

## Spreadsheet MOVER-R.

### Confidence interval for the ratio of two independently estimated quantities.

This spreadsheet starts with confidence intervals for two quantities  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ . It calculates a confidence interval for the ratio  $\theta_1/\theta_2$  using the MOVER-R algorithm. Reference: Newcombe, Statistical Methods in Medical Research, 2013. The algorithm assumes that the quantities  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are estimated independently. This will be true if the two estimates are derived from separate studies. Or if they come from two independent groups of individuals within the same study. For example, treatment groups A and B, or males and females.

The algorithm assumes that the same confidence level applies to the intervals for  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$ . This confidence level then applies to the ratio  $\theta_1/\theta_2$ .

The algorithm requires that  $\theta_2$  and its confidence limits must be strictly positive.  $\theta_1$  and its confidence limits may be positive or negative.  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  may represent continuous or binary data.

E.g.  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  could be means of the same strictly positive continuous variable in 2 different groups.

The algorithm may also be used to get an interval for the product of two quantities,  $\theta_1 * \theta_3$ .

This is done by letting  $\theta_2 = 1/\theta_3$ .

Let  $L_3$  and  $U_3$  denote the lower and upper limits for  $\theta_3$ .

$L_2 = 1/U_3$  and  $U_2 = 1/L_3$  are then used as the lower and upper limits for  $\theta_2$ .

It is essential to input these limits in the correct order.

As an example derived from binary data with  $\theta_1$  not necessarily positive:

Let  $\theta_1$  denote the relative risk minus 1.

If  $RR > 1$ ,  $\theta_1 > 0$ ; if  $RR < 1$ ,  $\theta_1 < 0$ .

Let  $\theta_2$  the reciprocal of the baseline risk, from a separate study.

Then  $\theta_1/\theta_2$  represents the absolute risk difference.

The exemplar dataset represents this situation with BR 0.04 (0.016 to 0.1) and RR 1.3 (1.04-1.625).

Intervals for variables derived from binary data should be calculated by boundary-respecting methods.

The algorithm checks data validity as follows.

For  $\theta_2$ , all input values must be strictly positive.

For  $\theta_1$ , they may be either positive or negative.

Both variables must satisfy the conditions lower limit  $\leq$  estimate  $\leq$  upper limit.

Error codes are returned for the confidence limits if these conditions are violated.

Depending on the context of application, the user should also check whether  
(a) the input values - point estimates and confidence limits for  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$   
(b) the calculated point estimate and confidence limits for  $\theta_1/\theta_2$   
lie within the relevant ranges for validity.

To perform these calculations, replace values in **bold** as appropriate.

| Input data: | Estimate   | Lower limit | Upper limit  |
|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Theta1      | <b>0.3</b> | <b>0.04</b> | <b>0.625</b> |
| Theta2      | <b>25</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>62.5</b>  |

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Input data validity check | TRUE |
|---------------------------|------|

| Results:      |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Theta1/Theta2 | 0.012000 | 0.001392 | 0.038514 |