempfile(fileext = ".xlsx"))

# Define order of treatments in depression dataset Linde2015
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI",
  "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa", "rMAO-A", "Hypericum", "Placebo")

# Outcome labels
```

```

#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission")

# (1) Early response
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(resp1, resp2, resp3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small = "undesirable")

# (2) Early remission
#
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(remi1, remi2, remi3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small = "undesirable")

options(width = 200)
netleague(nma1, digits = 2)

netleague(nma1, digits = 2, ci = FALSE)
netleague(nma2, digits = 2, ci = FALSE)

# League table for two outcomes with
# - network estimates of first outcome in lower triangle
# - network estimates of second outcome in upper triangle
#
netleague(nma1, nma2, digits = 2, ci = FALSE)

netleague(nma1, nma2, seq = netrank(nma1), ci = FALSE)
netleague(nma1, nma2, seq = netrank(nma2), ci = FALSE)

netrank(nma1)
netrank(nma2)

# Report results for network meta-analysis twice
#
netleague(nma1, nma1, seq = netrank(nma1), ci = FALSE,
  backtransf = FALSE)
netleague(nma1, nma1, seq = netrank(nma1), ci = FALSE,
  backtransf = FALSE, direct = TRUE)

options(oldopts)

```

Description

Auxiliary function to create a matrix with additional information for pairwise comparisons

Usage

```
netmatrix(  
  x,  
  var,  
  levels,  
  labels = levels,  
  func = "mode",  
  ties.method = "random"  
)
```

Arguments

x	A netmeta object.
var	Variable with additional information.
levels	An optional vector of the values that var might have taken (see factor).
labels	An optional vector with labels for var (see factor).
func	A character string with the function name to summarize values within pairwise comparisons; see Details.
ties.method	A character string describing how ties are handled if func = "mode"; see Details.

Details

For each pairwise comparison, unique values will be calculated for the variable var based on the argument func: "mode" (most common value), "min" (minimum value), "max", "mean", "median", and "sum". In order to determine the most common value, the argument ties.method can be used in the case of ties with "first" meaning that the first / smallest value will be selected; similar for "last" (last / largest value) and "random" (random selection).

Value

A matrix with the same row and column names as the adjacency matrix x\$A.matrix.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)
# Add variable with (fictitious) risk of bias values
# with 1 = "low risk" and 2 = "high risk"
#
smokingcessation$rob <- rep(1:2, 12)

pw <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")
nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE, ref = "A")

# Generate network graph with information on risk of bias
#
col.rob <- netmatrix(nma, rob, ties.method = "last",
  levels = 1:2, labels = c("green", "yellow"))
#
netgraph(nma, col = col.rob, cex.points = 5,
  bg.points = "gray", adj = 0.5,
  pos.number.of.studies = c(0.5, 0.25, 0.5, 0.5, 0.25, 0.5))

netgraph(nma, col = col.rob, cex.points = n.trts,
  bg.points = "blue", labels = paste0(trts, " (n=", n.trts, ")"),
  pos.number.of.studies = c(0.5, 0.25, 0.5, 0.5, 0.25, 0.5),
  offset = c(0.05, 0.035, 0.05, 0.025))
```

netmeasures

Measures for characterizing a network meta-analysis

Description

This function provides measures for quantifying the direct evidence proportion, the mean path length and the minimal parallelism (the latter on aggregated and study level) of mixed treatment comparisons (network estimates) as well as the evidence flow per design, see König et al. (2013). These measures support the critical evaluation of the network meta-analysis results by rendering transparent the process of data pooling.

Usage

```
netmeasures(
  x,
  random = x$random | !missing(tau.preset),
  tau.preset = x$tau.preset,
  warn = gs("warn"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether random effects model should be used to calculate network measures.
<code>tau.preset</code>	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>warn</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Details

The direct evidence proportion gives the absolute contribution of direct effect estimates combined for two-arm and multi-arm studies to one network estimate.

Concerning indirectness, comparisons with a mean path length beyond two should be interpreted with particular caution, as more than two direct comparisons have to be combined serially on average.

Large indices of parallelism, either on study-level or on aggregated level, can be considered as supporting the validity of a network meta-analysis if there is only a small amount of heterogeneity.

The network estimates for two treatments are linear combinations of direct effect estimates comparing these or other treatments. The linear coefficients can be seen as the generalization of weights known from classical meta-analysis. These coefficients are given in the projection matrix H of the underlying model. For multi-arm studies, the coefficients depend on the choice of the study-specific baseline treatment, but the absolute flow of evidence can be made explicit for each design as shown in König et al. (2013) and is given in `H.tilde`.

All measures are calculated based on the common effects meta-analysis by default. In the case that in function `netmeta` the argument `random = TRUE`, all measures are calculated for a random effects model. The value of the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 can also be prespecified by argument `tau.preset` in function `netmeta`.

Value

A list containing the following components:

<code>random, tau.preset</code>	As defined above.
<code>proportion</code>	A named vector of the direct evidence proportion of each network estimate.
<code>meanpath</code>	A named vector of the mean path length of each network estimate.
<code>minpar</code>	A named vector of the minimal parallelism on aggregated level of each network estimate.
<code>minpar.study</code>	A named vector of the minimal parallelism on study level of each network estimate.
<code>H.tilde</code>	Design-based hat matrix with information on absolute evidence flow per design. The number of rows is equal to the number of possible pairwise treatment comparisons and the number of columns is equal to the number of designs.

Author(s)

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References

König J, Krahn U, Binder H (2013): Visualizing the flow of evidence in network meta-analysis and characterizing mixed treatment comparisons. *Statistics in Medicine*, **32**, 5414–29

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)

# Transform data from arm-based format to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

# Conduct network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# Calculate measures based on a common effects model
#
nm <- netmeasures(nma)

# Plot of minimal parallelism versus mean path length
#
plot(nm$meanpath, nm$minpar, type = "n",
  xlab = "Mean path length", ylab = "Minimal parallelism")
text(nm$meanpath, nm$minpar, names(nm$meanpath), cex = 0.8)
```

netmeta

Network meta-analysis using graph-theoretical method

Description

Network meta-analysis is a generalisation of pairwise meta-analysis that compares all pairs of treatments within a number of treatments for the same condition. The graph-theoretical approach for network meta-analysis uses methods that were originally developed in electrical network theory. It has been found to be equivalent to the frequentist approach to network meta-analysis which is based on weighted least squares regression (Rücker, 2012). An extension for multi-arm studies with correlated treatment arms is also implemented (Rücker & Schwarzer, 2025, unpublished).

Usage

```

netmeta(
  TE,
  seTE,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  studlab,
  data = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  correlated,
  sm,
  level = gs("level"),
  level.ma = gs("level.ma"),
  common = gs("common"),
  random = gs("random") | !is.null(tau.preset),
  prediction = gs("prediction"),
  level.predict = gs("level.predict"),
  reference.group,
  baseline.reference = gs("baseline.reference"),
  small.values = gs("small.values"),
  all.treatments = gs("all.treatments"),
  seq = gs("seq"),
  method.tau = gs("method.tau.netmeta"),
  tau.preset = NULL,
  method.random.ci = "classic",
  tol.multiarm = gs("tol.multiarm"),
  tol.multiarm.se = gs("tol.multiarm.se"),
  details.chkmultiarm = gs("details.chkmultiarm"),
  sep.trts = gs("sep.trts"),
  nchar.trts = gs("nchar.trts"),
  nchar.studlab = gs("nchar.studlab"),
  func.inverse = invmat,
  n1 = NULL,
  n2 = NULL,
  event1 = NULL,
  event2 = NULL,
  incr = NULL,
  mean1 = NULL,
  mean2 = NULL,
  sd1 = NULL,
  sd2 = NULL,
  time1 = NULL,
  time2 = NULL,
  overall.hetstat = gs("overall.hetstat"),
  backtransf = gs("backtransf"),
  title = gs("title"),
  keepdata = gs("keepdata"),
  keeprma = gs("keeprma"),

```

```

    control = NULL,
    warn = gs("warn"),
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    nchar = nchar.trts,
    ...
)

```

Arguments

TE	Estimate of treatment effect, i.e. difference between first and second treatment (e.g. log odds ratio, mean difference, or log hazard ratio). Or an R object created with pairwise .
seTE	Standard error of treatment estimate.
treat1	Label/Number for first treatment.
treat2	Label/Number for second treatment.
studlab	An optional - but important! - vector with study labels (see Details).
data	An optional data frame containing the study information.
subset	An optional vector specifying a subset of studies to be used.
correlated	An optional logical vector specifying whether treatment arms of a multi-arm study are correlated (see Details).
sm	A character string indicating underlying summary measure, e.g., "RD", "RR", "OR", "ASD", "HR", "MD", "SMD", or "ROM".
level	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual comparisons.
level.ma	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.
common	A logical indicating whether a common effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
random	A logical indicating whether a random effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
prediction	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
level.predict	The level used to calculate prediction intervals for a new study.
reference.group	Reference treatment (first treatment is used if argument is missing).
baseline.reference	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
small.values	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect (passed on to netrank , can be abbreviated).
all.treatments	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
seq	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in print-outs.

method.tau	A character string indicating which method is used to estimate the between-study variance τ^2 and its square root τ . Either "DL", "REML", or "ML", can be abbreviated.
tau.preset	An optional value for manually setting the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
method.random.ci	A character string indicating which method is used to calculate confidence interval and test statistic for random effects estimate; either "classic" for standard normal quantiles or "t-dist" for quantiles from the t-distribution, can be abbreviated.
tol.multiarm	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of treatment estimates in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design.
tol.multiarm.se	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of standard errors in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design. This check is not conducted if the argument is NULL.
details.chkmultiarm	A logical indicating whether treatment estimates and / or variances of multi-arm studies with inconsistent results or negative multi-arm variances should be printed.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
nchar.studlab	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.
func.inverse	R function used to calculate the pseudoinverse of the Laplacian matrix L (see Details).
n1	Number of observations in first treatment group.
n2	Number of observations in second treatment group.
event1	Number of events in first treatment group.
event2	Number of events in second treatment group.
incr	Numerical value added to cell frequencies to construct the covariance matrix used to calculate the REML or ML estimate of the between-study variance τ^2 (only for binary or count outcomes).
mean1	Mean in first treatment group.
mean2	Mean in second treatment group.
sd1	Standard deviation in first treatment group.
sd2	Standard deviation in second treatment group.
time1	Person time at risk in first treatment group.
time2	Person time at risk in second treatment group.
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.

backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
keepdata	A logical indicating whether original data(set) should be kept in netmeta object.
keeprma	A logical indicating whether <code>rma.mv</code> object should be stored.
control	An optional list to control the iterative process to estimate the between-study variance τ^2 . This argument is passed on to <code>rma.mv</code> .
warn	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed (e.g., if studies are excluded from meta-analysis due to zero standard errors).
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
nchar	Deprecated argument (replaced by <code>nchar.trts</code>).
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Details

Network meta-analysis using R package **netmeta** is described in detail in Schwarzer et al. (2015), Chapter 8.

Network meta-analysis model: Let n be the number of different treatments (nodes, vertices) in a network and let m be the number of existing comparisons (edges) between the treatments. If there are only two-arm studies, m is the number of studies. Let TE and seTE be the vectors of observed effects and their standard errors. Let W be the $m \times m$ diagonal matrix that contains the inverse variance $1 / \text{seTE}^2$.

The given comparisons define the network structure. Therefrom an $m \times n$ design matrix X (edge-vertex incidence matrix) is formed; for more precise information, see Rücker (2012). Moreover, the $n \times n$ Laplacian matrix L and its Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse L^+ are calculated (both matrices play an important role in graph theory and electrical network theory). Using these matrices, the variances based on both direct and indirect comparisons can be estimated. Moreover, the hat matrix H can be estimated by $H = XL + X^t W X = X(X^t W X)^+ X^t W$ and finally consistent treatment effects can be estimated by applying the hat matrix to the observed (potentially inconsistent) effects. H is a projection matrix which maps the observed effects onto the consistent $(n-1)$ -dimensional subspace. This is the Aitken estimator (Senn et al., 2013). As in pairwise meta-analysis, the Q statistic measures the deviation from consistency. Q can be separated into parts for each pairwise meta-analysis and a part for remaining inconsistency between comparisons.

A simple random effects model assuming that a constant heterogeneity variance is added to each comparison of the network can be defined via a generalised methods of moments estimate of the between-studies variance τ^2 (Jackson et al., 2012). This is added to the observed sampling variance seTE^2 of each comparison in the network (before appropriate adjustment for multi-arm studies). Then, as in standard pairwise meta-analysis, the procedure is repeated with the resulting enlarged standard errors.

For the random-effects model, the direct treatment estimates are based on the common between-study variance τ^2 from the network meta-analysis.

Multi-arm studies: Often multi-arm studies are included in a network meta-analysis. In multi-arm studies, the treatment effects on different comparisons are not independent, but correlated. This is accounted for by reweighting all comparisons of each multi-arm study. The method is described in Rücker (2012) and Rücker and Schwarzer (2014).

Comparisons belonging to multi-arm studies are identified by identical study labels (argument `studlab`). It is therefore important to use identical study labels for all comparisons belonging to the same multi-arm study, e.g., study label "Willms1999" for the three-arm study in the data example (Senn et al., 2013). The function `netmeta` then automatically accounts for within-study correlation by reweighting all comparisons of each multi-arm study.

Note, all pairwise comparisons must be provided for a multi-arm study. Consider a multi-arm study of p treatments with known variances. For this study, treatment effects and standard errors must be provided for each of $p(p - 1) / 2$ possible comparisons. For instance, a three-arm study contributes three pairwise comparisons, a four-arm study even six pairwise comparisons. Function `pairwise` automatically calculates all pairwise comparisons for multi-arm studies.

Studies with correlated treatment arms: The network meta-analysis method described in Rücker (2012) assumes that the treatment arms of a study are independent. This assumption is justified for parallel design trials and leads to variance consistency in multi-arm trials. However, this assumption is violated for trials with correlated arms, for example, split-body trials. For these trials, the variance of a contrast is not the sum of the arm-based variances, but comes with a correlation term which may lead to the violation of variance consistency. Using argument `correlated`, an alternative method is used for studies with correlated treatment arms (Rücker & Schwarzer, 2025, unpublished).

Argument `correlated`, which must be of the same length as arguments `TE`, `seTE`, etc., is a logical vector which must be `TRUE` for trials with correlated arms and `FALSE` otherwise. This can be easily done using a variable with design information like `correlated = design != "Parallel"`.

Data formats: Data entry for this function is in *contrast-based* format, that is, data are given as contrasts (differences) between two treatments (argument `TE`) with standard error (argument `seTE`). In principle, meta-analysis functions from R package `meta`, e.g. `metabin` for binary outcomes or `metacont` for continuous outcomes, can be used to calculate treatment effects separately for each treatment comparison which is a rather tedious enterprise. If data are provided in *arm-based* format, that is, data are given for each treatment arm separately (e.g. number of events and participants for binary outcomes), a much more convenient way to transform data into contrast-based form is available. Function `pairwise` can automatically transform data with binary outcomes (using the `metabin` function from R package `meta`), continuous outcomes (`metacont` function), incidence rates (`metainc` function), and generic outcomes (`metagen` function). Additional arguments of these functions can be provided (see help page of function `pairwise`).

Additional comments: Internally, both common and random effects models are calculated regardless of values chosen for arguments `common` and `random`. Accordingly, the network estimates for the random effects model can be extracted from component `TE.random` of an object of class "netmeta" even if argument `random = FALSE`. However, all functions in R package `netmeta` will adequately consider the values for `common` and `random`. E.g. function `print.summary.netmeta` will not print results for the random effects model if `random = FALSE`.

By default, treatment names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.trts` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated treatment names (see `abbreviate`, argument `minlength`). R function `treats` is utilised internally to create abbreviated treatment names.

Names of treatment comparisons are created by concatenating treatment labels of pairwise comparisons using `sep.trts` as separator (see [paste](#)). These comparison names are used in the covariance matrices `Cov.common` and `Cov.random` and in some R functions, e.g. [decomp.design](#). By default, a colon is used as the separator. If any treatment label contains a colon the following characters are used as separator (in consecutive order): "-", "_", "/", "+", ".", "|", and "*". If all of these characters are used in treatment labels, a corresponding error message is printed asking the user to specify a different separator.

Value

An object of class `netmeta` with corresponding `print`, `summary`, `forest`, and `netrank` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>studlab</code> , <code>treat1</code> , <code>treat2</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code>	As defined above.
<code>seTE.adj.common</code> , <code>seTE.adj.random</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate, adjusted for multi-arm studies.
<code>design</code>	Design of study providing pairwise comparison.
<code>n1</code> , <code>n2</code> , <code>event1</code> , <code>event2</code> , <code>incr</code>	As defined above.
<code>mean1</code> , <code>mean2</code> , <code>sd1</code> , <code>sd2</code> , <code>time1</code> , <code>time2</code>	As defined above.
<code>sd1</code> , <code>sd2</code> , <code>time1</code> , <code>time2</code>	As defined above.
<code>k</code>	Total number of studies.
<code>m</code>	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
<code>n</code>	Total number of treatments.
<code>d</code>	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
<code>trts</code>	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
<code>k.trts</code>	Number of studies evaluating a treatment.
<code>n.trts</code>	Number of observations receiving a treatment (if arguments <code>n1</code> and <code>n2</code> are provided).
<code>events.trts</code>	Number of events observed for a treatment (if arguments <code>event1</code> and <code>event2</code> are provided).
<code>multiarm</code>	Logical vector to identify pairwise comparisons from multi-arm studies.
<code>n.arms</code>	Number of treatment arms in study providing pairwise comparison.
<code>studies</code>	Vector with unique study labels.
<code>narms</code>	Number of arms for each study.
<code>designs</code>	Vector with unique designs present in the network. A design corresponds to the set of treatments compared within a study.
<code>comparisons</code>	Vector with unique direct comparisons present in the network.
<code>TE.nma.common</code> , <code>TE.nma.random</code>	A vector of length <i>m</i> of consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (nma) (common / random effects model).

<code>seTE.nma.common</code> , <code>seTE.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of effective standard errors estimated by network meta-analysis (common / random effects model).
<code>lower.nma.common</code> , <code>lower.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of lower confidence interval limits for consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (common effects / random effects model).
<code>upper.nma.common</code> , <code>upper.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of upper confidence interval limits for the consistent treatment effects estimated by network meta-analysis (common effects / random effects model).
<code>statistic.nma.common</code> , <code>statistic.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of z-values for test of treatment effect for individual comparisons (common / random effects model).
<code>pval.nma.common</code> , <code>pval.nma.random</code>	A vector of length m of p-values for test of treatment effect for individual comparisons (common / random effects model).
<code>leverage.common</code>	A vector of length m of leverages, interpretable as factors by which variances are reduced using information from the whole network.
<code>w.common</code> , <code>w.random</code>	A vector of length m of weights of individual studies (common / random effects model).
<code>Q.common</code>	A vector of length m of contributions to total heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic.
<code>TE.common</code> , <code>TE.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with estimated overall treatment effects (common / random effects model).
<code>seTE.common</code> , <code>seTE.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with standard errors (common / random effects model).
<code>lower.common</code> , <code>upper.common</code> , <code>lower.random</code> , <code>upper.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits (common / random effects model).
<code>statistic.common</code> , <code>pval.common</code> , <code>statistic.random</code> , <code>pval.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect (common / random effects model).
<code>seTE.predict</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with standard errors for prediction intervals.
<code>lower.predict</code> , <code>upper.predict</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with lower and upper prediction interval limits.
<code>prop.direct.common</code> , <code>prop.direct.random</code>	A named vector of the direct evidence proportion of each network estimate. (common effects / random effects model).
<code>TE.direct.common</code> , <code>TE.direct.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with estimated treatment effects from direct evidence (common effects / random effects model).

`seTE.direct.common, seTE.direct.random`
 nxn matrix with estimated standard errors from direct evidence (common effects / random effects model).

`lower.direct.common, upper.direct.common, lower.direct.random, upper.direct.random`
 nxn matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits from direct evidence (common / random effects model).

`statistic.direct.common, pval.direct.common, statistic.direct.random, pval.direct.random`
 nxn matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect from direct evidence (common / random effects model).

`TE.indirect.common, TE.indirect.random`
 nxn matrix with estimated treatment effects from indirect evidence (common / random effects model).

`seTE.indirect.common, seTE.indirect.random`
 nxn matrix with estimated standard errors from indirect evidence (common / random effects model).

`lower.indirect.common, upper.indirect.common, lower.indirect.random, upper.indirect.random`
 nxn matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits from indirect evidence (common / random effects model).

`statistic.indirect.common, pval.indirect.common, statistic.indirect.random, pval.indirect.random`
 nxn matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect from indirect evidence (common / random effects model).

`Q` Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic.

`df.Q` Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.

`pval.Q` P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.

`I2, lower.I2, upper.I2`
 I-squared, lower and upper confidence limits.

`tau` Square-root of between-study variance.

`Q.heterogeneity`
 Overall heterogeneity statistic.

`df.Q.heterogeneity`
 Degrees of freedom for test of overall heterogeneity.

`pval.Q.heterogeneity`
 P-value for test of overall heterogeneity.

`Q.inconsistency`
 Overall inconsistency statistic.

`df.Q.inconsistency`
 Degrees of freedom for test of overall inconsistency.

`pval.Q.inconsistency`
 P-value for test of overall inconsistency.

`Q.decomp` Data frame with columns 'treat1', 'treat2', 'Q', 'df' and 'pval.Q', providing heterogeneity statistics for each pairwise meta-analysis of direct comparisons.

<code>A.matrix</code>	Adjacency matrix (nxn).
<code>X.matrix</code>	Design matrix (mxn).
<code>B.matrix</code>	Edge-vertex incidence matrix (mxn).
<code>L.matrix.common</code> , <code>L.matrix.random</code>	Laplacian matrix (nxn).
<code>Lplus.matrix.common</code> , <code>Lplus.matrix.random</code>	Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse of the Laplacian matrix (nxn).
<code>Q.matrix</code>	Matrix of heterogeneity statistics for pairwise meta-analyses, where direct comparisons exist (nxn).
<code>G.matrix</code>	Matrix with variances and covariances of comparisons (mxm). G is defined as $\mathbf{BL+B^t}$.
<code>H.matrix.common</code> , <code>H.matrix.random</code>	Hat matrix (mxm), defined as $\mathbf{H = GW = BL+B^tW}$.
<code>n.matrix</code>	nxn matrix with number of observations in direct comparisons (if arguments <code>n1</code> and <code>n2</code> are provided).
<code>events.matrix</code>	nxn matrix with number of events in direct comparisons (if arguments <code>event1</code> and <code>event2</code> are provided).
<code>P.common</code> , <code>P.random</code>	nxn matrix with direct evidence proportions (common / random effects model).
<code>Cov.common</code>	Variance-covariance matrix (common effects model)
<code>Cov.random</code>	Variance-covariance matrix (random effects model)
<code>sm</code> , <code>level</code> , <code>level.ma</code>	As defined above.
<code>common</code> , <code>random</code>	As defined above.
<code>prediction</code> , <code>level.predict</code>	As defined above.
<code>reference.group</code> , <code>baseline.reference</code> , <code>small.values</code> , <code>all.treatments</code>	As defined above.
<code>seq</code> , <code>tau.preset</code> , <code>tol.multiarm</code> , <code>tol.multiarm.se</code>	As defined above.
<code>details.chkmultiarm</code> , <code>sep.trts</code> , <code>nchar.trts</code>	As defined above.
<code>backtransf</code> , <code>title</code> , <code>warn</code> , <code>warn.deprecated</code>	As defined above.
<code>call</code>	Function call.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

In addition, the following component is stored if **metafor** is used to calculate the between-study variance and argument `keeprma = TRUE`:

<code>rma.tau</code>	R object created with <code>rma.mv</code> .
----------------------	---

Note

R function `rma.mv` from R package **metafor** (Viechtbauer 2010) is called internally to estimate the between-study variance τ^2 for the (restricted) maximum likelihood method. For binary outcomes, incidence rates, and the mean difference, the variance-covariance matrix is calculated if arguments `event1`, `event2`, `n1`, and `n2` (binary outcomes); `event1`, `event2`, `time1`, and `time2` (incidence rates); `n1`, `n2`, `sd1`, and `sd2` (mean difference) are provided. For datasets preprocessed with `pairwise` the respective variables are selected automatically.

Author(s)

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See Also

`pairwise`, `forest.netmeta`, `netrank`, `metagen`, `smokingcessation`, `Senn2013`, `dietaryfat`

Examples

```
#
# 1) Smoking cessation example
#

data(smokingcessation)

# Transform data from wide arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw1 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE)
nma1
```

```

# Draw network graphs
#
netgraph(nma1, points = TRUE, cex.points = 3, cex = 1.25)
tname <- c("No intervention", "Self-help",
           "Individual counselling", "Group counselling")
netgraph(nma1, points = TRUE, cex.points = 3, cex = 1.25, labels = tname)

# Forest plot
#
forest(nma1)

#
# 2) Diabetes example
#

# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw2 <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
                n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
                varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct common effects network meta-analysis
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, random = FALSE)
nma2

## Not run:
# Senn (2013) data set in comparison-based format
data(Senn2013)
#
nma2.2 <- netmeta(TE, seTE, treat1, treat2, studlab,
                 data = Senn2013, sm = "MD", random = FALSE)
nma2.2
rm(Senn2013)

## End(Not run)

nma2$Q.decomp

# Comparison with reference group
#
print(nma2, reference = "plac")
forest(nma2, reference = "plac")

# Print detailed results
#
snma2 <- summary(nma2)
print(snma2, digits = 3)

# Only show individual study results for multi-arm studies
#

```

```

print(snma2, digits = 3, truncate = multiarm)

# Only show first three individual study results
#
print(snma2, digits = 3, truncate = 1:3)

# Only show individual study results for 'Kim 2007' and 'Willms 1999'
#
print(snma2, digits = 3, truncate = c("Kim 2007", "Willms 1999"))

# Only show individual study results for studies starting with the
# letter "W"
#
print(snma2, ref = "plac", digits = 3,
      truncate = substring(studlab, 1, 1) == "W")

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma3 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE, reference = "plac")
nma3
forest(nma3, xlim = c(-1.5, 1), xlab = "HbA1c difference")

# Add column with P-Scores on right side of forest plot
#
forest(nma3, xlim = c(-1.5, 1),
      xlab = "HbA1c difference",
      rightcols = c("effect", "ci", "Pscore"),
      just.addcols = "right")

# Add column with P-Scores on left side of forest plot
#
forest(nma3, xlim = c(-1.5, 1),
      xlab = "HbA1c difference",
      leftcols = c("studlab", "Pscore"),
      just.addcols = "right")

# Sort forest plot by descending P-Score
#
forest(nma3, xlim = c(-1.5, 1),
      xlab = "HbA1c difference",
      rightcols = c("effect", "ci", "Pscore"),
      just.addcols = "right",
      sortvar = -Pscore)

# Sort by and print number of studies with direct treatment comparisons
#
forest(nma3, xlim = c(-1.5, 1),
      xlab = "HbA1c difference",
      leftcols = c("studlab", "k"),
      leftlabs = c("Contrast\nto Placebo", "Direct\nComparisons"),
      sortvar = -k,
      smlab = "Random Effects Model")

```

```

# Change printing order of treatments with placebo last and use
# long treatment names
#
trts <- c("acar", "benf", "metf", "mig1", "piog",
          "rosi", "sita", "sulf", "vild", "plac")
#
nma4 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE, reference = "plac", seq = trts)
print(nma4, digits = 2)

#
# 3) Dietary fat example
#

data(dietaryfat)

# Transform data from arm-based format to contrast-based format
# Using incidence rate ratios (sm = "IRR") as effect measure.
# Note, the argument 'sm' is not necessary as this is the default
# in R function metainc() called internally
#
pw5 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
                 list(d1, d2, d3), time = list(years1, years2, years3),
                 studlab = ID, data = dietaryfat, sm = "IRR")
pw5

# Conduct network meta-analysis
#
nma5 <- netmeta(pw5)
nma5

# Conduct network meta-analysis using incidence rate differences
# (sm = "IRD")
#
pw6 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
                 list(d1, d2, d3), time = list(years1, years2, years3),
                 studlab = ID, data = dietaryfat, sm = "IRD")
nma6 <- netmeta(pw6)
nma6

# Draw network graph
#
netgraph(nma5, points = TRUE, cex.points = 3, cex = 1.25,
          labels = c("Control", "Diet", "Diet 2"))

```

Description

Provides four models for the network meta-analysis of binary data (Mantel-Haenszel method, based on the non-central hypergeometric distribution, penalised logistic regression, and the inverse variance method).

Usage

```
netmetabin(
  event1,
  n1,
  event2,
  n2,
  treat1,
  treat2,
  studlab,
  data = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  sm,
  method = "MH",
  cc.pooled = FALSE,
  incr,
  method.incr,
  allstudies,
  level = gs("level"),
  level.ma = gs("level.ma"),
  common = gs("common"),
  random = method %in% c("Inverse", "LRP") & (gs("random") | !is.null(tau.preset)),
  prediction = gs("prediction"),
  level.predict = gs("level.predict"),
  reference.group,
  baseline.reference = gs("baseline.reference"),
  small.values = gs("small.values"),
  all.treatments = gs("all.treatments"),
  seq = gs("seq"),
  tau.preset = NULL,
  tol.multiarm = 0.001,
  tol.multiarm.se = NULL,
  details.chkmultiarm = FALSE,
  details.chkdata = TRUE,
  sep.trts = ":",
  nchar.trts = 666,
  func.inverse = invmat,
  overall.hetstat = gs("overall.hetstat"),
  backtransf = gs("backtransf"),
  title = gs("title"),
  keepdata = gs("keepdata"),
  addincr,
  allincr,
```

```
warn = gs("warn"),
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
...
)
```

Arguments

event1	Number of events (first treatment).
n1	Number of observations (first treatment).
event2	Number of events (second treatment).
n2	Number of observations (second treatment)
treat1	Label/Number for first treatment.
treat2	Label/Number for second treatment.
studlab	An optional - but important! - vector with study labels (see Details).
data	An optional data frame containing the study information.
subset	An optional vector specifying a subset of studies to be used.
sm	A character string indicating underlying summary measure, i.e., "RD", "RR", "OR", "ASD".
method	A character string indicating which method is to be used for pooling of studies. One of "MH", "NCH", "LRP", or "Inverse", can be abbreviated.
cc.pooled	A logical indicating whether incr should be used as a continuity correction, when calculating the network meta-analysis estimates (ignored for penalised logistic regression and inverse variance method).
incr	A numerical value which is added to each cell count, i.e., to the numbers of events and non-events, of all treatment arms in studies with zero events or non-events in any of the treatment arms ("continuity correction").
method.incr	A character string indicating which continuity correction method should be used ("only0", "if0all", or "all"), see metabin .
allstudies	A logical indicating whether studies with zero events or non-events in all treatment arms should be included in an inverse variance meta-analysis (applies only if method = "Inverse" and sm is equal to either "RR" or "OR").
level	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual studies.
level.ma	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.
common	A logical indicating whether a common effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
random	A logical indicating whether a random effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
prediction	A logical indicating whether a prediction interval should be printed (only considered if method = "Inverse").
level.predict	The level used to calculate prediction interval for a new study (only considered if method = "Inverse").
reference.group	Reference treatment.

baseline.reference	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if reference.group has been specified.
small.values	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect (passed on to netrank , can be abbreviated.
all.treatments	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
seq	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments in printouts.
tau.preset	An optional value for manually setting the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 (only considered if method = "Inverse").
tol.multiarm	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of treatment estimates in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design (only considered if method = "Inverse").
tol.multiarm.se	A numeric for the tolerance for consistency of standard errors in multi-arm studies which are consistent by design (only considered if the argument is not NULL and method = "Inverse").
details.chkmultiarm	A logical indicating whether treatment estimates and / or variances of multi-arm studies with inconsistent results or negative multi-arm variances should be printed (only considered if method = "Inverse").
details.chkdata	A logical indicating whether number of events and participants of studies with inconsistent data should be printed.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
func.inverse	R function used to calculate the pseudoinverse of the Laplacian matrix L (see netmeta).
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
keepdata	A logical indicating whether original data(set) should be kept in netmeta object.
addincr	Deprecated argument (replaced by 'method.incr'); see metabin .
allincr	Deprecated argument (replaced by 'method.incr'); see metabin .
warn	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed (e.g., if studies are excluded from meta-analysis due to zero standard errors).
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Details

This function implements four models for the network meta-analysis of binary data:

- The Mantel-Haenszel network meta-analysis model, as described in Efthimiou et al. (2019) (method = "MH");
- a network meta-analysis model using the non-central hypergeometric distribution with the Breslow approximation, as described in Stijnen et al. (2010) (method = "NCH");
- a logistic regression with penalised likelihood, as described in Evrenoglou et al. (2022) (method = "LRP");
- the inverse variance method for network meta-analysis (method = "Inverse"), also provided by [netmeta](#).

Comparisons belonging to multi-arm studies are identified by identical study labels (argument `studlab`). It is therefore important to use identical study labels for all comparisons belonging to the same multi-arm study.

Data entry for this function is in *contrast-based* format, that is, each line of the data corresponds to a single pairwise comparison between two treatments (arguments `treat1`, `treat2`, `event1`, `n1`, `event2`, and `n2`). If data are provided in *arm-based* format, that is, number of events and participants are given for each treatment arm separately, function [pairwise](#) can be used to transform the data to *contrast-based* format (see help page of function [pairwise](#)).

Note, all pairwise comparisons must be provided for a multi-arm study. Consider a multi-arm study of p treatments with known variances. For this study, the number of events and observations must be provided for each treatment, for each of $p(p - 1) / 2$ possible comparisons in separate lines in the data. For instance, a three-arm study contributes three pairwise comparisons, a four-arm study even six pairwise comparisons. Function [pairwise](#) automatically calculates all pairwise comparisons for multi-arm studies.

For method = "Inverse", both common and random effects models are calculated regardless of values chosen for arguments `common` and `random`. Accordingly, the network estimates for the random effects model can be extracted from component `TE.random` of an object of class "netmeta" even if argument `random` = FALSE. However, all functions in R package **netmeta** will adequately consider the values for `common` and `random`. E.g. function [print.summary.netmeta](#) will not print results for the random effects model if `random` = FALSE.

For the random-effects model, the direct treatment estimates are based on the common between-study variance τ^2 from the network meta-analysis.

For method = "MH" and method = "NCH", only a common effects model is available.

By default, treatment names are not abbreviated in printouts. However, in order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.trts` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated treatment names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function [treats](#) is utilised internally to create abbreviated treatment names.

Names of treatment comparisons are created by concatenating treatment labels of pairwise comparisons using `sep.trts` as separator (see [paste](#)). These comparison names are used in the covariance matrices `Cov.common` and `Cov.random` and in some R functions, e.g. [decomp.design](#). By default, a colon is used as the separator. If any treatment label contains a colon the following characters are used as separator (in consecutive order): "-", "_", "/", "+", ".", "|", and "*". If all of these characters are used in treatment labels, a corresponding error message is printed asking the user to specify a different separator.

Value

An object of class `netmetabin` and `netmeta` with corresponding `print`, `summary`, `forest`, and `netrank` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>studlab</code> , <code>treat1</code> , <code>treat2</code>	As defined above.
<code>n1</code> , <code>n2</code> , <code>event1</code> , <code>event2</code>	As defined above.
<code>TE</code>	Estimate of treatment effect, i.e. difference between first and second treatment (e.g. log odds ratio).
<code>seTE</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate.
<code>k</code>	Total number of studies.
<code>m</code>	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
<code>n</code>	Total number of treatments.
<code>d</code>	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
<code>trts</code>	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
<code>k.trts</code>	Number of studies evaluating a treatment.
<code>n.trts</code>	Number of observations receiving a treatment.
<code>events.trts</code>	Number of events observed for a treatment.
<code>studies</code>	Study labels coerced into a factor with its levels sorted alphabetically.
<code>narms</code>	Number of arms for each study.
<code>designs</code>	Unique list of designs present in the network. A design corresponds to the set of treatments compared within a study.
<code>TE.common</code> , <code>seTE.common</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with estimated overall treatment effects and standard errors for common effects model.
<code>lower.common</code> , <code>upper.common</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits for common effects model.
<code>statistic.common</code> , <code>pval.common</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect under common effects model.
<code>TE.random</code> , <code>seTE.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrix with estimated overall treatment effects and standard errors for random effects model (only available if <code>method = "Inverse"</code>).
<code>lower.random</code> , <code>upper.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits for random effects model (only available if <code>method = "Inverse"</code>).
<code>statistic.random</code> , <code>pval.random</code>	$n \times n$ matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect under random effects model (only available if <code>method = "Inverse"</code>).

`TE.direct.common, seTE.direct.common`
 nxn matrix with estimated treatment effects and standard errors from direct evidence under common effects model.

`lower.direct.common, upper.direct.common`
 nxn matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits from direct evidence under common effects model.

`statistic.direct.common, pval.direct.common`
 nxn matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect from direct evidence under common effects model.

`TE.direct.random, seTE.direct.random`
 nxn matrix with estimated treatment effects and standard errors from direct evidence under random effects model (only available if method = "Inverse").

`lower.direct.random, upper.direct.random`
 nxn matrices with lower and upper confidence interval limits from direct evidence under random effects model (only available if method = "Inverse").

`statistic.direct.random, pval.direct.random`
 nxn matrices with z-value and p-value for test of overall treatment effect from direct evidence under random effects model (only available if method = "Inverse").

`Q` Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic. (only available if method = "Inverse")

`df.Q` Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.

`pval.Q` P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.

`I2, lower.I2, upper.I2`
 I-squared, lower and upper confidence limits (only available if method = "Inverse").

`tau` Square-root of between-study variance (only available if method = "Inverse").

`Q.heterogeneity`
 Overall heterogeneity statistic. (only available if method = "Inverse")

`df.Q.heterogeneity`
 Degrees of freedom for test of overall heterogeneity.

`pval.Q.heterogeneity`
 P-value for test of overall heterogeneity.

`Q.inconsistency`
 Overall inconsistency statistic.

`df.Q.inconsistency`
 Degrees of freedom for test of overall inconsistency.

`pval.Q.inconsistency`
 P-value for test of overall inconsistency.

`A.matrix` Adjacency matrix (nxn).

`H.matrix.common`
 Hat matrix (mxm)

`n.matrix` nxn matrix with number of observations in direct comparisons.

`events.matrix` nxn matrix with number of events in direct comparisons.

`sm, method, level, level.ma`
 As defined above.

`incr, method.incr, allstudies, cc.pooled`
 As defined above.

addincr, allincr	As defined above.
common, random	As defined above.
prediction, level.predict	As defined above.
reference.group, baseline.reference, small.values, all.treatments	As defined above.
seq, tau.preset, tol.multiarm, tol.multiarm.se	As defined above.
details.chkmultiarm, details.chkdata	As defined above.
sep.trts, nchar.trts, overall.hetstat	As defined above.
backtransf, title, warn, warn.deprecated	As defined above.
data	Dataset (in contrast-based format).
data.design	List with data in arm-based format (each list element corresponds to a single design).
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

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References

- Efthimiou O, Rücker G, Schwarzer G, Higgins J, Egger M, Salanti G (2019): A Mantel-Haenszel model for network meta-analysis of rare events. *Statistics in Medicine*, **38**, 2992–3012
- Evrenoglou T, White IR, Afach S, Mavridis D, Chaimani A (2022): Network Meta-analysis of rare events using penalized likelihood regression. *Statistics in Medicine*, **41**, 5203–19.
- Senn S, Gavini F, Magrez D, Scheen A (2013): Issues in performing a network meta-analysis. *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*, **22**, 169–89
- Stijnen T, Hamza TH, Ozdemir P (2010): Random effects meta-analysis of event outcome in the framework of the generalized linear mixed model with applications in sparse data. *Statistics in Medicine*, **29**, 3046–67

See Also

[pairwise](#), [netmeta](#), [Dong2013](#)

Examples

```
# Only consider first four studies (to reduce runtime of example)
#
first4 <- subset(Dong2013, id <= 4)

# Transform data from long arm-based format to contrast-based
# format. Argument 'sm' has to be used for odds ratio as summary
# measure; by default the risk ratio is used in the metabin
# function called internally.
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treatment, death, randomized, studlab = id,
  data = first4, sm = "OR")

# Conduct Mantel-Haenszel network meta-analysis (without continuity
# correction)
#
nb1 <- netmetabin(pw1, ref = "plac")
nb1

# Obtain the league table
#
netleague(nb1)

# Mantel-Haenszel network meta-analysis for the whole
# dataset: example(Dong2013)
```

netmetareg.netmeta	<i>Network meta-regression with a single continuous or binary covariate</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Network meta-regression with a single continuous or binary covariate for objects of class `netmeta` (Kwarteng et al., 2026). This is a wrapper function for [rma.mv](#) in the R package **metafor** (Viechtbauer 2010).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netmetareg(
  x,
  covar = NULL,
  consistency = TRUE,
  assumption = "independent",
  method.tau = if (!x$random) "FE" else "REML",
  level = x$level.ma,
  reference.group = x$reference.group,
  direction1 = NULL,
```

```

    direction2 = NULL,
    nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
    ...
)

netmetareg(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:
netmetareg(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netmetareg'
print(
  x,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.se = gs("digits.se"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  print.se = FALSE,
  details.methods = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>covar</code>	Continuous or binary covariate.
<code>consistency</code>	A logical indicating whether a consistency or unrelated mean interaction effect (UMIE) model should be assumed.
<code>assumption</code>	A character string indicating which assumption is done for the covariate; either "independent" or "common" (can be abbreviated).
<code>method.tau</code>	A character string indicating which method is used to estimate the between-study variance tau-squared. Either "FE", "REML", or "ML".
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for regression coefficients.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment.
<code>direction1</code>	Directionality parameter for the first treatment group when using UMIE models.
<code>direction2</code>	Directionality parameter for the second treatment group when using UMIE models.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to <code>rma.mv</code> .
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.se</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for standard errors.
<code>digits.stat</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for z- or t-value, see <code>print.default</code> .

digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall treatment effect, see print.default.
print.se	A logical specifying whether standard errors should be printed.
details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.

Details

This R function is a wrapper function for `rma.mv` in the R package **metafor** (Viechtbauer 2010).

Note, results are not back-transformed in printouts of network meta-analyses using summary measures with transformations, e.g., log risk ratios are printed instead of the risk ratio if argument `sm = "RR"`.

Argument `'...'` can be used to pass additional arguments to R function `rma.mv`. For example, argument `control` to provide a list of control values for the iterative estimation algorithm. See help page of R function `rma.mv` for more details.

Value

An object of class `c("netmetareg", "rma.mv", "rma")`. Please look at the help page of R function `rma.mv` for more details on the output from this function.

In addition, a list `.netmeta` is added to the output containing the following components:

<code>x</code> , <code>covar</code> , <code>method.tau</code>	As defined above.
<code>dots</code>	Information provided in argument <code>'...'</code> .
<code>call</code>	Function call.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.
<code>version.metafor</code>	Version of R package metafor used to create object.

Author(s)

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References

Kwarteng N, Evrenoglou T, Mueller J, Elsaesser M, Schramm E, Schwarzer G, Nikolakopoulou A (2026): Illustrating the assumptions of meta-regression in treatment networks. Preprint available at *Research Square*, doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs8235913/v1

Viechtbauer W (2010): Conducting Meta-Analyses in R with the Metafor Package. *Journal of Statistical Software*, **36**, 1–48

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
#
# 1) Smoking cessation example
#
data(smokingcessation)
# Add variable with (fictitious) risk of bias values
# with 1 = "low risk" and 2 = "high risk"
#
smokingcessation$rob <- rep(1:2, 12)

pw1 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

# Run network meta-analysis (NMA)
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE, ref = "A")

# Network meta-regression with continuous covariate and assumption of
# independent slopes
nr1 <- netmetareg(nma1, rob)
nr1

# 2) Pain Prevention of Propofol Injection Example (Jalota2011)
#
# Create pairwise object
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = trt, event = pain, n = n,
  studlab = id, data = Jalota2011, sm = "OR")

# Run network meta-analysis (NMA)
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE, ref = "Hand vein")

# NMR with independent and consistent assumption (default)
nmr2_i <- netmetareg(nma2, covar = seTE, consistency = TRUE,
  assumption = "i")
# NMR with common and consistent assumption
nmr2_c <- netmetareg(nma2, covar = seTE, consistency = TRUE,
  assumption = "c")
# NMR with independent UMIE model (no consistency in interactions) using
# default treatment order
nmr2_i_umie <- netmetareg(nma2, covar = seTE, consistency = FALSE,
  assumption = "i")

# 3) Physical therapy example (Hong 2015)
#
dat3 <- Hong2015
# Externally create a customizable treatment order indicator variable,
# which will later be modified
dat3$trtnum <- as.numeric(as.factor(dat3$trt))
dat3 <- do.call(rbind, lapply(split(dat3, dat3$id),
  function(x) {
    x$direction <- ifelse(x$trtnum == min(x$trtnum), 0, 1)
  })
)
```

```

x}))

pw3 <- pairwise(treat = trt, mean = mean_pain, n = n, sd = sd_pain,
  studlab=id, data = dat3, sm = "MD")
# Create difference variable for covariate
pw3$disability_diff <- pw3$mean_disability1 - pw3$mean_disability2

# Update directionality parameters so that they will exclude imputed values
sel.NA <- is.na(pw3$disability_diff)
pw3$direction1[sel.NA] <- 0
pw3$direction2[sel.NA] <- 0

# Mean imputations for missing covariate values
pw3$disability_diff[sel.NA] <- mean(pw3$disability_diff, na.rm = TRUE)

# NMA
nma3 <- netmeta(pw3, common = FALSE, ref = "No treatment")

# NMR with independent and consistent assumption (default)
nmr3_i <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff, consistency = TRUE,
  assumption = "i")
# NMR with common and consistent assumption
nmr3_c <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff, consistency = TRUE,
  assumption = "c")
# NMR with independent UMIE model (no consistency in interactions) using
# default treatment order variable
nmr3_i_umie <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff, consistency = FALSE,
  assumption = "i")
# NMR with independent UMIE model (no consistency in interactions) using
# custom treatment order variable which excludes the mean imputations from
# interaction estimation
nmr3_i_umie_noimp <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff,
  consistency = FALSE, assumption = "i",
  direction1 = "direction1", direction2 = "direction2")
# NMR with common UMIE model (no consistency in interactions) using default
# treatment order variable
nmr3_c_umie <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff, consistency = FALSE,
  assumption = "c")
# NMR with common UMIE model (no consistency in interactions) using custom
# treatment order variable which excludes the mean imputations from
# interaction estimation
nmr3_c_umie_noimp <- netmetareg(nma3, covar = disability_diff,
  consistency = FALSE, assumption = "c",
  direction1 = "direction1", direction2 = "direction2")

```

Description

Conduct pairwise meta-analyses for all comparisons with direct evidence in a network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
netpairwise(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netpairwise(
  x,
  separate = FALSE,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  level = x$level,
  level.ma = x$level.ma,
  prediction = x$prediction,
  level.predict = x$level.predict,
  reference.group = if (missing(order)) x$reference.group else "",
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  method.tau = x$method.tau,
  order = NULL,
  sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netmetabin'
netpairwise(
  x,
  separate = FALSE,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  level = x$level,
  level.ma = x$level.ma,
  prediction = x$prediction,
  level.predict = x$level.predict,
  reference.group = if (missing(order)) x$reference.group else "",
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  method = x$method,
  incr = x$incr,
  method.incr = x$method.incr,
  allstudies = x$allstudies,
  method.tau = x$method.tau,
  order = NULL,
  sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
```

```
    backtransf = x$backtransf,  
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),  
    ...  
  )  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
print(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
summary(object, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'summary.netpairwise'  
print(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
forest(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
plot(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
funnel(x, k.min = 3, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
radial(x, k.min = 3, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
baujat(x, k.min = 3, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
metabias(x, k.min = 10, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'metabias.netpairwise'  
print(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
trimfill(x, k.min = 3, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'trimfill.netpairwise'  
print(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'  
metainf(x, k.min = 2, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'metainf.netpairwise'  
print(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'
```

```

metacum(x, k.min = 2, ...)

## S3 method for class 'metacum.netpairwise'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'netpairwise'
metareg(x, ..., k.min = 2)

## S3 method for class 'metareg.netpairwise'
print(x, ...)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> or <code>netpairwise</code> .
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (passed on to <code>metagen</code> or <code>print</code> functions and to catch deprecated arguments).
<code>separate</code>	A logical indicating whether results for pairwise comparisons should be printed as separate meta-analyses or as subgroups which is more concise.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether a common effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether a random effects network meta-analysis should be conducted.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual comparisons.
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for pooled estimates.
<code>prediction</code>	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
<code>level.predict</code>	The level used to calculate prediction intervals for a new study.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment.
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>method.tau</code>	A character string indicating which method is used to estimate the between-study variance τ^2 and its square root τ . Either "DL", "REML", or "ML", can be abbreviated.
<code>order</code>	An optional character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments.
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.

method	A character string indicating which method is to be used for pooling of studies, see metabin .
incr	A numerical value which is added to cell counts, see metabin .
method.incr	A character string indicating which continuity correction method should be used ("only0", "if0all", or "all"), see metabin .
allstudies	A logical indicating whether studies with zero events or non-events in all treatment arms should be included in the meta-analysis, see metabin .
object	An object of class netpairwise.
k.min	Minimum number of studies in pairwise comparison to show funnel plot, radial plot or conduct test for funnel plot asymmetry.

Details

Conduct pairwise meta-analyses for all comparisons with direct evidence in a network meta-analysis. In contrast to [netmeta](#) and [netsplit](#), unadjusted standard errors are used in the calculations and the between-study heterogeneity variance is allowed to differ between comparisons.

The R function [metagen](#) is called internally.

Value

Either a single [metagen](#) object with pairwise comparisons as subgroups or a list with [metagen](#) objects for each direct pairwise comparison.

Note

This function must not be confused with [pairwise](#) which can be used as a pre-processing step to convert data from arm-based to contrast-based format by calculating all pairwise comparisons within a study.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netsplit](#), [pairwise](#)

Examples

```
oldsets <- settings.meta(digits = 2, digits.tau2 = 2, digits.tau = 2)

data(smokingcessation)

# Transform data from arm-based format to contrast-based format
#
pw1 <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")
```

```

# Conduct random effects network meta-analysis
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE)

# Calculate and print concise results for all pairwise
# meta-analyses
#
np1 <- netpairwise(nma1)
np1
print(np1, details.method = FALSE)

# Random effects model
#
pw2 <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE, reference = "plac")

# Calculate and print concise results for all pairwise
# meta-analyses
#
np2 <- netpairwise(nma2)
np2
print(np2, details.method = FALSE)

forest(np2)

# Print detailed information for each pairwise comparison
#
np3 <- netpairwise(nma2, separate = TRUE)
forest(np3)
funnel(np3)
radial(np3)
funnel(np3, k.min = 1)

settings.meta(oldsets)

```

Description

Performs a path-based test of inconsistency for a specific comparison (treatment pair) in a network meta-analysis, based on the decomposition of the hat matrix into independent paths connecting the two nodes.

Usage

```
netpath(x, random = x$random, node1, node2, nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts)

## S3 method for class 'netpath'
print(
  x,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  digits.pval.Q = gs("digits.pval.Q"),
  details.methods = gs("details"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A <code>netmeta</code> object.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether the path algorithm is based on a random effects model.
<code>node1</code>	First node.
<code>node2</code>	Second node.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see <code>Details</code>).
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>details.methods</code>	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (igored).

Details

This function implements a path-based approach to assess inconsistency in a network meta-analysis (Tahmasebi et al., 2025). Starting from the hat matrix of the network (as calculated by `hatmatrix` with `method = "Davies"` and `type = "full"`), the direct and indirect evidence contributing to the comparison between `node1` and `node2` is decomposed into a set of independent evidence paths. A depth-first search algorithm is then used to identify these paths. A test statistic `Q` is calculated to test whether the estimates derived from these independent paths are consistent with each other. Under the null hypothesis of consistency, `Q` approximately follows a chi-squared distribution with degrees of freedom equal to the number of independent paths minus one.

Depending on the argument `random`, the network estimates are based on either the common effects model (`random = FALSE`) or the random effects model (`random = TRUE`).

In order to get more concise printouts, argument `nchar.trts` can be used to define the minimum number of characters for abbreviated treatment names (see [abbreviate](#), argument `minlength`). R function [treats](#) is utilised internally to create abbreviated treatment names.

Value

A list of class "netpath" containing the following elements:

<code>results</code>	Data frame containing results of the Q tests
<code>A.matrix</code>	Path-adjacency matrix
<code>Sigma</code>	Standardized matrix derived from the linearly independent paths
<code>theta_p</code>	Theta p
<code>random, node1, node2</code>	As defined above.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	As defined above.
<code>call</code>	Function call.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Noosheen R. Tahmasebi <noosheen.rajabzadehtahmasebi@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Tahmasebi NR, Davies AL, Papakonstantinou T, Rücker G, Nikolakopoulou A (2025): Path-based approach for detecting and assessing inconsistency in network meta-analysis: A novel method. *arXiv*, doi:[10.48550/arXiv.2506.20364](#)

See Also

[netmeta](#), [heatmap.netpath](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Transform data from long arm-based to contrast-based format
#
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))

# Conduct common effects network meta-analysis
#
nma <- netmeta(pw, random = FALSE, nchar.trts = 4)

np <- netpath(nma, node1 = "Placebo", node2 = "Sulfonylurea")
np
```

```
## End(Not run)
```

```
netposet
```

Partial order of treatments in network meta-analysis

Description

Partial order of treatments in network meta-analysis. The set of treatments in a network is called a partially ordered set (in short, a *poset*), if different outcomes provide different treatment ranking lists.

Usage

```
netposet(
  ...,
  outcomes,
  treatments,
  small.values,
  common,
  random,
  fixed,
  comb.fixed,
  comb.random
)

## S3 method for class 'netposet'
print(x, pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"), ...)
```

Arguments

<code>...</code>	See details.
<code>outcomes</code>	A character vector with outcome names.
<code>treatments</code>	A character vector with treatment names.
<code>small.values</code>	See details.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether to show results for the common effects model.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether to show results for the random effects model.
<code>fixed</code>	Ignored deprecated argument (replaced by <code>common</code>).
<code>comb.fixed</code>	Ignored deprecated argument (replaced by <code>common</code>).
<code>comb.random</code>	Ignored deprecated argument (replaced by <code>random</code>).
<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netposet</code> .
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether Hasse diagram should be drawn for common ("common") or random effects model ("random"). Can be abbreviated.

Details

In network meta-analysis, frequently different outcomes are considered which may each provide a different ordering of treatments. The concept of a partially ordered set (in short, a *poset*, Carlsen & Bruggemann, 2014) of treatments can be used to gain further insights in situations with apparently conflicting orderings. This implementation for rankings in network meta-analysis is described in Rücker & Schwarzer (2017).

In function `netposet`, argument `...` can be any of the following:

- arbitrary number of `netrank` objects providing ranking metrics;
- arbitrary number of `netmeta` objects;
- single ranking matrix with each column providing P-scores (Rücker & Schwarzer 2015), SUCRA values (Salanti et al. 2011), or another probabilistic ranking metric where larger values are favorable for an outcome and rows corresponding to treatments.

Note, albeit in general a ranking matrix is not constrained to have values between 0 and 1, `netposet` stops with an error in this case.

Argument `outcomes` can be used to label outcomes. If argument `outcomes` is missing,

- column names of the ranking matrix are used as outcome labels (if first argument is a ranking matrix and column names are available);
- capital letters 'A', 'B', ... are used as outcome labels and a corresponding warning is printed.

Argument `treatments` can be used to provide treatment labels if the first argument is a ranking matrix. If argument `treatment` is missing,

- row names of the ranking matrix are used as treatment labels (if available);
- letters 'a', 'b', ... are used as treatment labels and a corresponding warning is printed.

If argument `...` consists of `netmeta` objects, `netrank` is called internally to calculate P-scores. In this case, argument `small.values` can be used to specify for each outcome whether small values are beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable"); see `netrank`. This argument is ignored for a ranking matrix and `netrank` objects.

If argument `...` consists of `netrank` objects, P-scores, SUCRAs, probabilities of being best, mean ranks, or median ranks can be used. The same ranking metric must be used for all outcomes.

Arguments `common` and `random` can be used to define whether results should be printed and plotted for common and random effects model. If `netmeta` and `netrank` objects are provided in argument `...`, values for `common` and `random` within these objects are considered; if these values are not unique, argument `common` or `random` are set to `TRUE`.

In function `print.netposet`, argument `...` is passed on to the printing function.

Value

An object of class `netposet` with corresponding `print`, `plot`, and `hasse` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>P.common</code>	Ranking matrix with rows corresponding to treatments and columns corresponding to outcomes (common effects model).
<code>M0.common</code>	Hasse matrix skipping unnecessary paths (common effects model).

M.common	"Full" Hasse matrix (common effects model).
O.common	Matrix with information about partial ordering (common effects model).
P.random	Ranking matrix with rows corresponding to treatments and columns corresponding to outcomes (random effects model).
M0.random	Hasse matrix skipping unnecessary paths (random effects model).
M.random	"Full" Hasse matrix (random effects model).
O.random	Matrix with information about partial ordering (random effects model).
small.values, common, random	As defined above.
ranking.type	A character string indicating whether ranking metrics are probabilities or ranks.
method	Ranking metric used for all outcomes.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Carlsen L, Bruggemann R (2014): Partial order methodology: a valuable tool in chemometrics. *Journal of Chemometrics*, **28**, 226–34
- Rücker G, Schwarzer G (2015): Ranking treatments in frequentist network meta-analysis works without resampling methods. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **15**, 58
- Rücker G, Schwarzer G (2017): Resolve conflicting rankings of outcomes in network meta-analysis: Partial ordering of treatments. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **8**, 526–36
- Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netrank](#), [plot.netrank](#), [hasse](#), [plot.netposet](#), [Linde2015](#)

Examples

```
# Define order of treatments in depression data set Linde2015
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI",
         "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa", "rMAO-A", "Hypericum", "Placebo")

# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission")

# (1) Early response
```

```

#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(resp1, resp2, resp3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")

# (2) Early remission
#
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(remi1, remi2, remi3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")

# Partial order of treatment rankings (two outcomes)
#
po12 <- netposet(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2), outcomes = outcomes)

# Scatter plot
#
plot(po12)

# Biplot (same scatter plot as only two outcomes considered)
#
plot(po12, "biplot")

# Hasse diagram for outcomes early response and early remission
#
## Not run:
if (requireNamespace("Rgraphviz", quietly = TRUE))
  hasse(po12)

## End(Not run)

# Scatter plot for outcomes early response and early remission
#
oldpar <- par(pty = "s")
plot(po12)
par(oldpar)

# Consider five outcomes
#
# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission",
  "Lost to follow-up", "Lost to follow-up due to AEs",
  "Adverse events (AEs)")

# (3) Loss to follow-up

```

```

#
pw3 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss1, loss2, loss3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma3 <- netmeta(pw3, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# (4) Loss to follow-up due to adverse events
#
pw4 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss.ae1, loss.ae2, loss.ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = subset(Linde2015, id != 55), sm = "OR")
#
nma4 <- netmeta(pw4, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# (5) Adverse events
#
pw5 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(ae1, ae2, ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma5 <- netmeta(pw5, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# Partial order of treatment rankings (based on netrank() objects)
#
po.ranks <- netposet(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2),
  netrank(nma3), netrank(nma4), netrank(nma5), outcomes = outcomes)

# Same result (based on netmeta() objects)
#
po.nets <- netposet(nma1, nma2, nma3, nma4, nma5,
  outcomes = outcomes)
#
all.equal(po.ranks, po.nets)

# Print matrix with P-scores (random effects model)
#
po.nets$P.random

## Not run:
# Hasse diagram for all outcomes (random effects model)
#
if (requireNamespace("Rgraphviz", quietly = TRUE))
  hasse(po.ranks)

## End(Not run)

# Example using ranking matrix with P-scores
#

```

```

# Ribassin-Majed L, Marguet S, Lee A.W., et al. (2017):
# What is the best treatment of locally advanced nasopharyngeal
# carcinoma? An individual patient data network meta-analysis.
# Journal of Clinical Oncology, 35, 498-505
#
# P-scores (from Table 1)
#
pscore.os <- c(15, 33, 63, 70, 96, 28, 45) / 100
pscore.pfs <- c( 4, 46, 79, 52, 94, 36, 39) / 100
pscore.lc <- c( 9, 27, 47, 37, 82, 58, 90) / 100
pscore.dc <- c(16, 76, 95, 48, 72, 32, 10) / 100
#
pscore.matrix <- data.frame(pscore.os, pscore.pfs, pscore.lc, pscore.dc)
rownames(pscore.matrix) <-
  c("RT", "IC-RT", "IC-CRT", "CRT", "CRT-AC", "RT-AC", "IC-RT-AC")
colnames(pscore.matrix) <- c("OS", "PFS", "LC", "DC")
pscore.matrix
#
po <- netposet(pscore.matrix)
po12 <- netposet(pscore.matrix[, 1:2])
po
po12
#
## Not run:
if (requireNamespace("Rgraphviz", quietly = TRUE)) {
  hasse(po)
  hasse(po12)
}

## End(Not run)
#
oldpar <- par(pty = "s")
plot(po12)
par(oldpar)

```

netrank

Frequentist method to rank treatments in network

Description

Ranking treatments in frequentist network meta-analysis with and without resampling methods.

Usage

```

netrank(
  x,
  small.values = x$small.values,
  method,
  nsim,

```

```

    common = x$common,
    random = x$random,
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    ...
)

## S3 method for class 'netrank'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  sort = TRUE,
  digits = gs("digits.prop"),
  digits.mean = 2,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> or <code>rankogram</code> .
<code>small.values</code>	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect, can be abbreviated.
<code>method</code>	A character string specifying the ranking metric (see Details).
<code>nsim</code>	Number of repetitions for ranking metrics based on resampling.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether to print the rankings for the common effects model.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether to print the rankings for the random effects model.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed on to <code>print.data.frame</code> function (used internally).
<code>sort</code>	A logical indicating whether printout should be sorted by decreasing rankings.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for ranking probabilities, P-scores, and SUCRAs, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.mean</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for mean or median ranks, see <code>print.default</code> .

Details

Treatments considered in a network meta-analysis are ranked by one of the following ranking metrics:

Argument	Ranking metric
<code>method = "P-score"</code>	P-score (Rücker and Schwarzer 2015)
<code>method = "SUCRA"</code>	Surface Under the Cumulative Ranking curve (SUCRA) (Salanti et al. 2011)

method = "best"	Probability of being best (Pr(best))
method = "mean"	Mean rank
method = "median"	Median rank

P-scores are based solely on the point estimates and standard errors of the network estimates. They measure the extent of certainty that a treatment is better than another treatment, averaged over all competing treatments (Rücker and Schwarzer 2015).

Resampling methods are used for all other ranking metrics.

The Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve (SUCRA) is the rank of treatment i within the range of treatments, measured on a scale from 0 (worst) to 1 (best) (Salanti et al. 2011). A resampling method is used to calculate SUCRA for frequentist network meta-analysis. The number of repetitions is determined by argument `nsim`.

The interpretation of P-scores and SUCRA is comparable.

The P-score of treatment i is defined as the mean of all $1 - P[j]$ where $P[j]$ denotes the one-sided P-value of accepting the alternative hypothesis that treatment i is better than one of the competing treatments j . Thus, if treatment i is better than many other treatments, many of these P-values will be small and the P-score will be large. Vice versa, if treatment i is worse than most other treatments, the P-score is small.

The P-score of treatment i can be interpreted as the mean extent of certainty that treatment i is better than another treatment.

For P-scores, SUCRA, and probabilities of being best, larger values are favorable. For mean and median ranks, smaller values are favorable.

Value

An object of class `netrank` with corresponding `print` function. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>ranking.common</code>	A named numeric vector with ranking values for the common effects model.
<code>Pmatrix.common</code>	Numeric matrix based on pairwise one-sided p-values for the common effects model.
<code>ranking.random</code>	A named numeric vector with ranking values for the random effects model.
<code>Pmatrix.random</code>	Numeric matrix based on pairwise one-sided p-values of the random effects model.
<code>small.values, method, x</code>	As defined above.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package <code>netmeta</code> used to create object.

Note

Internally, `rankogram` is called for the ranking metrics based on resampling methods.

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References

Rücker G, Schwarzer G (2017): Resolve conflicting rankings of outcomes in network meta-analysis: Partial ordering of treatments. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **8**, 526–36

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[netmeta](#), [rankogram](#), [plot.rankogram](#)

Examples

```
# Define order of treatments in depression dataset Linde2015
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI",
         "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa", "rMAO-A", "Hypericum", "Placebo")

# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission")

# (1) Early response
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
               event = list(resp1, resp2, resp3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
               studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE, seq = trts, ref = "Placebo",
               small.values = "undesirable")
netrank(nma1)

# (2) Early remission
#
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
               event = list(remi1, remi2, remi3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
               studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE, seq = trts, ref = "Placebo",
               small.values = "undesirable")
netrank(nma2)

# Image plot of treatment rankings (two outcomes)
#
plot(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2), name = outcomes, digits = 2)

# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission",
             "Lost to follow-up", "Lost to follow-up due to AEs",
```

```

      "Adverse events (AEs)")

# (3) Loss to follow-up
#
pw3 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss1, loss2, loss3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma3 <- netmeta(pw3, common = FALSE, seq = trts, ref = "Placebo",
  small.values = "desirable")

# (4) Loss to follow-up due to adverse events
#
pw4 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss.ae1, loss.ae2, loss.ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = subset(Linde2015, id != 55), sm = "OR")
#
nma4 <- netmeta(pw4, common = FALSE, seq = trts, ref = "Placebo",
  small.values = "desirable")

# (5) Adverse events
#
pw5 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(ae1, ae2, ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma5 <- netmeta(pw5, common = FALSE, seq = trts, ref = "Placebo",
  small.values = "desirable")

# Image plot of treatment rankings (five outcomes)
#
plot(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2), netrank(nma3),
  netrank(nma4), netrank(nma5),
  name = outcomes, digits = 2)

```

netsplit.netmeta

Split direct and indirect evidence in network meta-analysis

Description

Methods to split network estimates into the contribution of direct and indirect evidence and to test for local inconsistency in network meta-analysis.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
netsplit(
  x,

```

```

method,
upper = TRUE,
reference.group = x$reference.group,
baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
show = gs("show"),
overall = TRUE,
direct = TRUE,
indirect = TRUE,
only.reference = FALSE,
ci = FALSE,
test = show %in% c("all", "with.direct", "both"),
order = NULL,
nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
quote.trts = "",
tol.direct = 5e-04,
common = x$common,
random = x$random,
backtransf = x$backtransf,
warn = FALSE,
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
verbose = FALSE,
...
)

```

```

## S3 method for class 'netsplit'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  show = x$show,
  overall = x$overall,
  direct = x$direct,
  indirect = x$indirect,
  ci = x$ci,
  test = x$test,
  only.reference = x$only.reference,
  sortvar = NULL,
  subset = NULL,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  digits.prop = max(gs("digits.pval") - 2, 2),
  text.NA = gs("lab.NA"),
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),

```

```

    legend = gs("legend"),
    indent = TRUE,
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> or <code>netsplit</code> .
<code>method</code>	A character string indicating which method to split direct and indirect evidence is to be used. Either "Back-calculation" or "SIDDE", can be abbreviated. See Details.
<code>upper</code>	A logical indicating whether treatment comparisons should be selected from the lower or upper triangle of the treatment effect matrices (see list elements <code>TE.common</code> and <code>TE.random</code> in the <code>netmeta</code> object). Ignored if argument <code>order</code> is provided.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment. Ignored if argument <code>order</code> is provided.
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> is not equal to "" and <code>argumentorder</code> is not provided.
<code>show</code>	A character string indicating which comparisons should be printed (see Details).
<code>overall</code>	A logical indicating whether estimates from network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>direct</code>	A logical indicating whether direct estimates should be printed.
<code>indirect</code>	A logical indicating whether indirect estimates should be printed.
<code>only.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether only comparisons with the reference group should be printed.
<code>ci</code>	A logical indicating whether confidence intervals should be printed in addition to treatment estimates.
<code>test</code>	A logical indicating whether results of a test comparing direct and indirect estimates should be printed.
<code>order</code>	A optional character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments in comparisons.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character string used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels, e.g., " vs ".
<code>quote.trts</code>	A character used to print around treatment labels.
<code>tol.direct</code>	A numeric defining the maximum deviation of the direct evidence proportion from 0 or 1 to classify a comparison as providing only indirect or direct evidence, respectively.

common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects network meta-analysis should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects network meta-analysis should be printed.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether printed results should be back transformed. For example, if backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios.
warn	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
verbose	A logical indicating whether progress information should be printed.
...	Additional arguments.
sortvar	An optional vector used to sort comparisons (must be of same length as the total number of comparisons).
subset	An optional logical vector specifying a subset of comparisons to print (must be of same length as the total number of comparisons) .
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default.
digits.stat	Minimal number of significant digits for z-value of test of agreement between direct and indirect evidence, see print.default.
digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of test of agreement between direct and indirect evidence, see print.default.
digits.prop	Minimal number of significant digits for direct evidence proportions, see print.default.
text.NA	A character string specifying text printed for missing values.
scientific.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
big.mark	A character used as thousands separator.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
indent	A logical indicating whether items in the legend should be indented.

Details

A comparison of direct and indirect treatment estimates can serve as check for consistency of network meta-analysis (Dias et al., 2010).

This function provides two methods to derive indirect estimates:

- Separate Indirect from Direct Evidence (SIDE) using a back-calculation method (method = "Back-calculation") based on the *direct evidence proportion* to calculate the indirect evidence (König et al., 2013);
- Separate Indirect from Direct Design Evidence (SIDDE) as described in Efthimiou et al. (2019).

Note, for the back-calculation method, indirect treatment estimates are already calculated in [netmeta](#) and this function combines and prints these estimates in a user-friendly way. Furthermore, this method is not available for the Mantel-Haenszel and non-central hypergeometric distribution approach implemented in [netmetabin](#).

For the random-effects model, the direct treatment estimates are based on the common between-study variance τ^2 from the network meta-analysis, i.e. the square of list element `x$tau`.

Argument `show` determines which comparisons are printed:

"all"	All comparisons
"both"	Only comparisons contributing both direct and indirect evidence
"with.direct"	Comparisons providing direct evidence
"direct.only"	Comparisons providing only direct evidence
"indirect.only"	Comparisons providing only indirect evidence

Wilson et al. (2026) introduced a scatter plot of direct and indirect estimates to visualise local consistency in a network meta-analysis. Alternatively, a forest plot with direct and indirect estimates can be generated.

The node-splitting method and SIDDE can be compute-intensive in large networks. Crude information on the computation progress is printed if argument `verbose = TRUE`. In addition, computation times are printed if R package **tictoc** is installed.

Value

An object of class `netsplit` with corresponding `print`, `forest`, and `plot` functions. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>common</code> , <code>random</code>	As defined above.
<code>comparison</code>	A vector with treatment comparisons.
<code>prop.common</code> , <code>prop.random</code>	A vector with direct evidence proportions (common / random effects model).
<code>common</code> , <code>random</code>	Results of network meta-analysis (common / random effects model), i.e., data frame with columns <code>comparison</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , and <code>p</code> .
<code>direct.common</code> , <code>direct.random</code>	Network meta-analysis results based on direct evidence (common / random effects model), i.e., data frame with columns <code>comparison</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , and <code>p</code> .
<code>indirect.common</code> , <code>indirect.random</code>	Network meta-analysis results based on indirect evidence (common / random effects model), i.e., data frame with columns <code>comparison</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , and <code>p</code> .
<code>compare.common</code> , <code>compare.random</code>	Comparison of direct and indirect evidence in network meta-analysis (common / random effects model), i.e., data frame with columns <code>comparison</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , and <code>p</code> .
<code>sm</code>	A character string indicating underlying summary measure
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for pooled estimates.

tictoc	Computation times for node-splitting method or SIDDE (if R package tictoc is installed).
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

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Efthimiou O, Rücker G, Schwarzer G, Higgins J, Egger M, Salanti G (2019): A Mantel-Haenszel model for network meta-analysis of rare events. *Statistics in Medicine*, **38**, 2992–3012

König J, Krahn U, Binder H (2013): Visualizing the flow of evidence in network meta-analysis and characterizing mixed treatment comparisons. *Statistics in Medicine*, **32**, 5414–29

Puhan MA, Schünemann HJ, Murad MH, et al. (2014): A GRADE working group approach for rating the quality of treatment effect estimates from network meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal*, **349**, g5630

Wilson H, Schönstein A, Robson S, Bonofiglio F (2026): A novel approach for visualizing local consistency in network meta-analysis. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 1–15

See Also

[forest.netsplit](#), [plot.netsplit](#), [netmeta](#), [netmetabin](#), [netmeasures](#), [Woods2010](#), [Senn2013](#), [Dong2013](#)

Examples

```
#
# 1) COPD example
#

pw1 <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N,
  studlab = author, data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1)
#
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2)

print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2,
  backtransf = FALSE, common = FALSE)

# Sort by increasing number of studies in direct comparisons
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2, sortvar = k)
# Sort by decreasing number of studies in direct comparisons
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2, sortvar = -k)
```

```

# Sort by increasing evidence proportion under common effects model
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2, sortvar = prop.common)
# Sort by decreasing evidence proportion under common effects model
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2, sortvar = -prop.common)

# Sort by decreasing evidence proportion under common effects model
# and number of studies
print(netsplit(nma1), digits = 2, sortvar = cbind(-prop.common, -k))

#
# 2) Diabetes example
#

pw2 <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, reference = "plac")
#
ns2 <- netsplit(nma2)
#
print(ns2, digits = 2)
# Layout of Puhan et al. (2014), Table 1
print(ns2, digits = 2, ci = TRUE, test = FALSE)

# Forest plot showing comparisons contributing both direct and
# indirect evidence
#
forest(ns2, fontsize = 6, spacing = 0.5, addrow.subgroups = FALSE)

# Scatter plot to evaluate local inconsistency
#
plot(ns2)

# Forest plot showing comparisons contributing direct evidence
#
forest(ns2, fontsize = 6, spacing = 0.5, addrow.subgroups = FALSE,
  show = "with.direct")

# Forest plot only showing network estimates compared to reference
# group and prediction intervals
#
forest(ns2, fontsize = 8, spacing = 0.75, show = "all",
  only.reference = TRUE, prediction = TRUE,
  direct = FALSE, indirect = FALSE)

#
# 3) Another COPD example
#

pw3 <- pairwise(treatment, death, randomized, studlab = id,
  data = Dong2013, sm = "OR")
nma3 <- netmetabin(pw3)

```

```
netsplit(nma3)
```

```
nettable
```

```
Table with network meta-analysis results
```

Description

Construct a table with network, direct and indirect estimates from one or more network meta-analyses.

Usage

```
nettable(
  ...,
  name = NULL,
  method = NULL,
  order = NULL,
  common,
  random,
  upper = TRUE,
  reference.group = NULL,
  baseline.reference = NULL,
  backtransf = NULL,
  nchar.trts = if (writexl) 666 else NULL,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.I2 = gs("digits.I2"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
  JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  text.NA = ".",
  bracket = gs("CIbracket"),
  separator = gs("CIseparator"),
  lower.blank = gs("CIlower.blank"),
  upper.blank = gs("CIupper.blank"),
  tol.direct = 5e-04,
  writexl = !missing(path),
  path = "nettable.xlsx",
  overwrite = FALSE,
  warn = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)

## S3 method for class 'nettable'
print(x, common = x$x$common, random = x$x$random, legend = gs("legend"), ...)
```

Arguments

<code>...</code>	Any number of network meta-analysis objects or a single list with network meta-analyses.
<code>name</code>	An optional character vector providing descriptive names for network meta-analysis objects.
<code>method</code>	A character string indicating which method to split direct and indirect evidence is to be used. Either "Back-calculation" or "SIDDE", can be abbreviated. See Details.
<code>order</code>	A optional character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments in comparisons.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether table for the common effects network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether table for the random effects network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>upper</code>	A logical indicating whether treatment comparisons should be selected from the lower or upper triangle of the treatment effect matrices (see list elements <code>TE.common</code> and <code>TE.random</code> in the <code>netmeta</code> object). Ignored if argument <code>order</code> is provided.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment. Ignored if argument <code>order</code> is provided.
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> is not equal to "" and <code>argumentorder</code> is not provided.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether printed results should be back transformed. For example, if <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are printed as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.I2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for I-squared statistic, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of test of agreement between direct and indirect evidence, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>scientific.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
<code>zero.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
<code>JAMA.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>text.NA</code>	A character string specifying text printed for missing values.

bracket	A character with bracket symbol to print lower confidence interval: "[", "(", "{", "".
separator	A character string with information on separator between lower and upper confidence interval.
lower.blank	A logical indicating whether blanks between left bracket and lower confidence limit should be printed.
upper.blank	A logical indicating whether blanks between separator and upper confidence limit should be printed.
tol.direct	A numeric defining the maximum deviation of the direct evidence proportion from 0 or 1 to classify a comparison as providing only indirect or direct evidence, respectively.
writexl	A logical indicating whether an Excel file should be created (R package writexl must be available).
path	A character string specifying the filename of the Excel file.
overwrite	A logical indicating whether an existing Excel file should be overwritten.
warn	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed.
verbose	A logical indicating whether progress information should be printed.
x	An object of class <code>nettable</code> .
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed for abbreviated treatment names.

Details

Construct a table with network, direct and indirect estimates from one or more network meta-analyses. The table looks very similar to the statistical part of a GRADE table for a network meta-analysis (Puhan et al., 2014).

By default, an R object with the network tables is generated. Alternatively, an Excel file is created if argument `writexl = TRUE`.

Two methods to derive indirect estimates are available:

- Separate Indirect from Direct Evidence (SIDE) using a back-calculation method (`method = "Back-calculation"`) based on the *direct evidence proportion* to calculate the indirect evidence (König et al., 2013);
- Separate Indirect from Direct Design Evidence (SIDDE) as described in Efthimiou et al. (2019).

Note, for the back-calculation method, indirect treatment estimates are already calculated in [netmeta](#) and this function combines and prints these estimates in a user-friendly way. Furthermore, this method is not available for the Mantel-Haenszel and non-central hypergeometric distribution approach implemented in [netmetabin](#).

For the random-effects model, the direct treatment estimates are based on the common between-study variance τ^2 from the network meta-analysis, i.e. the square of list element `x$tau`.

The SIDDE approach can be compute-intensive in large networks. Crude information on the computation progress is printed for SIDDE if argument `verbose` is `TRUE`.

Value

An object of class `nettable` with corresponding print function if argument `writexl = FALSE`. The object is a list containing the network tables in list elements `'common'` and `'random'`. An Excel file is created if `writexl = TRUE`. In this case, `NULL` is returned in R.

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References

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Puhan MA, Schünemann HJ, Murad MH, et al. (2014): A GRADE working group approach for rating the quality of treatment effect estimates from network meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal*, **349**, g5630

See Also

[netsplit](#), [netmeta](#), [netmetabin](#), [netmeasures](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N,
  studlab = author, data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)
#
nt <- nettable(nma, digits = 2)
nt

print(nt, common = FALSE)
print(nt, random = FALSE)

# Create a temporary CSV file with network table from random effects model
#
table <- nettable(nma, digits = 2, bracket = "(", separator = " to ")
#
.tmp_file_csv <- tempfile(fileext = ".csv")
write.table(table$random, file = .tmp_file_csv,
  row.names = FALSE, col.names = TRUE, sep = ",")
#
# Create Excel files with network tables
# (if R package writexl is available)
#
```

```

if (requireNamespace("writexl", quietly = TRUE))
  nettable(nma, digits = 2, bracket = "(", separator = " to ",
    path = tempfile(fileext = ".xlsx"))

```

plot.netposet

Scatter plot or biplot showing partially order of treatment ranks

Description

This function generates a scatter plot or biplot of ranking metrics with an overlay describing partial order of treatment ranks.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'netposet'
plot(
  x,
  plottype = "scatter",
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  dim = "2d",
  sel.x = 1,
  sel.y = 2,
  sel.z = 3,
  cex = 1,
  col = "black",
  cex.text = cex,
  col.text = col,
  adj.x = 0,
  adj.y = 1,
  offset.x = 0.005,
  offset.y = -0.005,
  pch = NULL,
  cex.points = cex,
  col.points = col,
  col.lines = "black",
  lty.lines = 1,
  lwd.lines = 1,
  arrows = FALSE,
  length = 0.05,
  grid = TRUE,
  col.grid = "gray",
  lty.grid = 2,
  lwd.grid = 1,
  ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> (mandatory).
<code>plottype</code>	A character string indicating whether a scatter plot or biplot should be produced, either "scatter" or "biplot". Can be abbreviated.
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether scatter plot should be drawn for common ("common") or random effects model ("random"). Can be abbreviated.
<code>dim</code>	A character string indicating whether a 2- or 3-dimensional plot should be produced, either "2d" or "3d". Can be abbreviated.
<code>sel.x</code>	A numeric specifying number of outcome to use for the x-axis in a scatterplot (argument is not considered for a biplot).
<code>sel.y</code>	A numeric specifying number of outcome to use for the y-axis in a scatterplot (argument is not considered for a biplot).
<code>sel.z</code>	A numeric specifying number of outcome to use for the z-axis in a scatterplot (argument is not considered for a biplot).
<code>cex</code>	The magnification to be used for treatment labels and points.
<code>col</code>	Colour(s) of treatment labels and points.
<code>cex.text</code>	The magnification to be used for treatment labels.
<code>col.text</code>	Colour(s) of treatment labels.
<code>adj.x</code>	Value(s) in [0, 1] to specify adjustment of treatment labels on x-axis (only considered in 2-D plots); see text .
<code>adj.y</code>	Value(s) in [0, 1] to specify adjustment of treatment labels on y-axis (only considered in 2-D plots); see text .
<code>offset.x</code>	Offset(s) of treatment labels on x-axis (only considered in 2-D plots).
<code>offset.y</code>	Offset(s) of treatment labels on y-axis (only considered in 2-D plots).
<code>pch</code>	Plot symbol(s) for points; no points printed if equal to <code>NULL</code> .
<code>cex.points</code>	Magnification(s) to be used for points.
<code>col.points</code>	Colour(s) of points.
<code>col.lines</code>	Line colour.
<code>lty.lines</code>	Line type.
<code>lwd.lines</code>	Line width.
<code>arrows</code>	A logical indicating whether arrows should be printed (only considered in 2-D plots).
<code>length</code>	Length of arrows; see arrows .
<code>grid</code>	A logical indicating whether grid lines should be added to plot.
<code>col.grid</code>	Colour of grid lines.
<code>lty.grid</code>	Line type of grid lines.
<code>lwd.grid</code>	Line width of grid lines.
<code>...</code>	Additional graphical arguments.

Details

By default (arguments `plottype = "scatter"` and `dim = "2d"`), a scatter plot is created showing ranking metrics (see [netrank](#)) for the first two outcomes considered in the generation of a partially ordered set of treatment ranks (using [netposet](#)). In addition to these rankings, the partial order of treatment ranks is shown as lines connecting treatments which is analogous to a Hasse diagram. If argument `dim = "3d"`, a 3-D scatter plot is generated showing rankings for the first three outcomes.

To overcome the restriction of two or three dimension, a biplot (Gabriel, 1971) can be generated using argument `plottype = "biplot"`. This is essentially a scatter plot using the first two (`dim = "2d"`) or three (`dim = "3d"`) components in a principal components analysis (using [prcomp](#)). Note, if only two / three outcomes are considered in a `netposet` object, a 2-D / 3-D scatter plot is generated instead of a biplot as a principal component analysis is superfluous in such a situation.

Arguments `sel.x` and `sel.y` can be used to select different outcomes to show on x- and y-axis in a 2-D scatter plot; argument `sel.z` can be used accordingly in a 3-D scatter plot. These arguments are ignored for a biplot.

Scatter plots use axes from 0 to 1 for P-scores, SUCRAs, and probabilities of being best. For mean and median ranks, axes are reversed so that favorable rankings are shown towards the top or right of the plot.

Note, in order to generate 3-D plots (argument `dim = "3d"`), R package **rgl** is necessary. Note, under macOS the X.Org X Window System must be available (see <https://www.xquartz.org>).

Author(s)

Gerta Rücker <gerta.ruecker@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Carlsen L, Bruggemann R (2014): Partial order methodology: a valuable tool in chemometrics. *Journal of Chemometrics*, **28**, 226–34
- Gabriel KR (1971): The biplot graphic display of matrices with application to principal component analysis. *Biometrika*, **58**, 453–67

See Also

[netposet](#), [hasse](#), [netrank](#), [netmeta](#), [Linde2015](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netposet)
```

plot.netrank*Plot treatment ranking(s) of network meta-analyses*

Description

Produce an image plot of treatment ranking(s) generated with R function netrank.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netrank'
plot(
  ...,
  name,
  common,
  random,
  seq,
  low = "red",
  mid = "yellow",
  high = "green",
  col = "black",
  main,
  main.size = 14,
  main.col = col,
  main.face = "bold",
  legend = TRUE,
  main.legend = NULL,
  axis.size = 12,
  axis.col = col,
  axis.face = "plain",
  na.value = "grey50",
  angle = 45,
  hjust.x = 1,
  vjust.x = 1,
  hjust.y = 1,
  vjust.y = 0,
  nchar.trts,
  digits = 3,
  digits.mean = 2,
  fixed,
  comb.fixed,
  comb.random,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated")
)
```

Arguments

... One or more [netrank](#) objects.

name	An optional character vector providing descriptive names for the network meta-analysis objects.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be plotted.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be plotted.
seq	A character or numerical vector specifying the sequence of treatments on the x-axis.
low	A character string defining the colour for unfavorable rankings, see scale_fill_gradient2 .
mid	A character string defining the colour for average rankings, see scale_fill_gradient2 .
high	A character string defining the colour for favorable rankings, see scale_fill_gradient2 .
col	Colour of text.
main	Title.
main.size	Font size of title, see element_text .
main.col	Colour of title, see element_text .
main.face	Font face of title, see element_text .
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
main.legend	Title for legend. If missing, the ranking method is used for a single ranking method and "Ranking" for different comparable ranking methods.
axis.size	Font size of axis text, see element_text .
axis.col	Colour of axis text, see element_text .
axis.face	Font face of axis text, see element_text .
na.value	Colour for missing values, see scale_fill_gradient2 .
angle	Angle for text on x-axis, see element_text .
hjust.x	A numeric between 0 and 1 with horizontal justification of text on x-axis, see element_text .
vjust.x	A numeric between 0 and 1 with vertical justification of text on x-axis, see element_text .
hjust.y	A numeric between 0 and 1 with horizontal justification of text on y-axis, see element_text .
vjust.y	A numeric between 0 and 1 with vertical justification of text on y-axis, see element_text .
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits for ranking probabilities, P-scores, and SUCRAs, see print.default .
digits.mean	Minimal number of significant digits for mean or median ranks, see print.default .
fixed	Deprecated argument (replaced by 'common').
comb.fixed	Deprecated argument (replaced by 'common').
comb.random	Deprecated argument (replaced by 'random').
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.

Details

This function produces an image plot of network rankings (Palpacuer et al., 2018, Figure 4). Note, a scatter plot of two network rankings can be generated with [plot.netposet](#).

By default, treatments are ordered by the rankings of the first network meta-analysis object: decreasing for P-scores, SUCRAs, and probabilities of being best, and increasing for mean and median ranks. Argument `seq` can be used to specify a different treatment order.

Comparable ranking methods can be shown in the same plot: either P-scores, SUCRAs, and probabilities of being best, or mean and median ranks. These two groups of ranking metrics cannot be combined.

Value

A `ggplot2` object or `NULL` if no ranking was conducted.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Clément Palpacuer <clementpalpacuer@gmail.com>

References

Palpacuer C, Duprez R, Huneau A, Locher C, Boussageon R, Laviolle B, et al. (2018): Pharmacologically controlled drinking in the treatment of alcohol dependence or alcohol use disorders: a systematic review with direct and network meta-analyses on nalmefene, naltrexone, acamprosate, baclofen and topiramate. *Addiction*, **113**, 220–37

See Also

[netrank](#), [netmeta](#), [netposet](#), [hasse](#), [Linde2015](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netrank)
```

`plot.netsplit`*Scatter plot to evaluate local inconsistency in network meta-analysis*

Description

Scatter plot to show the difference between direct and indirect evidence in network meta-analysis to assess local inconsistency.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netsplit'
plot(
  x,
  type = "Bland-Altman",
  pooled = ifelse(x$x$random, "random", "common"),
  subset = NULL,
  only.reference = x$only.reference,
  level = x$level.ma,
  vertical = TRUE,
  size.points = NULL,
  points.only.inc = FALSE,
  col = "gray50",
  col.inc = "red",
  labels = TRUE,
  labels.only.inc = FALSE,
  size.labels = 5,
  col.labels = col,
  col.labels.inc = col.inc,
  max_overlap = 10,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  text.pooled,
  main,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  tag = NULL,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netsplit</code> .
<code>type</code>	A character string indicating which figure type is to be used. Either "Bland-Altman" or "Wilson", can be abbreviated. See Details.
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>subset</code>	An optional logical vector specifying a subset of comparisons to consider (must be of same length as the total number of comparisons).
<code>only.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether only comparisons with the reference group should be considered.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for local local inconsistency.
<code>vertical</code>	A logical indicating whether confidence intervals should be plotted vertically or horizontally; only considered if argument <code>type = "Wilson"</code> . The interpretation is the same.

size.points	A single numeric defining the point size. If NULL, point sizes are proportional to the proportion of indirect evidence.
points.only.inc	A logical indicating whether (larger) points should be only shown for comparisons with local inconsistency.
col	Colour of points and confidence intervals.
col.inc	Colour of points and confidence intervals for comparisons with local inconsistency.
labels	A logical value indicating whether to show comparisons labels, or an expression or character vector specifying the labels to use.
labels.only.inc	A logical indicating whether labels are only shown for comparisons with local inconsistency.
size.labels	A single numeric defining the size of comparison labels.
col.labels	Colour of comparison labels.
col.labels.inc	Colour of labels for comparisons with local inconsistency.
max_overlap	An integer specifying the maximum number of overlapping labels allowed in the scatter plot.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names in comparisons.
text.pooled	A character string used to describe the statistical model.
main	Main title.
xlab	A label for the x-axis.
ylab	A label for the y-axis.
xlim	The x limits (min, max) of the plot.
ylim	The y limits (min, max) of the plot.
tag	The text for the tag label (see labs).
...	Additional arguments (ignored).

Details

A scatter plot is drawn in the active graphics window.

By default (argument `type = "Bland-Altman"`), a variant of the Bland-Altman plot is shown (Bland & Altman, 1995). In this case, the network estimates are shown on the horizontal axis and the difference between direct and indirect effect estimates on the vertical axis. The confidence intervals are those from the differences.

If argument `type = "Wilson"`, a scatter plot with direct effect estimates on the horizontal and indirect estimates on the vertical axis is produced (Wilson et al., 2026). The confidence intervals are calculated from the indirect (argument `vertical = TRUE`) or direct effect estimates and the standard error of the difference between indirect and direct effect estimates.

For both plot types, the dashed green line corresponds to comparisons with equal direct and indirect effect estimates.

Value

An object of class "plot.netsplit". The object is a list containing the following components:

plot	A ggplot2 object.
data	Data set used to create the plot.

Author(s)

Federico Bonofiglio <bonostat@gmx.de>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Bland JM, Altman DG (1995): Comparing methods of measurement: Why plotting difference against standard method is misleading. *The Lancet*, **346**, 1085–87

Wilson H, Schönstein A, Robson S, Bonofiglio F (2026): A novel approach for visualizing local consistency in network meta-analysis. *Research Synthesis Methods*, 1–15

See Also

[forest.netsplit](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netsplit)
```

plot.rankogram	<i>Plot rankograms</i>
----------------	------------------------

Description

This function produces a rankogram, i.e., an image plot of ranking probabilities for all treatments.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'rankogram'
plot(
  x,
  type = if (cumulative.rankprob) "step" else "bar",
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  sort = TRUE,
  trts,
  cumulative.rankprob = x$cumulative.rankprob,
  ylim,
  ylab,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class rankogram .
type	A character string specifying whether a "bar" chart, a "line" graph, or "step" functions should be drawn. Can be abbreviated.
pooled	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
sort	A logical indicating whether treatments should be sorted by decreasing SU-CRAs.
trts	Treatment(s) to show in rankogram.
cumulative.rankprob	A logical indicating whether cumulative ranking probabilities should be shown.
ylim	The y limits (min, max) of the plot.
ylab	A label for the y-axis.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
...	Additional graphical arguments (ignored at the moment).

Details

This function produces plots of (cumulative) ranking probabilities for all treatments as a bar graph, a line graph or as step functions (argument type). All plots will be shown in a single figure if R package **gridExtra** is installed. Otherwise, separate figures will be created for treatments.

By default (argument pooled), results for the random effects model are shown if a network meta-analysis was conducted for both the common and random effects model.

Treatments are sorted according to their mean effects if argument sort = TRUE (default). A subset of treatments can be specified using argument trts.

Cumulative ranking probabilities are shown if cumulative.rankprob = TRUE. By default, step functions are shown for cumulative ranking probabilities.

Author(s)

Theodoros Papakonstantinou <dev@tpapak.com>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[rankogram](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N, studlab = author,
  data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")
nma <- netmeta(pw, small.values = "desirable")

set.seed(1909) # get reproducible results
rnk <- rankogram(nma, nsim = 100)
rnk

plot(rnk)
plot(rnk, type = "l")
plot(rnk, cumulative.rankprob = TRUE)
```

```
print.decomp.design    Print method for objects of class decomp.design
```

Description

Print method for objects of class `decomp.design`.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'decomp.design'
print(
  x,
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  showall = FALSE,
  digits.pval.Q = gs("digits.pval.Q"),
  digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  sort = TRUE,
  legend = gs("legend"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>decomp.design</code> .
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for Q statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>showall</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be shown for all designs or only designs contributing to chi-squared statistics (default).
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .

digits.tau2	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance, see print.default.
scientific.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
big.mark	A character used as thousands separator.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
sort	A logical indicating whether to sort results by p-values.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
...	Additional arguments (ignored at the moment).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>, Ulrike Krahn <ulrike.krahn@bayer.com>

See Also

[decomp.design](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(decomp.design)
```

print.netbind	<i>Print method for objects of class netbind</i>
---------------	--

Description

Print method for objects of class netbind.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netbind'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netbind or summary.netbind.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netbind](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netbind)
```

print.netcomb	<i>Print method for objects of class netcomb</i>
---------------	--

Description

Print method for objects of class netcomb.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  overall.hetstat = x$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.comps,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  digits.pval.Q = max(gs("digits.pval.Q"), 2),
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
```

```

    digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
    digits.tau = gs("digits.tau"),
    digits.I2 = gs("digits.I2"),
    big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
    scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
    zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
    JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
    print.tau2 = gs("print.tau2"),
    print.tau = gs("print.tau"),
    print.Q = gs("print.Q"),
    print.I2 = gs("print.I2"),
    print.I2.ci = gs("print.I2.ci"),
    text.tau2 = gs("text.tau2"),
    text.tau = gs("text.tau"),
    text.I2 = gs("text.I2"),
    details.methods = gs("details"),
    legend = gs("legend"),
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netcomb</code> or <code>summary.netcomb</code> .
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
<code>overall.hetstat</code>	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>nchar.comps</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique names for components.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.stat</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for z- or t-value, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall treatment effect, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for square root of between-study variance, see <code>print.default</code> .

<code>digits.I2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for I-squared statistic, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>scientific.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
<code>zero.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
<code>JAMA.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
<code>print.tau2</code>	A logical specifying whether between-study variance τ^2 should be printed.
<code>print.tau</code>	A logical specifying whether τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 , should be printed.
<code>print.Q</code>	A logical value indicating whether to print the results of the test of heterogeneity.
<code>print.I2</code>	A logical specifying whether heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>print.I2.ci</code>	A logical specifying whether confidence interval for heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>text.tau2</code>	Text printed to identify between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>text.tau</code>	Text printed to identify τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>text.I2</code>	Text printed to identify heterogeneity statistic I^2 .
<code>details.methods</code>	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netcomb)
```

print.netimpact	<i>Print method for objects of class netimpact</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Print method for objects of class netimpact.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netimpact'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  digits = gs("digits.prop"),
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  nchar.studlab = x$nchar.studlab,
  lab.zero = NULL,
  details.methods = gs("details"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  legend.studlab = TRUE,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class netimpact.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
nchar.studlab	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.
lab.zero	An optional character string to replace zero contributions.
details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
legend.studlab	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed for abbreviated study labels.

```
warn.deprecated
    A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments
    are used.
...
    Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).
```

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netimpact](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netimpact)
```

print.netmeta	<i>Print method for objects of class netmeta</i>
---------------	--

Description

Print method for objects of class netmeta.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  prediction = x$prediction,
  reference.group = x$reference.group,
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  all.treatments = x$all.treatments,
  overall.hetstat = x$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  header = TRUE,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = max(gs("digits.pval"), 2),
  digits.pval.Q = max(gs("digits.pval.Q"), 2),
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
  digits.tau = gs("digits.tau"),
  digits.I2 = gs("digits.I2"),
```

```

big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
print.tau2 = gs("print.tau2"),
print.tau = gs("print.tau"),
print.Q = gs("print.Q"),
print.I2 = gs("print.I2"),
print.I2.ci = gs("print.I2.ci"),
text.tau2 = gs("text.tau2"),
text.tau = gs("text.tau"),
text.I2 = gs("text.I2"),
details.methods = gs("details"),
legend = gs("legend"),
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
...
)

```

Arguments

x	An object of class netmeta.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
prediction	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
reference.group	Reference treatment.
baseline.reference	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if reference.group has been specified.
all.treatments	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If backtransf = TRUE, results for sm = "OR" are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
header	A logical indicating whether information on title of meta-analysis, comparison and outcome should be printed at the beginning of the printout.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default.
digits.stat	Minimal number of significant digits for tests of overall effect, see print.default.

<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall effects, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for square root of between-study variance, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.I2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for I-squared statistic, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>scientific.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
<code>zero.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
<code>JAMA.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
<code>print.tau2</code>	A logical specifying whether between-study variance τ^2 should be printed.
<code>print.tau</code>	A logical specifying whether τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 , should be printed.
<code>print.Q</code>	A logical value indicating whether to print the results of the test of heterogeneity.
<code>print.I2</code>	A logical specifying whether heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>print.I2.ci</code>	A logical specifying whether confidence interval for heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>text.tau2</code>	Text printed to identify between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>text.tau</code>	Text printed to identify τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>text.I2</code>	Text printed to identify heterogeneity statistic I^2 .
<code>details.methods</code>	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netmeta)
```

print.rankogram	<i>Print method for rankograms</i>
-----------------	------------------------------------

Description

Print method for objects of class rankogram.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'rankogram'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  cumulative.rankprob = x$cumulative.rankprob,
  sort = TRUE,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits.prop"),
  details.methods = gs("details"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

x	An R object of class rankogram.
common	A logical indicating to print ranking probabilities and SUCRAs for the common effects model.
random	A logical indicating to print ranking probabilities and SUCRAs for the random effects model.
cumulative.rankprob	A logical indicating whether cumulative ranking probabilities should be printed.
sort	A logical indicating whether treatments should be sorted by decreasing SUCRAs.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default .
details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments for printing.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[rankogram](#), [plot.rankogram](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(rankogram.netmeta)
```

```
print.summary.netcomb Print detailed information for component network meta-analysis
```

Description

Print detailed information for component network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'summary.netcomb'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  overall.hetstat = x$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.comps = x$nchar.comps,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.stat = gs("digits.stat"),
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  digits.pval.Q = max(gs("digits.pval.Q"), 2),
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
  scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
  zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
  JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
  print.tau2 = gs("print.tau2"),
  print.tau = gs("print.tau"),
  print.Q = gs("print.Q"),
```

```

print.I2 = gs("print.I2"),
print.I2.ci = gs("print.I2.ci"),
details.methods = gs("details"),
legend = gs("legend"),
warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
...
)

```

Arguments

x	An object of class <code>summary.netcomb</code>
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf=TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm="OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique component names.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.stat	Minimal number of significant digits for z- or t-value, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.pval	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of overall treatment effect, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.pval.Q	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .
digits.Q	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
big.mark	A character used as thousands separator.
scientific.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
zero.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
JAMA.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
print.tau2	A logical specifying whether between-study variance τ^2 should be printed.
print.tau	A logical specifying whether τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 , should be printed.
print.Q	A logical value indicating whether to print the results of the test of heterogeneity.
print.I2	A logical specifying whether heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
print.I2.ci	A logical specifying whether confidence interval for heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.

details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#), [summary.netcomb](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(summary.netcomb)
```

print.summary.netmeta *Print detailed results of network meta-analysis*

Description

Print method for objects of class summary.netmeta.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'summary.netmeta'
print(
  x,
  sortvar,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  prediction = x$prediction,
  reference.group = x$reference.group,
  baseline.reference = x$baseline.reference,
  all.treatments = x$all.treatments,
  details = TRUE,
  nma = TRUE,
  overall.hetstat = x$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  nchar.studlab = x$nchar.studlab,
  digits = gs("digits"),
```

```

    digits.se = gs("digits.se"),
    digits.pval.Q = max(gs("digits.pval.Q"), 2),
    digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
    digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
    digits.I2 = gs("digits.I2"),
    big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
    scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
    zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
    JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
    print.tau2 = gs("print.tau2"),
    print.tau = gs("print.tau"),
    print.Q = gs("print.Q"),
    print.I2 = gs("print.I2"),
    print.I2.ci = gs("print.I2.ci"),
    truncate,
    text.truncate = "*** Output truncated ***",
    details.methods = gs("details"),
    legend = gs("legend"),
    warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>summary.netmeta</code> .
<code>sortvar</code>	An optional vector used to sort individual studies (must be of same length as <code>x\$TE</code>).
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
<code>prediction</code>	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
<code>reference.group</code>	Reference treatment.
<code>baseline.reference</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
<code>all.treatments</code>	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
<code>details</code>	A logical indicating whether further details for individual studies should be printed.
<code>nma</code>	A logical indicating whether summary results of network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>overall.hetstat</code>	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.

<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>nchar.studlab</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique study labels.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.se</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for standard deviations and standard errors, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity tests, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistics, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.I2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for I-squared statistic, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.
<code>scientific.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
<code>zero.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
<code>JAMA.pval</code>	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
<code>print.tau2</code>	A logical specifying whether between-study variance τ^2 should be printed.
<code>print.tau</code>	A logical specifying whether τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 , should be printed.
<code>print.Q</code>	A logical value indicating whether to print the results of the test of heterogeneity.
<code>print.I2</code>	A logical specifying whether heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>print.I2.ci</code>	A logical specifying whether confidence interval for heterogeneity statistic I^2 should be printed.
<code>truncate</code>	An optional vector used to truncate the printout of results for individual studies (must be a logical vector of length corresponding to the number of pairwise comparisons <code>x\$TE</code> or contain numerical values).
<code>text.truncate</code>	A character string printed if study results were truncated from the printout.
<code>details.methods</code>	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [summary.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(summary.netmeta)
```

radial.netmeta	<i>'Comparison-adjusted' radial plot</i>
----------------	--

Description

Draw a 'comparison-adjusted' radial plot to assess funnel plot asymmetry in network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
radial(
  x,
  order,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  level = x$level,
  pch,
  col = "black",
  legend = FALSE,
  pos.legend = "topright",
  pos.tests = "topleft",
  lump.comparator = FALSE,
  text.comparator = "comparator",
  method.bias,
  text.linreg = "(Egger)",
  text.rank = "(Begg-Mazumdar)",
  text.mm = "(Thompson-Sharp)",
  sep.trts = x$sep.trts,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  digits.pval = gs("digits.pval"),
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  linreg = FALSE,
  rank = FALSE,
  mm = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>order</code>	A mandatory character or numerical vector specifying the order of treatments or list of comparators (see Details).
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether results for the common ("common") or random effects model ("random") should be plotted. Can be abbreviated.
<code>level</code>	The confidence level utilised in the plot.
<code>pch</code>	The plotting symbol(s) used for individual studies within direct comparisons.
<code>col</code>	The colour(s) used for individual studies within direct comparisons.
<code>legend</code>	A logical indicating whether a legend with information on direct comparisons should be added to the plot.
<code>pos.legend</code>	The position of the legend describing plotting symbols and colours for direct comparisons.
<code>pos.tests</code>	The position of results for test(s) of funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>lump.comparator</code>	A logical indicating whether comparators should be lumped, e.g., to specify inactive treatments. information on direct comparisons should be added to the plot.
<code>text.comparator</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the comparator if <code>lump.comparator</code> is TRUE.
<code>method.bias</code>	A character vector indicating which test(s) for funnel plot asymmetry to use. Admissible values are "Begg", "Egger", and "Thompson", can be abbreviated. See function metabias .
<code>text.linreg</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the Egger test for funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>text.rank</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the Begg test for funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>text.mm</code>	A character string used in the plot to label the Thompson-Sharp test for funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>sep.trts</code>	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see netmeta).
<code>digits.pval</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of test(s) for funnel plot asymmetry.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>linreg</code>	Deprecated argument (replaced by <code>method.bias</code>).
<code>rank</code>	Deprecated argument (replaced by <code>method.bias</code>).
<code>mm</code>	Deprecated argument (replaced by <code>method.bias</code>).
<code>...</code>	Additional graphical arguments passed as arguments to radial.meta .

Details

A ‘comparison-adjusted’ radial plot is drawn in the active graphics window. The idea of this radial plot is similar to a ‘comparison-adjusted’ funnel plot (Chaimani & Salanti, 2012).

Argument order is mandatory to determine the order of treatments (Chaimani et al., 2013):

“Before using this plot, investigators should order the treatments in a meaningful way and make assumptions about how small studies differ from large ones. For example, if they anticipate that newer treatments are favored in small trials, then they could name the treatments from oldest to newest so that all comparisons refer to ‘old versus new intervention’. Other possibilities include defining the comparisons so that all refer to an active treatment versus placebo or sponsored versus non-sponsored intervention.”

Alternatively, it is possible to only provide a single or few treatment name(s) in argument order to define the comparator(s). In this case only comparisons with this / these treatment(s) will be considered. If argument `lump.comparator` is TRUE, all comparators will be lumped into a single group. The text for this group can be specified with argument `text.comparator`.

Value

A data frame with the following columns:

<code>studlab</code>	Study label.
<code>treat1</code>	Label/Number for first treatment.
<code>treat2</code>	Label/Number for second treatment.
<code>comparison</code>	Treatment comparison.
<code>TE</code>	Estimate of treatment effect, e.g., log odds ratio.
<code>TE.direct</code>	Pooled estimate from direct evidence.
<code>TE.adj</code>	‘Comparison-adjusted’ treatment effect (TE - TE.direct).
<code>seTE</code>	Standard error of treatment estimate.
<code>pch</code>	Plotting symbol(s).
<code>col</code>	Colour of plotting symbol(s).

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

- Chaimani A & Salanti G (2012): Using network meta-analysis to evaluate the existence of small-study effects in a network of interventions. *Research Synthesis Methods*, **3**, 161–76
- Chaimani A, Higgins JP, Mavridis D, Spyridonos P, Salanti G (2013): Graphical tools for network meta-analysis in STATA. *PLOS ONE*, **8**, e76654

See Also

[netmeta](#), [radial.meta](#), [funnel.meta](#), [metabias](#)

Examples

```

pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
#
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# 'Comparison-adjusted' radial plot not created as argument 'order'
# is missing
#
try(radial(nma))

# Only show comparisons with placebo
#
radial(nma, order = "pl")

# Add result for Egger test of funnel plot asymmetry
#
radial(nma, order = "pl", method.bias = "Egger",
  digits.pval = 2)

# (Non-sensical) alphabetic order of treatments with placebo as
# last treatment
#
ord <- c("a", "b", "me", "mi", "pi", "r", "si", "su", "v", "pl")
radial(nma, order = ord)

# Add results for tests of funnel plot asymmetry and use different
# plotting symbols and colours
#
radial(nma, order = ord,
  pch = rep(c(15:18, 1), 3), col = 1:3,
  method.bias = c("Egger", "Begg", "Thompson"), digits.pval = 2)

# Same results for tests of funnel plot asymmetry using reversed
# order of treatments
#
radial(nma, order = rev(ord),
  pch = rep(c(15:18, 1), 3), col = 1:3,
  method.bias = c("Egger", "Begg", "Thompson"), digits.pval = 2)

# Calculate tests for funnel plot asymmetry
#
f1 <- radial(nma, order = ord)
#
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1))
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1), method = "Begg")
metabias(metagen(TE.adj, seTE, data = f1), method = "Thompson")

```

rankogram	<i>Generic function for rankograms</i>
-----------	--

Description

Generic function to calculate the probabilities of each treatment being at each possible rank and the SUCRAs (Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve) in network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
rankogram(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An R object.
...	Additional arguments.

Details

For more details, look at the following functions to generate rankograms:

- [rankogram.netmeta](#)
- [rankogram.default](#)

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netrank](#), [plot.rankogram](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
# Examples:  
# example(rankogram.netmeta)  
# example(rankogram.default)
```

rankogram.default	<i>Calculate rankogram from treatment effect samples</i>
-------------------	--

Description

This function calculates the probabilities of each treatment being at each possible rank and the SUCRAs (Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve) from a sample of treatment estimates in network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## Default S3 method:
rankogram(
  x,
  pooled = "unspecified",
  small.values = "desirable",
  cumulative.rankprob = FALSE,
  keep.samples = FALSE,
  nchar.trts = gs("nchar.trts"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A matrix or data frame with treatment effects in columns and samples in rows.
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether samples come from a common ("common"), random effects ("random"), or "unspecified" model, can be abbreviated.
<code>small.values</code>	An optional character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect, can be abbreviated.
<code>cumulative.rankprob</code>	A logical indicating whether cumulative ranking probabilities should be printed.
<code>keep.samples</code>	A logical indicating whether to keep the samples, i.e., input to argument <code>x</code> .
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (ignored).

Details

We derive a matrix showing the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank. To this aim, we use samples and summarise them using the ranking metric SUCRAs (Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve).

The matrix / data frame in argument `x` must contain the sampled effects for each treatment.

Value

An object of class rankogram with corresponding print and plot function. The object is a list containing the following components:

nsim, pooled	As defined above.
common, random	Logical values for common or random effects model.
small.values	As defined above.
cumulative.rankprob	As defined above.
nchar.trts	As defined above.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

The following components are available if argument pooled = "common":

ranking.common	SUCRA values for the common effects model.
ranking.matrix.common	Numeric matrix giving the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank for the common effects model.
cumrank.matrix.common	Numeric matrix giving the cumulative ranking probabilities for the common effects model.
meanranks.common	Mean ranks for the common effects model.
medianranks.common	Median ranks for the common effects model.
samples.common	Samples for the common effects model (if keep.samples = TRUE).

The following components are available if argument pooled != "common":

ranking.random	SUCRA values for the random effects model.
ranking.matrix.random	Numeric matrix giving the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank for the random effects model.
cumrank.matrix.random	Numeric matrix giving the cumulative ranking probabilities for the random effects model.
meanranks.random	Mean ranks for the random effects model.
medianranks.random	Median ranks for the random effects model.
samples.random	Samples for the random effects model (if keep.samples = TRUE).

Author(s)

Theodoros Papakonstantinou <dev@tpapak.com>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netrank](#), [plot.rankogram](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N, studlab = author,
  data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")
nma <- netmeta(pw, small.values = "desirable")

set.seed(1909) # get reproducible results
rnk <- rankogram(nma, common = FALSE, nsim = 10, # reduce runtime
  keep.samples = TRUE)
rnk

rankogram(rnk$samples.random)
```

rankogram.netmeta	<i>Calculate rankogram</i>
-------------------	----------------------------

Description

This function calculates the probabilities of each treatment being at each possible rank and the SUCRAs (Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve) in frequentist network meta-analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
rankogram(
  x,
  nsim = gs("nsim"),
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  small.values = x$small.values,
  cumulative.rankprob = FALSE,
  keep.samples = FALSE,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> .
<code>nsim</code>	Number of repetitions.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating to compute ranking probabilities and SUCRA for the common effects model.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating to compute ranking probabilities and SUCRA for the random effects model.
<code>small.values</code>	A character string specifying whether small treatment effects indicate a beneficial ("desirable") or harmful ("undesirable") effect, can be abbreviated.
<code>cumulative.rankprob</code>	A logical indicating whether cumulative ranking probabilities should be printed.
<code>keep.samples</code>	A logical indicating whether to keep the generated samples.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
<code>warn.deprecated</code>	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (ignored).

Details

We derive a matrix showing the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank. To this aim, we use resampling from a multivariate normal distribution with estimated network effects as means and corresponding estimated variance covariance matrix. We then summarise them using the ranking metric SUCRA (Surface Under the Cumulative RAnking curve).

Value

An object of class `rankogram` with corresponding `print` and `plot` function. The object is a list containing the following components:

<code>x, nsim</code>	As defined above.
<code>common, random</code>	As defined above.
<code>small.values</code>	As defined above.
<code>cumulative.rankprob</code>	As defined above.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	As defined above.
<code>call</code>	Function call.
<code>version</code>	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

The following components are available if argument `common = TRUE`:

<code>ranking.common</code>	SUCRA values for the common effects model.
<code>ranking.matrix.common</code>	Numeric matrix giving the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank for the common effects model.

`cumrank.matrix.common`
 Numeric matrix giving the cumulative ranking probabilities for the common effects model.

`meanranks.common`
 Mean ranks for the common effects model.

`medianranks.common`
 Median ranks for the common effects model.

`samples.common` Generated samples for the common effects model (if `keep.samples = TRUE`).

The following components are available if argument `random = TRUE`:

`ranking.random` SUCRA values for the random effects model.

`ranking.matrix.random`
 Numeric matrix giving the probability of each treatment being at each possible rank for the random effects model.

`cumrank.matrix.random`
 Numeric matrix giving the cumulative ranking probabilities for the random effects model.

`meanranks.random`
 Mean ranks for the random effects model.

`medianranks.random`
 Median ranks for the random effects model.

`samples.random` Generated samples for the random effects model (if `keep.samples = TRUE`).

Author(s)

Theodoros Papakonstantinou <dev@tpapak.com>, Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

References

Salanti G, Ades AE, Ioannidis JP (2011): Graphical methods and numerical summaries for presenting results from multiple-treatment meta-analysis: an overview and tutorial. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, **64**, 163–71

See Also

[netmeta](#), [netrank](#), [plot.rankogram](#), [Woods2010](#)

Examples

```
pw <- pairwise(treatment, event = r, n = N, studlab = author,
  data = Woods2010, sm = "OR")
nma <- netmeta(pw, small.values = "desirable")

set.seed(1909) # get reproducible results
rnk <- rankogram(nma, nsim = 100)
rnk
print(rnk, cumulative.rankprob = TRUE)

# Also print mean ranks
```

```
summary(rnk)
```

```
plot(rnk)
```

Senn2013

Network meta-analysis in diabetes

Description

Network meta-analysis in diabetes comparing effects of a number of drugs on the HbA1c value.

These data are used as an example in Senn et al. (2013) and have been preprocessed for use in R package netmeta.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>TE</i>	treatment effect
<i>seTE</i>	standard error of treatment effect
<i>treat1</i>	treatment 1
<i>treat2</i>	treatment 2
<i>treat1.long</i>	treatment 1 (full treatment names)
<i>treat2.long</i>	treatment 2 (full treatment names)
<i>studlab</i>	Study label

Details

This data set is in comparison-based format. The data in long arm-based format are available in [Senn2013](#) in R package **metabook**.

Treatment labels provided by columns treat1 and treat2 have been abbreviated:

- acar = Acarbose
- benf = Benfluorex
- metf = Metformin
- migl = Miglitol
- piog = Pioglitazone
- plac = Placebo
- rosi = Rosiglitazone
- sita = Sitagliptin
- sulf = Sulfonylurea
- vild = Vildagliptin

Full treatment names are available in columns treat1.long and treat2.long.

Source

Senn S, Gavini F, Magrez D, Scheen A (2013): Issues in performing a network meta-analysis. *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*, **22**, 169–89

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
head(Senn2013)

# Example using netmeta():
# example(netmeta)
```

settings.netmeta	<i>Print and change default network meta-analysis settings in R package netmeta</i>
------------------	---

Description

Print and change default settings to conduct and print or plot network meta-analyses in R package **netmeta**.

Usage

```
settings.netmeta(..., quietly = TRUE)
```

Arguments

...	Arguments to change default settings.
quietly	A logical indicating whether information on settings should be printed.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[settings.meta](#), [gs](#)

smokingcessation	<i>Network meta-analysis of interventions for smoking cessation</i>
------------------	---

Description

Network meta-analysis comparing the effects of a number of interventions for smoking cessation.

These data are used as an example in Dias et al. (2013), page 651.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>event1</i>	number of individuals with successful smoking cessation in arm 1
<i>n1</i>	number of individuals in arm 1
<i>event2</i>	number of individuals with successful smoking cessation in arm 2
<i>n2</i>	number of individuals in arm 2
<i>event3</i>	number of individuals with successful smoking cessation in arm 3
<i>n3</i>	number of individuals in arm 3
<i>treat1</i>	treatment 1
<i>treat2</i>	treatment 2
<i>treat3</i>	treatment 3

Source

Dias S, Welton NJ, Sutton AJ, Caldwell DM, Lu G and Ades AE (2013): Evidence Synthesis for Decision Making 4: Inconsistency in networks of evidence based on randomized controlled trials. *Medical Decision Making*, **33**, 641–56

See Also

[pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmeta](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data(smokingcessation)
head(smokingcessation)

# Examples: example(netmeta)
```

Stowe2010	<i>Network meta-analysis of adjuvant treatments to levodopa therapy for Parkinson's disease</i>
-----------	---

Description

This dataset contains data from a Cochrane review assessing efficacy and safety of three drug classes as adjuvant treatment to levodopa therapy in patients with Parkinson's disease and motor complications (Stowe et al., 2010). The authors conducted three pairwise meta-analyses comparing dopamine agonists, catechol-O-methyl transferase inhibitors (COMTIs), and monoamine oxidase type B inhibitors (MAOBIs), respectively, with placebo.

The primary outcome was the mean reduction of the time spent in a relatively immobile 'off' phase (mean off-time), calculated in hours per day. Relative treatment effects were expressed as mean difference. Data on this outcome were available for 5,331 patients from 28 studies comparing an active treatment with placebo and one three-arm study comparing two active treatments with placebo.

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>study</i>	study label
<i>id</i>	study id
<i>t1</i>	treatment 1
<i>y1</i>	treatment effect arm 1
<i>sd1</i>	Standard deviation arm 1
<i>n1</i>	Sample size arm 1
<i>t2</i>	treatment 2
<i>y2</i>	treatment effect arm 2
<i>sd2</i>	Standard deviation arm 2
<i>n2</i>	Sample size arm 2
<i>t3</i>	treatment 3
<i>y3</i>	treatment effect arm 3
<i>sd3</i>	Standard deviation arm 3
<i>n3</i>	Sample size arm 3

Note

The dataset Stowe2010 is identical to dataset [Stowe2010](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Stowe R, Ives N, Clarke CE, Deane K, Hilten V, Wheatley K, et al. (2010): Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of adjuvant treatment to levodopa therapy in Parkinson's disease patients with motor complications. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*

See Also

[pairwise](#), [metacont](#), [netmeta](#), [netgraph.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
head(Stowe2010)

# Example using pairwise(), netmeta() and netrank():
# example(Stowe2010, package = "metabook")
```

subgroup.netmeta	<i>Subgroup analysis for network meta-analysis</i>
------------------	--

Description

Subgroup analysis for objects of class netmeta.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
subgroup(
  x,
  subgroup,
  only.connected = FALSE,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  method.tau = x$method.tau,
  level.ma = x$level.ma,
  backtransf = x$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  ...
)

subgroup(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'subgroup.netmeta'
print(
  x,
  common = x$x$common,
  random = x$x$random,
  backtransf = x$x$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = x$x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits"),
  digits.se = gs("digits.se"),
  digits.Q = gs("digits.Q"),
  digits.pval.Q = gs("digits.pval.Q"),
  digits.tau2 = gs("digits.tau2"),
```

```

    digits.tau = gs("digits.tau"),
    big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
    scientific.pval = gs("scientific.pval"),
    zero.pval = gs("zero.pval"),
    JAMA.pval = gs("JAMA.pval"),
    print.se = !backtransf,
    print.tau2 = gs("print.tau2"),
    print.tau = gs("print.tau"),
    print.Q = gs("print.Q"),
    text.tau2 = gs("text.tau2"),
    text.tau = gs("text.tau"),
    details.methods = gs("details"),
    legend = gs("legend"),
    ...
)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class <code>netmeta</code> (or <code>subgroup.netmeta</code>).
<code>subgroup</code>	A vector defining the subgroups considered in the network meta-analysis.
<code>only.connected</code>	A logical indicating whether networks of subgroups must be connected.
<code>common</code>	A logical indicating whether results for common effect subgroup network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>random</code>	A logical indicating whether results for random effects subgroup network meta-analysis should be printed.
<code>method.tau</code>	A character string indicating which method is used to estimate the between-study variance τ^2 and its square root τ . Either "DL", "REML", or "ML", can be abbreviated.
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for network estimates.
<code>backtransf</code>	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots. If <code>backtransf = TRUE</code> , results for <code>sm = "OR"</code> are presented as odds ratios rather than log odds ratios, for example.
<code>nchar.trts</code>	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see netmeta).
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments.
<code>digits</code>	Minimal number of significant digits, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.se</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for standard errors.
<code>digits.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for heterogeneity statistic Q , see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.pval.Q</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for p-value of heterogeneity test, see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau2</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for between-study variance τ^2 , see <code>print.default</code> .
<code>digits.tau</code>	Minimal number of significant digits for τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
<code>big.mark</code>	A character used as thousands separator.

scientific.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed in scientific notation, e.g., 1.2345e-01 instead of 0.12345.
zero.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values should be printed with a leading zero.
JAMA.pval	A logical specifying whether p-values for test of overall effect should be printed according to JAMA reporting standards.
print.se	A logical specifying whether standard errors should be printed.
print.tau2	A logical specifying whether between-study variance τ^2 should be printed.
print.tau	A logical specifying whether τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 , should be printed.
print.Q	A logical value indicating whether to print the results of the test of heterogeneity.
text.tau2	Text printed to identify between-study variance τ^2 .
text.tau	Text printed to identify τ , the square root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.

Value

An object of class "subgroup.netmeta" with corresponding print and forest function.

See Also

[forest.subgroup.netmeta](#), [forest.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
data("Senn2013")
# Add variable with (fictitious) risk of bias values
Senn2013$rob <- NA
set.seed(1909)
for (i in unique(Senn2013$studlab))
  Senn2013$rob[Senn2013$studlab == i] <- sample(1:3, 1)
Senn2013$rob <- factor(Senn2013$rob, levels = 1:3,
  labels = c("low", "moderate", "high"))
# Conduct network meta-analysis
net <- netmeta(TE, seTE, treat1.long, treat2.long, studlab,
  data = Senn2013, sm = "MD", reference = "plac", nchar.trts = 4)
# Conduct subgroup network meta-analysis
subgroup(net, rob, common = FALSE)
```

summary.netcomb

*Summary method for objects of class netcomb***Description**

Summary method for objects of class netcomb.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netcomb'
summary(
  object,
  common = object$common,
  random = object$random,
  overall.hetstat = object$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = object$backtransf,
  nchar.comps = object$nchar.comps,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class netcomb.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.
random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique component names.
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Value

A list of class "summary.netcomb" is returned with the following elements:

k	Total number of studies.
m	Total number of pairwise comparisons.

n	Total number of treatments.
d	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
c	Total number of components.
s	Total number of subnetworks (for discomb).
trts	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
k.trts	Number of studies evaluating a treatment.
n.trts	Number of observations receiving a treatment (if available).
events.trts	Number of events observed for a treatment (if available).
studies	Study labels coerced into a factor with its levels sorted alphabetically.
narms	Number of arms for each study.
designs	Vector with unique designs present in the network. A design corresponds to the set of treatments compared within a study.
comps	Components included in network meta-analysis.
k.comps	Number of studies evaluating a component.
n.comps	Number of observations receiving a component (if available).
events.comps	Number of events observed for a component (if available).
comparison	Results for pairwise comparisons (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
comparison.nma.common	Results for pairwise comparisons based on common effects NMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p, leverage).
comparison.nma.random	Results for pairwise comparisons based on random effects NMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
comparison.cnma.common	Results for pairwise comparisons based on common effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p, leverage).
comparison.cnma.random	Results for pairwise comparisons based on random effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
components.common	Results for components based on common effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p, leverage).
components.random	Results for components based on random effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
combinations.common	Results for available combinations based on common effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p, leverage).

combinations.random	Results for available combinations based on random effects CNMA model (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
common	Results for common effects model (a list with elements TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
random	Results for random effects model (a list with elements TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).
predict	Prediction intervals (a list with elements seTE, lower, upper).
Q.additive	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic.
df.Q.additive	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.
pval.Q.additive	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.
I2, lower.I2, upper.I2	I-squared, lower and upper confidence limits.
tau	Square-root of between-study variance.
Q.additive	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic (CNMA model).
df.Q.additive	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (CNMA model).
pval.Q.additive	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency (CNMA model).
Q.standard	Overall heterogeneity statistic (NMA model).
df.Q.heterogeneity	Degrees of freedom for test of overall heterogeneity (NMA model).
pval.Q.heterogeneity	P-value for test of overall heterogeneity (NMA model).
Q.diff	Q statistic for difference between CNMA and NMA model.
df.Q.diff, pval.Q.diff	Corresponding degrees of freedom and p-value.
sm	A character string indicating underlying summary measure.
method	A character string indicating which method is to be used for pooling of studies.
level	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual studies.
level.ma	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for pooled estimates.
ci.lab	Label for confidence interval.
reference.group, baseline.reference	As defined above.
all.treatments	As defined above.
seq	A character specifying the sequence of treatments.
tau.preset	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
sep.comps	A character used in comparison names as separator between component labels.
nchar.comps	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique component names.

overall.hetstat, backtransf	As defined above.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
x	netmeta object (if available).
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netcomb](#), [discomb](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netcomb)
```

summary.netconnection *Summary method for objects of class netconnection*

Description

Summary method for objects of class netconnection to print list of studies in subnetworks.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netconnection'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.netconnection'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class netconnection.
...	Additional arguments (passed on to print.netconnection).
x	An object of class summary.netconnection.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also[netconnection](#)**Examples**

```
# Artificial example with two subnetworks
#
t1 <- c("G", "B", "B", "D", "A", "F")
t2 <- c("B", "C", "E", "E", "H", "A")
#
nc2 <- netconnection(t1, t2)
print(nc2, details = TRUE)

summary(nc2)
```

summary.netmeta

*Summary method for objects of class netmeta***Description**

Summary method for objects of class netmeta.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmeta'
summary(
  object,
  common = object$common,
  random = object$random,
  prediction = object$prediction,
  reference.group = object$reference.group,
  baseline.reference = object$baseline.reference,
  all.treatments = object$all.treatments,
  overall.hetstat = object$overall.hetstat,
  backtransf = object$backtransf,
  nchar.trts = object$nchar.trts,
  warn.deprecated = gs("warn.deprecated"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class netmeta.
common	A logical indicating whether results for the common effects model should be printed.

random	A logical indicating whether results for the random effects model should be printed.
prediction	A logical indicating whether prediction intervals should be printed.
reference.group	Reference treatment.
baseline.reference	A logical indicating whether results should be expressed as comparisons of other treatments versus the reference treatment (default) or vice versa. This argument is only considered if <code>reference.group</code> has been specified.
all.treatments	A logical or "NULL". If TRUE, matrices with all treatment effects, and confidence limits will be printed.
overall.hetstat	A logical indicating whether to print heterogeneity measures.
backtransf	A logical indicating whether results should be back transformed in printouts and forest plots.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names (see Details).
warn.deprecated	A logical indicating whether warnings should be printed if deprecated arguments are used.
...	Additional arguments (to catch deprecated arguments).

Value

A list of class "summary.netmeta" is returned with the following elements:

k	Total number of studies.
m	Total number of pairwise comparisons.
n	Total number of treatments.
d	Total number of designs (corresponding to the unique set of treatments compared within studies).
trts	Treatments included in network meta-analysis.
k.trts	Number of studies evaluating a treatment.
n.trts	Number of observations receiving a treatment (if available).
events.trts	Number of events observed for a treatment (if available).
studies	Study labels coerced into a factor with its levels sorted alphabetically.
narms	Number of arms for each study.
designs	Vector with unique designs present in the network. A design corresponds to the set of treatments compared within a study.
comparisons	Vector with unique direct comparisons present in the network.
comparison	Results for pairwise comparisons (data frame with columns studlab, treat1, treat2, TE, seTE, lower, upper, z, p).

<code>comparison.nma.common</code>	Results for pairwise comparisons based on common effects model (data frame with columns <code>studlab</code> , <code>treat1</code> , <code>treat2</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , <code>p</code> , <code>leverage</code>).
<code>comparison.nma.random</code>	Results for pairwise comparisons based on random effects model (data frame with columns <code>studlab</code> , <code>treat1</code> , <code>treat2</code> , <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , <code>p</code>).
<code>common</code>	Results for common effects model (a list with elements <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , <code>p</code>).
<code>random</code>	Results for random effects model (a list with elements <code>TE</code> , <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code> , <code>z</code> , <code>p</code>).
<code>predict</code>	Prediction intervals (a list with elements <code>seTE</code> , <code>lower</code> , <code>upper</code>).
<code>Q</code>	Overall heterogeneity / inconsistency statistic.
<code>df.Q</code>	Degrees of freedom for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.
<code>pval.Q</code>	P-value for test of heterogeneity / inconsistency.
<code>I2</code> , <code>lower.I2</code> , <code>upper.I2</code>	I-squared, lower and upper confidence limits.
<code>tau</code>	Square-root of between-study variance.
<code>Q.heterogeneity</code>	Overall heterogeneity statistic.
<code>df.Q.heterogeneity</code>	Degrees of freedom for test of overall heterogeneity.
<code>pval.Q.heterogeneity</code>	P-value for test of overall heterogeneity.
<code>Q.inconsistency</code>	Overall inconsistency statistic.
<code>df.Q.inconsistency</code>	Degrees of freedom for test of overall inconsistency.
<code>pval.Q.inconsistency</code>	P-value for test of overall inconsistency.
<code>Q.decomp</code>	Data frame with columns <code>'treat1'</code> , <code>'treat2'</code> , <code>'Q'</code> , <code>'df'</code> and <code>'pval.Q'</code> , providing heterogeneity statistics for each pairwise meta-analysis of direct comparisons.
<code>sm</code>	A character string indicating underlying summary measure.
<code>method</code>	A character string indicating which method is to be used for pooling of studies.
<code>level</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for individual studies.
<code>level.ma</code>	The level used to calculate confidence intervals for pooled estimates.
<code>level.predict</code>	The level used to calculate prediction intervals for a new study.
<code>ci.lab</code>	Label for confidence interval.
<code>incr</code>	Numerical value added to cell frequencies (if applicable).
<code>method.incr</code>	A character string indicating which continuity correction method was used (if applicable).
<code>allstudies</code>	A logical indicating whether studies with zero events or non-events in all treatment arms should be included in an inverse variance meta-analysis (if applicable).

cc.pooled	A logical indicating whether incr should be used as a continuity correction (if applicable).
reference.group, baseline.reference	As defined above.
all.treatments	As defined above.
seq	A character specifying the sequence of treatments.
tau.preset	An optional value for the square-root of the between-study variance τ^2 .
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
prediction, overall.hetstat, backtransf	As defined above.
title	Title of meta-analysis / systematic review.
call	Function call.
version	Version of R package netmeta used to create object.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#)

Examples

```
# Examples: example(netmeta)
```

summary.netmetareg	<i>Summary method for objects of class netmetareg</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Summary method for objects of class netmetareg to print list of studies in subnetworks.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netmetareg'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.netmetareg'
print(
  x,
  digits = gs("digits"),
```

```

    digits.se = gs("digits.se"),
    big.mark = gs("big.mark"),
    ...
  )

```

Arguments

object	An object of class netmetareg.
...	Additional arguments (ignored).
x	An object of class summary.netmetareg.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits, see print.default.
digits.se	Minimal number of significant digits for standard errors.
big.mark	A character used as thousands separator.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmetareg](#)

Examples

```

## Not run:
data(smokingcessation)
# Add variable with (fictitious) risk of bias values
# with 1 = "low risk" and 2 = "high risk"
#
smokingcessation$rob <- rep(1:2, 12)

pw <- pairwise(list(treat1, treat2, treat3),
  event = list(event1, event2, event3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  data = smokingcessation, sm = "OR")

nma <- netmeta(pw, common = FALSE, ref = "A")

# Network meta-regression with continuous covariate and assumption of
# independent slopes
nr <- netmetareg(nma, rob)
nr

summary(nr1)

## End(Not run)

```

summary.rankogram	<i>Summary method for objects of class rankogram</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Summary method for objects of class rankogram to print list of studies in subnetworks.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'rankogram'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.rankogram'
print(
  x,
  common = x$common,
  random = x$random,
  sort = TRUE,
  nchar.trts = x$nchar.trts,
  digits = gs("digits.prop"),
  digits.mean = 2,
  details.methods = gs("details"),
  legend = gs("legend"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class rankogram.
...	Additional arguments (passed on to print.rankogram).
x	An object of class summary.rankogram.
common	A logical indicating to print ranking probabilities and SUCRAs for the common effects model.
random	A logical indicating to print ranking probabilities and SUCRAs for the random effects model.
sort	A logical indicating whether treatments should be sorted by decreasing SUCRAs.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
digits	Minimal number of significant digits for ranking probabilities and SUCRAs, see print.default .
digits.mean	Minimal number of significant digits for mean ranks, see print.default .
details.methods	A logical specifying whether details on statistical methods should be printed.
legend	A logical indicating whether a legend should be printed.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[rankogram](#)

Examples

```
# Examples:
# example(rankogram.netmeta)
```

treats	<i>Abbreviate treatment names</i>
--------	-----------------------------------

Description

Auxiliary functions to create uniquely abbreviated treatment names.

Usage

```
treats(x, nchar.trts = 8, row = TRUE)

comps(x, trts, sep.trts, nchar.trts = 8, row = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x	A vector with treatment or comparison names or a matrix with treatment or comparison names as row and / or column names.
nchar.trts	A numeric defining the minimum number of characters used to create unique treatment names.
row	A logical indicating whether row or column names should be used (only considered if argument x is a matrix).
trts	A character vector with treatment names.
sep.trts	A character used in comparison names as separator between treatment labels.

Details

These auxiliary functions can be used to create uniquely abbreviated treatment names (and are used internally in several R functions for this purpose).

In order to construct uniquely abbreviated treatment names, *treats* uses [substring](#) to extract the first `nchar.trts` characters. If these abbreviated treatment names are not unique, [abbreviate](#) with argument `minlength = nchar.trts` is used.

In order to construct comparisons with uniquely abbreviated treatment names, *comps* calls *treats* internally.

Author(s)

Guido Schwarzer <guido.schwarzer@uniklinik-freiburg.de>

See Also

[netmeta](#), [print.netmeta](#), [print.summary.netmeta](#)

Examples

```
pw <- pairwise(studlab = study, treat = treatment,
  n = n, mean = mean, sd = sd, data = Senn2013,
  varnames = c("MD", "seMD"))
nma <- netmeta(pw)

# Full treatment names
#
nma$trts

# Treatment names with four characters
#
treats(nma$trts, nchar.trts = 4)

# With two characters
#
treats(nma$trts, nchar.trts = 2)

# With one character (if possible)
#
treats(nma$trts, nchar.trts = 1)

# Full comparison names
#
nma$comparisons

# Abbreviated comparison names
#
with(nma, comps(comparisons, trts, sep.trts, nchar = 4))
```

vikor.netposet

Rank treatments across all outcomes using the VišeKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Rešenje (VIKOR) multi-criteria decision analysis method

Description

This function employs the VišeKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Rešenje (VIKOR) method to analyze all outcome-specific ranking lists. It provides both an amalgamated ranking list and guidance on which treatments correspond to the best compromise solutions.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'netposet'
vikor(
  x,
  pooled = ifelse(x$random, "random", "common"),
  weights = NULL,
  v = 0.5,
  ...
)

## S3 method for class 'matrix'
vikor(x, weights = NULL, v = 0.5, method = "SUCRA", ...)

## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
vikor(x, weights = NULL, v = 0.5, method = "SUCRA", ...)

vikor(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'vikor'
print(x, digits = 4, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	An object of class netposet or a matrix.
<code>pooled</code>	A character string indicating whether the VIKOR method should be based on the common ("common") or random effects model ("random"). Can be abbreviated.
<code>weights</code>	Outcome weights. The weights should always sum to 1. If not then they are standardized. If NULL, the function will assume equal outcome weights.
<code>v</code>	A scalar from 0 to 1 interpreted as the weight of the decision making process. Following guidance from the multi-criteria decision analysis field it is set to 0.5.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments (ignored).
<code>method</code>	A character string specifying the ranking metric. Either "P-score", "SUCRA", "best", or "ranking probabilities"; can be abbreviated.
<code>digits</code>	A numeric specifying the number of digits to print the ranking matrix Q.

Details

This function takes a single mandatory argument, which is either an object of class [netposet](#), a matrix, or a data frame. It then uses the multi-criteria decision analysis method *VišeKriterijumska Optimizacija I Kompromisno Rešenje* (VIKOR) to produce an amalgamated ranking list across all outcomes (Opricovic & Tzeng, 2004).

The VIKOR approach is only applied when the method argument is equal to "P-score", "SUCRA", "best", or "ranking probabilities" in [netposet](#).

The final ranking list is calculated based on treatments common across all outcomes. Treatments not present across all outcomes are excluded internally.

Using the argument 'weights' the users can specify the weight that each outcome should have in the decision making process. For each outcome this argument should have a value from 0 to 1 while the sum of all outcome weights should be 1. If the sum of all weights is not 1, they are internally normalized to sum to 1 and a warning with the normalized weight values is printed. Finally, if NULL then equal weights are assumed across all outcomes.

The argument 'v' specifies the weight of the decision making process. The VIKOR method is a compromise programming approach that aims to balance between each treatments overall and worst performance across all outcomes. The balance between these two criteria is achieved using the parameter 'v' which takes values from 0 to 1. Values close to 1 will give more weight to the treatment's overall performance while values close to 0 will give more weight to penalize the treatment's worst performance. The most common choice of 'v' is typically 0.5 (default also here), thereby allowing for a balanced decision making between treatment's overall and worst performance.

Value

The function returns a 'vikor' object. This consists of three ranking lists which are the following:

- A ranking list Q referring to the ranking when balancing both each treatment's overall and worst performance. This is the main ranking list of the method.
- A ranking list S referring to the ranking in terms of each treatment's overall performance.
- A ranking list R referring to the ranking in terms of penalising each treatment's worst performance.

In addition to the ranking lists, the function also evaluates the necessary conditions defined by the VIKOR method and returns a message indicating the set of compromise solutions.

References

Opricovic S, Tzeng GH (2004): Compromise solution by MCDM methods: A comparative analysis of VIKOR and TOPSIS. *European Journal of Operational Research*, **156**, 445–55

Examples

```
# Define order of treatments in depression data set Linde2015
#
trts <- c("TCA", "SSRI", "SNRI", "NRI",
         "Low-dose SARI", "NaSSa", "rMAO-A", "Hypericum", "Placebo")

# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission")

# (1) Early response
#
pw1 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
               event = list(resp1, resp2, resp3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
               studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma1 <- netmeta(pw1, common = FALSE,
               seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")
```

```

# (2) Early remission
#
pw2 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(remi1, remi2, remi3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma2 <- netmeta(pw2, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "undesirable")

# Partial order of treatment rankings (two outcomes)
#
po12 <- netposet(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2), outcomes = outcomes)

# Get the best compromise solution across the efficacy outcomes
vikor(po12)

# Use larger weight for response than remission
vikor(po12, weights = c(0.6, 0.4))

# Consider five outcomes
#
# Outcome labels
#
outcomes <- c("Early response", "Early remission",
  "Lost to follow-up", "Lost to follow-up due to AEs",
  "Adverse events (AEs)")

# (3) Loss to follow-up
#
pw3 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss1, loss2, loss3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#
nma3 <- netmeta(pw3, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# (4) Loss to follow-up due to adverse events
#
pw4 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(loss.ae1, loss.ae2, loss.ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = subset(Linde2015, id != 55), sm = "OR")
#
nma4 <- netmeta(pw4, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# (5) Adverse events
#
pw5 <- pairwise(treat = list(treatment1, treatment2, treatment3),
  event = list(ae1, ae2, ae3), n = list(n1, n2, n3),
  studlab = id, data = Linde2015, sm = "OR")
#

```

```

nma5 <- netmeta(pw5, common = FALSE,
  seq = trts, ref = "Placebo", small.values = "desirable")

# Partial order of treatment rankings (based on netrank() objects)
#
po12345 <- netposet(netrank(nma1), netrank(nma2),
  netrank(nma3), netrank(nma4), netrank(nma5), outcomes = outcomes)

# Get the best compromise solution across all outcomes
vikor(po12345)

# Use larger weight for efficacy than safety outcomes
vikor(po12345, weights = c(0.35, 0.35, 0.1, 0.1, 0.1))

# Example using ranking matrix with P-scores
#
# Ribassin-Majed L, Marguet S, Lee A.W., et al. (2017):
# What is the best treatment of locally advanced nasopharyngeal
# carcinoma? An individual patient data network meta-analysis.
# Journal of Clinical Oncology, 35, 498-505
#
# P-scores (from Table 1)
#
pscore.os <- c(15, 33, 63, 70, 96, 28, 45) / 100
pscore.pfs <- c( 4, 46, 79, 52, 94, 36, 39) / 100
pscore.lc <- c( 9, 27, 47, 37, 82, 58, 90) / 100
pscore.dc <- c(16, 76, 95, 48, 72, 32, 10) / 100
#
pscore.matrix <- data.frame(pscore.os, pscore.pfs, pscore.lc, pscore.dc)
rownames(pscore.matrix) <-
  c("RT", "IC-RT", "IC-CRT", "CRT", "CRT-AC", "RT-AC", "IC-RT-AC")
colnames(pscore.matrix) <- c("OS", "PFS", "LC", "DC")
pscore.matrix
#
po <- netposet(pscore.matrix)
vikor(po)
# same result
vikor(pscore.matrix)

```

Description

Count mortality statistics in randomised controlled trials of treatments for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (Woods et al. (2010), Table 1).

Format

A data frame with the following columns:

<i>author</i>	first author / study name
<i>treatment</i>	treatment
<i>r</i>	number of deaths in treatment arm
<i>N</i>	number of patients in treatment arm

Note

The dataset Woods2010 is identical to dataset [Woods2010](#) in R package **metabook**.

Source

Woods BS, Hawkins N, Scott DA (2010): Network meta-analysis on the log-hazard scale, combining count and hazard ratio statistics accounting for multi-arm trials: A tutorial. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, **10**, 54

See Also

[pairwise](#), [metabin](#), [netmeta](#)

Examples

```
head(Woods2010)

# Example using pairwise() and netmeta():
# example(Woods2010, package = "metabook")
```

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