

A peer-reviewed version of this preprint was published in PeerJ on 4 August 2015.

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Andrew RL, Albert AYK, Renaut S, Rennison DJ, Bock DG, Vines T. 2015.
Assessing the reproducibility of discriminant function analyses. PeerJ 3:e1137
<https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1137>

Assessing the reproducibility of discriminant function analyses

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Data are the foundation of empirical research, yet all too often the datasets underlying published papers are unavailable, incorrect, or poorly curated. This is a serious issue, because future researchers are then unable to validate published results or reuse data to explore new ideas and hypotheses. While data files may be securely stored and accessible, they must also be accompanied by accurate labels and identifiers. To assess how often problems with metadata or data curation affect the reproducibility of published results, we attempted to reproduce Discriminant Function Analyses (DFAs) from the field of organismal biology. DFA is a commonly used statistical analysis that has changed little since its inception almost eight decades ago, and therefore provides an excellent case study to test reproducibility. Out of 100 papers we initially surveyed, fourteen were excluded because they did not present the common types of quantitative result from their DFA, used complex and unique data transformations, or gave insufficient details of their DFA. Of the remaining 86 datasets, there were 16 cases for which we were unable to confidently relate the dataset we received to the one used in the published analysis. The reasons ranged from incomprehensible or absent variable labels, the DFA being performed on an unspecified subset of the data, or incomplete data sets. We focused on reproducing three common summary statistics from DFAs: the percent variance explained, the percentage correctly assigned and the largest discriminant function coefficient. The reproducibility of the first two was high (20 of 25 and 43 of 59 datasets, respectively), whereas our success rate with the discriminant function coefficients was lower (15 of 36 datasets). When considering all three summary statistics, we were able to completely reproduce 46 (66%) of 70 datasets. While our results are encouraging, they highlight the fact that science still has some way to go before we have the carefully curated and reproducible research that the public expects.

1 **Title:** Assessing the reproducibility of discriminant function analyses

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19 **Abstract**

20 Data are the foundation of empirical research, yet all too often the datasets underlying
21 published papers are unavailable, incorrect, or poorly curated. This is a serious issue, because
22 future researchers are then unable to validate published results or reuse data to explore new
23 ideas and hypotheses. While data files may be securely stored and accessible, they must also
24 be accompanied by accurate labels and identifiers. To assess how often problems with
25 metadata or data curation affect the reproducibility of published results, we attempted to
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38 datasets, respectively), whereas our success rate with the discriminant function coefficients
39 was lower (15 of 36 datasets). When considering all three summary statistics, we were able to
40 completely reproduce 46 (66%) of 70 datasets. While our results are encouraging, they
41 highlight the fact that science still has some way to go before we have the carefully curated
42 and reproducible research that the public expects.

43

44 Introduction

45 Published literature is the foundation for future research, so it is important that the results
46 reported in scientific papers be supported by the accompanying data. After all, we cannot
47 easily predict which aspects of a paper will prove useful in the future (Wolkovich et al.
48 2012), and if a portion of the results are wrong or misleading then subsequent research effort
49 may well be wasted (e.g. Begley & Ellis 2012). One relatively simple way to judge the
50 validity of published research is to obtain the original data analyzed in the paper and attempt
51 to repeat some or all of the analyses: this allows researchers to retrace the path the authors
52 took between the raw data and their results. The idea of reproducibility in research is
53 becoming a topic of great interest and this movement is gaining traction with journals
54 (Announcement: Reducing our irreproducibility 2013; McNutt 2014). Correspondingly,
55 there is clearly a need to quantify the validity of published research, yet there have been only
56 a modest number of published studies that have tried to reproduce the results of published
57 papers (e.g. Errington et al. 2014; Gilbert et al. 2012; Ioannidis et al. 2009), most likely
58 because it is often difficult to access the underlying data (Drew et al. 2013; Savage & Vickers
59 2009; Vines et al. 2013; Wicherts et al. 2006).

60 Even when the data file is available, one common problem that hampers reanalysis is poor
61 data curation: it is sometimes difficult to relate the dataset provided by the authors upon
62 request or archived at publication to the one described in the paper (Gilbert et al. 2012;
63 Ioannidis et al. 2009; Michener et al. 1997). For example, variable names may differ between
64 the received dataset and the one described in the study, or there may be differences in the
65 number of variables or data points. It is typically not possible to reproduce the authors'
66 analyses in these cases, and moreover the data may not be considered sufficiently reliable for
67 testing new hypotheses.

68 The current study had two goals: to assess how often we could reproduce the authors' results
69 when the available dataset matched the one described in the paper, and to assess how often
70 poor data curation prevents re-analysis of published data. We made use of 100 datasets
71 acquired from authors as part of an earlier study assessing the impact of time since
72 publication on data availability (Vines et al. 2014). The articles we chose had to i) contain
73 morphometric data from plants or animals, ii) have analysed the morphometric data with a
74 DFA, and iii) have not previously made the data available online. To make the data set

75 manageable in size, we selected only those studies published in odd years (between 1991 and
76 2011) as detailed in Vines et al. (2014).

77 We focused on morphometric data because it has been collected in a similar fashion for
78 decades (e.g. with Vernier callipers or a binocular microscope), so datasets from a range of
79 time periods are expected to be similar in size and format. Similarly, since its inception
80 (Fisher 1936), DFA has frequently been applied to morphometric datasets. While computer
81 processing power has greatly improved over the years, the way the analysis has been
82 performed has changed little. We can therefore reasonably compare DFAs from papers with a
83 wide range of publication dates, allowing us to investigate how changing analysis software or
84 changing curation standards affect reproducibility. In combination with Vines et al. (2014),
85 our results quantify the extent of the challenges facing science publication, both in terms of
86 getting hold of the original data analysed in the paper, and in terms of the proportion of
87 analyses that are poorly curated or cannot be reproduced.

88 **Materials and methods**

89 As part of the Vines et al. (2014) study, we received 100 datasets from authors (see Table 2).
90 For papers reporting a classical DFA of morphological data, linear or quadratic DFA were
91 considered, as were stepwise analyses where a) the variables in the final model were defined
92 and b) at least one of three common metrics metrics (see below) was presented. This allowed
93 us to attempt to reproduce the final model in the same way as a simple linear DFA. Studies
94 employing stepwise analysis of relative warps or Fourier-transformed data were also
95 excluded at this point, as these studies unfortunately did not indicate which variables were
96 included in the final model. A study entirely written in a foreign language (Spanish) was also
97 excluded.

98 For each remaining study, we followed the protocol below.

- 99 1) We first assessed the description of the methodology, checking whether the paper
100 adequately described the groupings and morphometric variables used in the analysis.
- 101 2) We examined the data files (in some cases multiple files were supplied), which
102 sometimes required specialised file formats to be converted. This was carried out
103 using the R packages ‘foreign’ (R Core Team 2013) and ‘RODBC’ (Ripley & Lapsley

104 2013). If the data file was clearly wrong (e.g. a summary table, instead of raw data)
105 we assigned the paper as 'Incorrect data file'.

106 3) We assessed whether the metadata contained in the data file, in other files supplied
107 by the author or in the accompanying email were complete and could be related to
108 their description in the paper. We classified papers missing sample names and those
109 with unclear population groupings as having 'Insufficient metadata'. This category
110 also included papers for which variable labels were in a foreign language and could be
111 not be matched to the variables reported in the paper. However, we accepted files with
112 unlabeled data columns, but where the number of columns matched number of
113 variables described in the paper.

114 4) We then identified discrepancies in sample sizes or number of variables, after
115 deleting rows containing missing data or samples not included in the analysis, where
116 appropriate. We assigned papers for which variables were missing or for which
117 sample sizes did not match those reported in the paper as 'Data discrepancy'.

118 5) In addition to simple transformations (logarithm or square root), we conducted size
119 adjustments based on multigroup principal components analysis (e.g. Burnaby's
120 (1966) back-projection) using the *R* packages 'multigroup' (Eslami et al. 2014) and
121 'cpcbp' (Bolker & Phillips 2012).

122 6) When more than one DFA meeting our criteria was conducted in a paper, we
123 selected only the first one. We recorded whether raw or standardised coefficients were
124 presented, whether cross-validation was used in the classification of individuals, and
125 the statistical software used. The year of publication was recorded for each paper.

126 Based on a preliminary survey of the papers, we identified three DFA metrics to reproduce:
127 the percentage of variance explained (PVE), the percentage of samples assigned correctly
128 (PAC), and the largest model coefficient. These three summary statistics are commonly
129 reported for DFAs, and are useful for interpreting DFA in a meaningful manner (Reyment et
130 al. 1984), although the detail in which DFAs are described varies greatly depending on the
131 focus of the paper. PVE and PAC are complementary indicators of the discriminatory power
132 of a discriminant function, whereas the function coefficients provide a formula for assigning
133 new samples to one group or another.

134 Our reanalysis procedure was designed to produce a single value per paper for each metric.
135 Where possible, we compared the PVE for the first axis, which explains the greatest amount
136 of variance in the model. When PVE was reported as the sum of the first two or three axes,
137 we compared the summed PVE. We calculated PAC overall, or to a particular group if the
138 overall percentage was not reported in the paper. For the coefficient, we selected the variable
139 that had the coefficient with the largest absolute value, and determined from the paper
140 whether the raw or standardised coefficient was used.

141 Although the original analyses used diverse statistical packages, we performed all
142 discriminant function reanalyses in the statistical software R v3.1.0 (R Core Development
143 Team 2011), using the functions ‘lda’ (in the MASS package; Venables & Ripley 2002) with
144 default parameters. For a small subset of the data sets (three studies), we also conducted the
145 analyses in SPSS using the same options as in the R analysis to check for systematic
146 differences. We also estimated each summary statistic using proportional or flat priors and
147 used the value that was closest to the published value. For PAC, authors reported a variety of
148 methods for assignment, ranging from standard classification functions based on all data, to
149 omitting one quarter of the data as a validation set. In our reanalysis, classification was
150 carried out using leave-one-out (jackknife) cross-validation or direct prediction in ‘lda’, based
151 on the description of the analysis in the paper. When neither was stated, we performed both
152 and selected the value that was closest to the published result. While this approach biases the
153 results towards the published value, it is a conservative means to avoid unfair treatment of
154 studies that used default parameters for their chosen software.

155 The R code used is provided in the Supplementary Materials. We considered the analysis to
156 have been reproduced if the PVE, coefficient, or PAC ‘matched’ within 1% of the published
157 value, or was ‘close’ if within 5% of the published value.

158 We used generalised linear models (the core ‘glm’ function in R) in order to assess whether
159 publication year affected the likelihood of problems in the data sets that would prevent
160 attempts to reproduce the DFA results. Given a binomial model, we tested the effect of
161 publication year on the probability that metadata would be insufficient, or that there would be
162 discrepancies in sample sizes or variable numbers. A Fisher’s exact test was used to test the
163 effect of statistical software on data problems and on the success of the reanalysis, combining
164 software used in only a single study (S-Plus, STATGRAPHICS and LINDA) into one
165 category (“other”).

166 Although we contacted authors again to ask for their preferences regarding acknowledgment
167 or anonymity (Table 2), we did not seek further information (e.g. metadata or analysis
168 parameters) to inform our reanalysis.

169 **Results**

170 The current study used 100 data sets originally gathered by Vines et al. (2014). Fourteen of
171 those data sets were excluded from our reanalysis attempt (Tables 1 & 2): one paper was
172 entirely in a language other than English (Spanish); two did not perform classical DFA; two
173 used non-morphological data in their DFA; six did not present any of the metrics that we
174 were attempting to reproduce; and three were based on stepwise analysis for which the final
175 set of Fourier-transformed variables or relative warps were not specified.

176 Of the 86 remaining studies, the data files provided for two (2.3%) were classified as
177 ‘Incorrect data file’: summary tables instead of morphometric data, or the data set used for a
178 different analysis from the same paper (Table 1). Seven others (8.1%) were assigned as
179 ‘Insufficient metadata’, such that columns in the data files could not be matched to the
180 variables described in the paper. This was due to a combination of abbreviations and the use
181 of languages other than English. A further five data sets (5.8%) did not match the expected
182 sample sizes, and two (2.3%) were missing variables. All seven were classified as ‘Data
183 discrepancy’.

184 We found no effect of publication year on the probability of having inadequate metadata
185 (odds ratio 0.95, $P = 0.44$) and no effect on the probability of mismatched sample size or
186 missing variables (‘Data discrepancy’: odds ratio 1.05, $P = 0.55$). Combining these main
187 types of data problems preventing us from attempting reanalysis (incorrect data, insufficient
188 metadata, missing variables or mismatched sample sizes), there was no effect of year (odds
189 ratio 0.99, $P = 0.87$). Where stated, the type of software (SAS® (SAS Institute, Cary, NC,
190 USA), SYSTAT (SYSTAT Software Inc., Richmond, CA, USA), SPSS (SPSS Inc., Chicago,
191 IL, USA), MATLAB (Mathworks, Natick, MA, USA), STATISTICA (Statsoft, Tulsa, OK,
192 USA), JMP (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA), R (R Core Development Team 2011), S-Plus®
193 (TIBCO Software Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA), STATGRAPHICS (StatPoint Inc., Rockville,
194 MD, USA) and LINDA (Cavalcanti 1999)) used for the initial study had a significant effect
195 on the probability of data problems (Fisher’s exact test, $P = 0.012$). This was largely due to a

196 high likelihood of data problems (0.454) among data sets originally analysed with SAS,
197 compared with 0.186 overall.

198 We attempted a reanalysis of the DFA for the remaining 70 studies, and the results are
199 summarised in Table 2. Our results regarding the PVE were generally close to the published
200 values (Pearson correlation coefficient, $r = 0.94$, $P < 0.0001$; Figure 2). Of the 25 reanalysed
201 data sets reporting this statistic, our reproduced value was within 1% of the published value
202 in 20 (80%) of cases, and within 5% of the published value in 23 (92%) of cases. The PAC
203 statistic was also often reproduced (Pearson's $r = 0.95$, $P < 0.0001$; Figure 4). Of 59 analyses
204 attempted, reanalysed values differed from the published value by 1% or less in 43 (73%)
205 cases, while 55 (93%) were within 5%. Discriminant function coefficients were reproduced
206 less frequently in the reanalysis. Using the absolute value of the coefficient to exclude sign
207 differences, reproduced values were within 5% of the published value for 15 (65%) of the 26
208 data sets reanalysed for this statistic, and each of these values was also within 1%. There was
209 still a strong correlation between the published value and our estimate (using absolute values,
210 Pearson's $r = 0.96$, $P < 0.0001$; Figure 3).

211 Of all 110 reanalysed PVE, PAC and coefficient values, 78 (71%) were within 1% of the
212 published value, and 93 (85%) were within 5% (Table 2). Considering the reported summary
213 statistics together for each paper, our reanalysis failed to replicate any value in the paper at
214 the most stringent level (within 1%) in 12 studies (17% of the total 70 data sets; Table 1);
215 however, we were able to partially reproduce 12 (17%) studies and completely reproduce the
216 results in 46 studies (66%). The reanalysed values were within 5% of the published value for
217 all three statistics for 55 (79%) of studies.

218 There was no effect of publication year on discrepancies between the published and
219 reproduced values for PVE, coefficients or PAC (test, $P > 0.2$ in each case). Sample sizes
220 were sufficient for a reliable test of the software effect for PAC only and this effect was not
221 significant (Fisher's exact test, $P = 0.67$). There was also no effect of software on the overall
222 reanalysis success (Fisher's exact test, $P = 0.85$) and the results of analysis with SPSS
223 matched those of analysis with R entirely.

224 Discussion

225 Confidence in scientific research is boosted when published results can be independently
226 reproduced by other scientists (Price 2011). Assuming that the raw data can be obtained

227 (which is typically difficult, e.g. Vines et al. 2014; Vines et al. 2013; Wicherts et al. 2011;
228 Wicherts et al. 2006), several obstacles still remain. First, poor data curation (e.g.
229 unintelligible column headings or missing samples) or inadequate methods description can
230 mean that the dataset obtained cannot be matched to the one described in the paper,
231 preventing reanalysis at the outset. Second, even when the datasets do match, some aspects of
232 the results may be inherently harder to reproduce than others, perhaps because there are
233 multiple calculation methods for the same summary statistic, or because the calculation
234 involves ‘random walk’ estimation(e.g. Gilbert et al. 2012).

235 In this paper we attempted to reproduce the results of DFAs for 100 datasets of papers
236 published between 1991 and 2011. In contrast to the striking decline in data availability over
237 time (Vines et al. 2014), we found no evidence that the reproducibility of DFAs decreased
238 with time since publication. Encouragingly, there was also no relationship between
239 publication year and the proportion of datasets with data problems that prevented reanalysis,
240 or with the proportion of reproducible results.

241 We attempted re-analyses for 81% (70 of 86 papers) of data sets after rejecting those with
242 obvious problems in the data file. These problems included the wrong data file being
243 provided, missing data (individuals or variables), differences in the labels of variables
244 between data files and published work, or unspecified subsetting of the data files prior to the
245 analytical steps. While some of these problems could be solved through further
246 communication with the authors, our study reflected the long-term reusability of the data, as
247 contact with authors is likely to become increasingly difficult as time passes (Vines et al.
248 2014). Digital information is rapidly moving towards a more centralised online system (“the
249 cloud”, Armbrust et al. (2010)). Similarly, the responsibility for data preservation is being
250 lifted from scientists to online repositories (e.g.: Dryad (www.datadryad.org), figshare
251 (www.figshare.com), NCBI (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)). Given this paradigm shift, we
252 recommend more attention given to the quality of the metadata and curation of the specific
253 files that are stored (Michener et al. 1997). For instance, if data are size-adjusted or
254 manipulated in other ways, both pre- and post-transformation data should be archived.
255 Perhaps the most critical piece of information is the link between column labels in the data
256 file and the variables described in the paper. We were unable to determine the correct
257 columns or rows in 8% of data sets. While we were able to convert all data files to text
258 format, the loss of metadata may stem from this conversion (in one case, this had to be typed
259 by hand, because data file provided was from a scanned hardcopy of the data in a MSc thesis

260 appendix). In line with previous authors on this topic (Borer et al. 2009; Whitlock 2011), we
261 recommend storing data in text-based data formats, as these are most accessible across the
262 range of statistical software packages. Also in line with previous recommendations
263 (Wolkovich et al. 2012), we recommend publishing the code used in analysis (as part of the
264 supplementary material or online repository such as GitHub, see Ram 2013), as it is often
265 difficult to provide a full description of the parameters used for a given analysis in the
266 methods section of a journal article.

267 Among the 70 data sets that were suitable to be reanalysed, we were able to reproduce, to
268 within 1% of the published value, at least one of the three statistics that we focused on (PVE,
269 PAC and the largest (absolute) coefficient) for 58 studies (83%). There were strong positive
270 correlations between published and reanalysed values for statistics reported in DFA, which
271 suggests that replication, in the broad sense, is possible when the proper metadata are
272 provided and with adequate curation of the data file; however, the reanalysed metrics
273 matched the published values precisely for only 46 of 70 studies (66%). Slight discrepancies
274 could be due to differences in rounding, as well as data handling by statistical programs. The
275 default parameters differ between *R* and SPSS, for example, although for three papers that we
276 compare using SPSS and *R*, results were entirely consistent when the parameters were
277 identical. Although obvious data file problems appear to be associated with different analysis
278 software, there was no effect of software on the reproduction of the published results in our
279 reanalyses.

280 Evaluating whether the DFA metrics analysed here fall within 5% of the published values is,
281 in our view, a reasonable test of reproducibility. However, it is uncertain how much the
282 original conclusions from these studies would change based on the values we have obtained.
283 The reproducibility of inference is an aspect of reproducibility that we admittedly did not
284 explicitly address in this study. Additionally, while DFA was not always a central or essential
285 component of the original study, its reproducibility is an important indicator of the underlying
286 data's quality and/or completeness. Such checks are an essential consideration when archived
287 data are re-used for new purposes.

288 The reproducibility of the analysis varied dramatically among statistics, ranging from 65%
289 for the coefficient to 80% for PVE of reanalysed data sets, with a similar reproducibility
290 percentage (73%) for the more complex PAC analyses. With a wider criterion for success
291 (i.e. within 5% of the published value), 65% to 93% of reanalyses gave broadly similar

292 results. The discriminant function coefficients were far less likely to be reproduced, even
293 when PVE and/or PAC matched. However, the procedures used to standardise model
294 coefficients and calculate PAC differ among statistical packages and studies, potentially
295 yielding overly optimistic results (see Dechaume-Moncharmont et al. 2011). This influences
296 our ability to reproduce the results. For instance, if jackknifing had been used for all PAC
297 reanalyses, only 56% of published values would have been reproduced (results not shown).
298 These results suggest that while general patterns in multivariate data are likely to be robust,
299 predictive models built on these data may be more sensitive to rounding and other minor
300 errors in the archived data. While this clearly does not invalidate the original results, it does
301 highlight another obstacle to successfully reproducing the authors' results: some summary
302 statistics may be inherently harder to reproduce, particularly when there are numerous
303 calculation methods, as is the case here, or when the estimation procedure makes use of
304 stochastic numerical optimisation methods (e.g. Gilbert et al. 2012).

305 In comparison with our previous study of reproducibility of analysis using STRUCTURE
306 (Pritchard et al. 2000), both the proportion of inadequate data or metadata and the
307 reproducibility of basic results were similar for DFA reanalysis. However, the correlation
308 between published and reanalyzed results was consistently greater for DFA ($r = 0.94-0.96$)
309 than for STRUCTURE ($r = 0.59$). DFA is a much simpler statistical procedure, although
310 other differences also exist; for instance, the STRUCTURE data sets were all in the same
311 format. In attempts to reanalyse microarray data sets, which are much more complex than
312 morphological data sets, approximately half of the results could be reproduced from available
313 data (Ioannidis et al. 2009). It is not surprising that analyses with more steps and parameter
314 choices are harder to reproduce, and this is echoed within our study, where we had to explore
315 a wide range of analysis options to obtain close matches for the most complex DFA statistic,
316 PAC.

317 Shared data is an important substrate for science and is one of the levers that may be used to
318 improve the reliability of research (Ioannidis 2014). The system of having data re-users
319 directly contact data generators to obtain access to their data has been in place for decades,
320 and is absolutely necessary for data re-use within embargo periods (Roche et al. 2014), but it
321 is not a long-term solution for the preservation of research data (Vines et al. 2014). We argue
322 that in order for archived data to retain their full value, all of the necessary data and metadata
323 must be stored at the time of archiving, which typically happens at or soon before/after
324 publication. We have determined some of the common problems that can occur in self-

325 archived data even when authors can be contacted and are able to share their data. The same
326 factors are relevant to communal data archives. While sequence repositories such as NCBI
327 Genbank have made the provision of metadata a key part of the submission, the decision of
328 what additional information to archive lies with the author for more generalised databases
329 such as Dryad and Nature's Scientific Data. The results presented here and those of previous
330 studies (Drew et al. 2013; Gilbert et al. 2012; Savage & Vickers 2009; Vines et al. 2014;
331 Vines et al. 2013) illustrate the need for our research community to make data availability
332 and curation a central part of the research and publication process.

333 **Acknowledgments**

334 We are extremely grateful to the authors who kindly provided their data, without which this
335 research would not have been possible. We also thank our collaborators on the first part of
336 this project, Florence Débarre, Michelle Franklin, Kim Gilbert and Jean-Sébastien Moore.
337 We thank Michael Whitlock and Heather Piwowar for useful discussions during the planning
338 of the project and Mary O'Connor for thoughtful comments on our manuscript.

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582 **Tables**

583 **Table 1.** Summary of papers excluded from or included in the study, in total and listed by the
 584 statistical software originally used to analyse the data. Those included in the study are further
 585 broken down by the reasons that reanalysis was not attempted or by the results of the
 586 reanalysis. A “partial match” occurred when both matching and non-matching metrics
 587 resulted from the reanalysed, compared to the published results. The metrics considered were
 588 PVE, a discriminant function coefficient, and PAC.

Software	Excluded	Include	Incorrec	Incomplete	Data	Reanalysed		
						t data	metadata	discrepancy
TOTAL						46		
	14	86	2 (2.3%)	7 (8.1%)	7 (8.1%)	12 (14%)	(53.5%)	12 (14%)
JMP	2	2	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
MATLAB	1	2	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
R	0	5	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)
SAS	1	15	0 (0%)	3 (20%)	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	2 (13%)	5 (33%)
SPSS	6	30	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	5 (17%)	6 (20%)	17 (57%)
STATIST								
ICA	0	9	0 (0%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	5 (56%)
SYSTAT	0	8	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (12%)	2 (25%)	5 (62%)
Other	1	2	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
Unknown	3	13	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (15%)	10 (77%)

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592 **Table 2.** Published results and reanalyzed values of DFAs based on data files received from authors. DFAs included in the current study were
 593 categorized according to the adequacy of data files and metadata, and the reproducibility of three metrics (percent variance explained, the largest
 594 coefficient and percent assigned correctly) among those that were able to be reanalyzed. Category indicates whether the data set was excluded
 595 from the study (E), was incorrect (I), had inadequate metadata (M), displayed data discrepancies (D) or was reanalysed (R). The reasons for
 596 excluding data sets from the study or preventing us from reanalyzing the data are summarized. The reanalysis outcome was classified as a
 597 complete match (C) when all reanalyzed summary statistics were within 1% of the published values, a partial match (P) when at least one (but
 598 not all) met this criterion, and no match (N) when none met this criterion. The same classification was applied to studies using the ‘close’
 599 criterion (within 5%).

Study no.	Year	Software	PVE		COEF		PAC		Categ.	Reason	Reanalysis outcome		Citation*
			Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed			Match (within 1%)	Close (within 5%)	
1	1991	SAS	47.3	45.8			93.2	93.2	R		P	C	(Semple et al. 1991)
2	1993	SAS	83.2	84.2	18.94	20.609			R		N	P	(Heraty & Woolley 1993)
3	1995	Other	79.1	79.1	2.87	-2.868	72	71.9	R		C	C	(Darbyshire & Cayouette 1995)
4	1995	SPSS			0.892	0.7	100	100	R		P	P	(Cadrin 1995)
5	1995	SPSS	57.3	57.3			91.4	91.4	R		C	C	
6	1995	SPSS			4.02	-3.805	100	100	R		P	P	(Ruedi 1995)
7	1995	SYSTAT			-1.09	1.091	92	86.9	R		P	P	
8	1995	SYSTAT			2.115	-2.115	100	100	R		C	C	(Floate & Whitham 1995)
9	1997	Not stated							E	Not all variables are morphological			(Vanclay et al. 1997)
10	1997	SPSS	67	66.9					R		C	C	(Brysting et al. 1997)
11	1997	SPSS	96.7	92.6	1.5	-2.488	100	98.6	R		N	P	(Gordo & Bandera 1997)
12	1997	SYSTAT	99.5	99	-0.57	0.611	89	88.7	R		P	P	(Gugerli 1997)
13	1999	Not stated							M	Row groupings don't match paper			

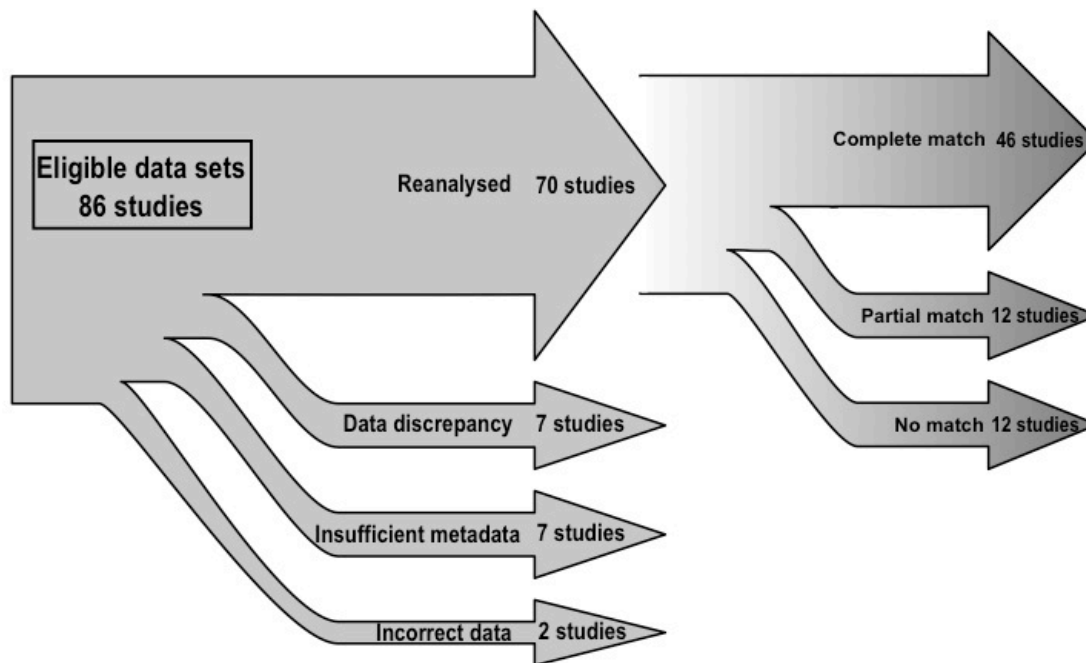
Study no.	Year	Software	PVE		COEF		PAC		Categ.	Reason	Reanalysis outcome		Citation*
			Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed			Match (within 1%)	Close (within 5%)	
14	1999	Not stated							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			
15	1999	SAS							M	Column labels missing			
16	1999	SPSS							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			
17	1999	SPSS					73.4	73.4	R		C	C	
18	1999	SYSTAT					90	91.7	R		N	C	
19	2001	Not stated					100	100	R		C	C	(Rigby & Font 2001)
20	2001	SAS	96.7	96.4					R		C	C	
21	2001	SAS					71.3	93.8	R		N	N	
22	2001	SPSS			-1.072	-1.072	96	100	R		P	C	(Palma et al. 2001)
23	2001	SPSS					100	100	R		C	C	
24	2001	SPSS	96	96					R		C	C	(Fernández & Feliner 2001)
25	2001	SPSS			5.228	-5.228	86	82.6	R		P	C	(Katoh & Tokimura 2001)
26	2001	STATISTICA					94.4	94.4	R		C	C	
27	2003	Not stated					90.3	90.3	R		C	C	(Okuda et al. 2003)
28	2003	Not stated			-2.176	-2.176	90.6	90.6	R		C	C	
29	2003	SAS							M	Column labels in Spanish			
30	2003	SAS							D	Extra rows			
31	2003	SPSS			1.011	1.011	100	100	R		C	C	
32	2003	SPSS			3.5		81		D	Extra rows			(Mills & Côté 2003)
33	2003	SPSS							D	Missing rows and row assignments unclear			
34	2003	SPSS					88.9	87.5	R		N	C	
35	2003	SPSS			0.772	0.766	84.3	84.3	R		C	C	
36	2003	STATISTICA							M	Column labels unclear			
37	2003	SYSTAT			1.28	-1.275	81	80.6	R		C	C	(Wicht et al. 2003)
38	2005	JMP							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			(Nishida et al. 2005)
39	2005	Not stated					79.9	79.7	R		C	C	(Hendriks et al. 2005)
40	2005	Not stated	83	83.1			73	74.3	R		P	C	
41	2005	Not stated					100	100	R		C	C	(Radloff et al. 2005)
42	2005	Other							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			
43	2005	Other							M	Unclear groups			(Contrafatto 2005)

Study no.	Year	Software	PVE		COEF		PAC		Categ.	Reason	Reanalysis outcome		Citation*
			Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed			Match (within 1%)	Close (within 5%)	
44	2005	SAS							M	Column labels missing			(Zaitoun et al. 2005)
45	2005	SAS					94.3	94.9	R		C	C	(Marhold et al. 2005)
46	2005	SPSS					46	38.2	R		N	N	(Aparicio et al. 2005)
47	2005	SPSS	55.1	55.6	0.352	0.779	71.8	70.3	R		P	P	
48	2005	STATISTICA	67.5	67					R		C	C	
49	2005	STATISTICA					97	98.8	R		N	C	
50	2005	SYSTAT					100	100	R		C	C	
51	2007	MATLAB							D	Missing columns and insufficient metadata			
52	2007	Not stated			1.1	1.097	97	96.6	R		C	C	(Svagelej & Quintana 2007)
53	2007	Not stated					87.9	87.9	R		C	C	(de la Hera et al. 2007)
54	2007	SAS			8.623	3.495	97.3	98.6	R		N	P	
55	2007	SAS					76	76.6	R		C	C	(Williams et al. 2007)
56	2007	SAS							D	Missing columns			(Pearce et al. 2007)
57	2007	SPSS							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			
58	2007	SPSS					76.9	76.9	R		C	C	(Rioux-Paquette & Lapointe 2007)
59	2007	SPSS			0.689	0.647	100	85.4	R		N	N	(Santiago-Alarcon & Parker 2007)
60	2007	SPSS	61.8	61.6					R		C	C	
61	2007	SPSS							E	Final model not given			(Conde-Padín et al. 2007)
62	2007	SPSS					84	83.3	R		C	C	
63	2007	STATISTICA					96.1	96.2	R		C	C	
64	2007	STATISTICA	93.3	93.3	-0.951	-0.951	89.2	89.2	R		C	C	
65	2007	STATISTICA			1.68	1.678	83.7	83.7	R		C	C	(Bourgeois et al. 2007)
66	2007	SYSTAT	90.4	90.4			90	90	R		C	C	
67	2009	Not stated					91.2	91.2	R		C	C	
68	2009	Not stated							E	Not DFA			
69	2009	Not stated	40.8	41.1			79	78.3	R		C	C	(Hermida et al. 2009)
70	2009	Not stated			0.242	0.084	100	100	R		P	P	(Buczko et al. 2009)
71	2009	SAS	69	69.2	1.05	-1.053			R		C	C	(Pérez-Farrera et al. 2009)
72	2009	SAS			0.95	0.604	80	80	R		P	P	
73	2009	SPSS					100	100	R		C	C	

Study no.	Year	Software	PVE		COEF		PAC		Categ.	Reason	Reanalysis outcome		Citation*
			Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed	Published	Reanalyzed			Match (within 1%)	Close (within 5%)	
74	2009	SPSS							E	Data not Morphological			
75	2009	SPSS					76.4	77	R		C	C	(Thorogood et al. 2009)
76	2009	STATISTICA							D	Missing rows			
77	2009	STATISTICA					100	98.1	R		N	C	
78	2009	SYSTAT			2.8	2.795	91	91.5	R		C	C	(Berzins et al. 2009)
79	2011	JMP							E	No PVE, coef or PAC			(Hata et al. 2011)
80	2011	JMP							M	Column headings unclear			
81	2011	JMP			-7.06	7.063	100	100	R		C	C	(Gabrielson et al. 2011)
82	2011	MATLAB	65.5	65					R		C	C	(Salcedo et al. 2011)
83	2011	MATLAB							E	not classical DFA			(Capoccioni et al. 2011)
84	2011	Not stated	90	90.5					R		C	C	(Russell et al. 2011)
85	2011	R							D	Missing rows			
86	2011	R							I	Wrong file			
87	2011	R							I	Wrong file			
88	2011	R	58	88.3			56	57.1	R		N	P	
89	2011	R					80.4	80.4	R		C	C	(Dechaume-Moncharmont et al. 2011)
90	2011	SAS							E	Spanish			
91	2011	SAS					100	100	R		C	C	(Parent et al. 2011)
92	2011	SPSS	81.8	81.7					R		C	C	(Forster et al. 2010)
93	2011	SPSS	97.7	97.7			87.5	87.5	R		C	C	(Amado et al. 2011)
94	2011	SPSS	58.3	58.3			62.9	62.9	R		C	C	(Ibáñez & O'Higgins 2011)
95	2011	SPSS	87.7	87.5					R		C	C	
96	2011	SPSS							E	Final model not given			
97	2011	SPSS							E	Final model not given			(Asanidze et al. 2011)
98	2011	SPSS					100	100	R		C	C	
99	2011	SPSS					95.7	93.9	R		N	C	
100	2011	SPSS	96	89.7	1.202	0.068	100	100	R		P	P	

601 *Authors were contacted individually once reanalyses were performed. Only authors wishing to be identified are cited above. In addition,
602 several authors agreed to be cited, but not identified directly (Amini et al. 2007; Audisio et al. 2001; Bulgarella et al. 2007; Ekrt et al. 2009;
603 Foggi et al. 1999; Ginoris et al. 2007; Gouws et al. 2001; López-González et al. 2001; Magud et al. 2007; Malenke et al. 2009; Schagerl &
604 Kerschbaumer 2009; Wasowicz & Rostanski 2009)

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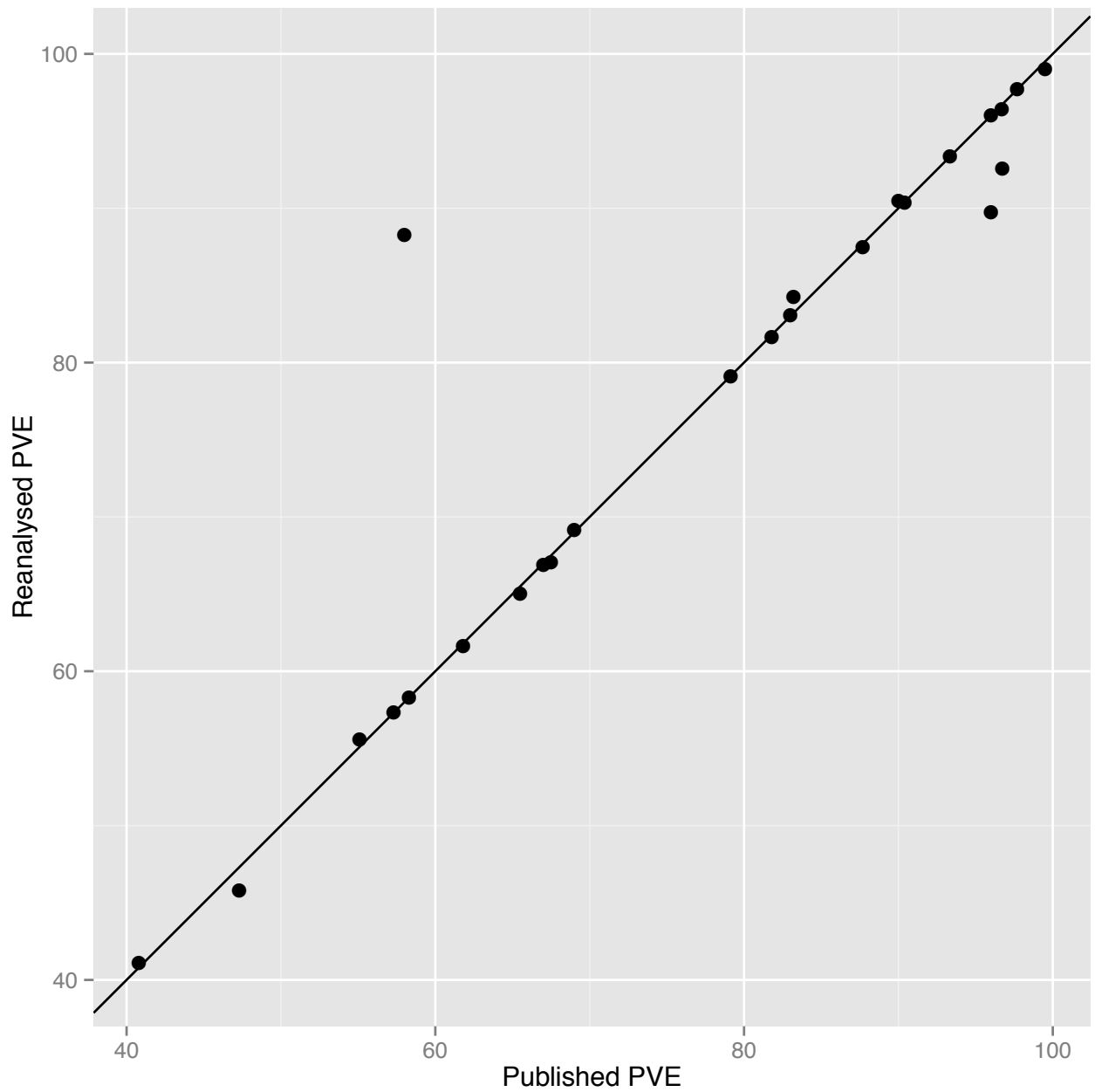
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609 Figure 1. Summary of the reproducibility of the 70 reanalyzed data sets and of the problems
610 preventing reanalysis of 16 papers.

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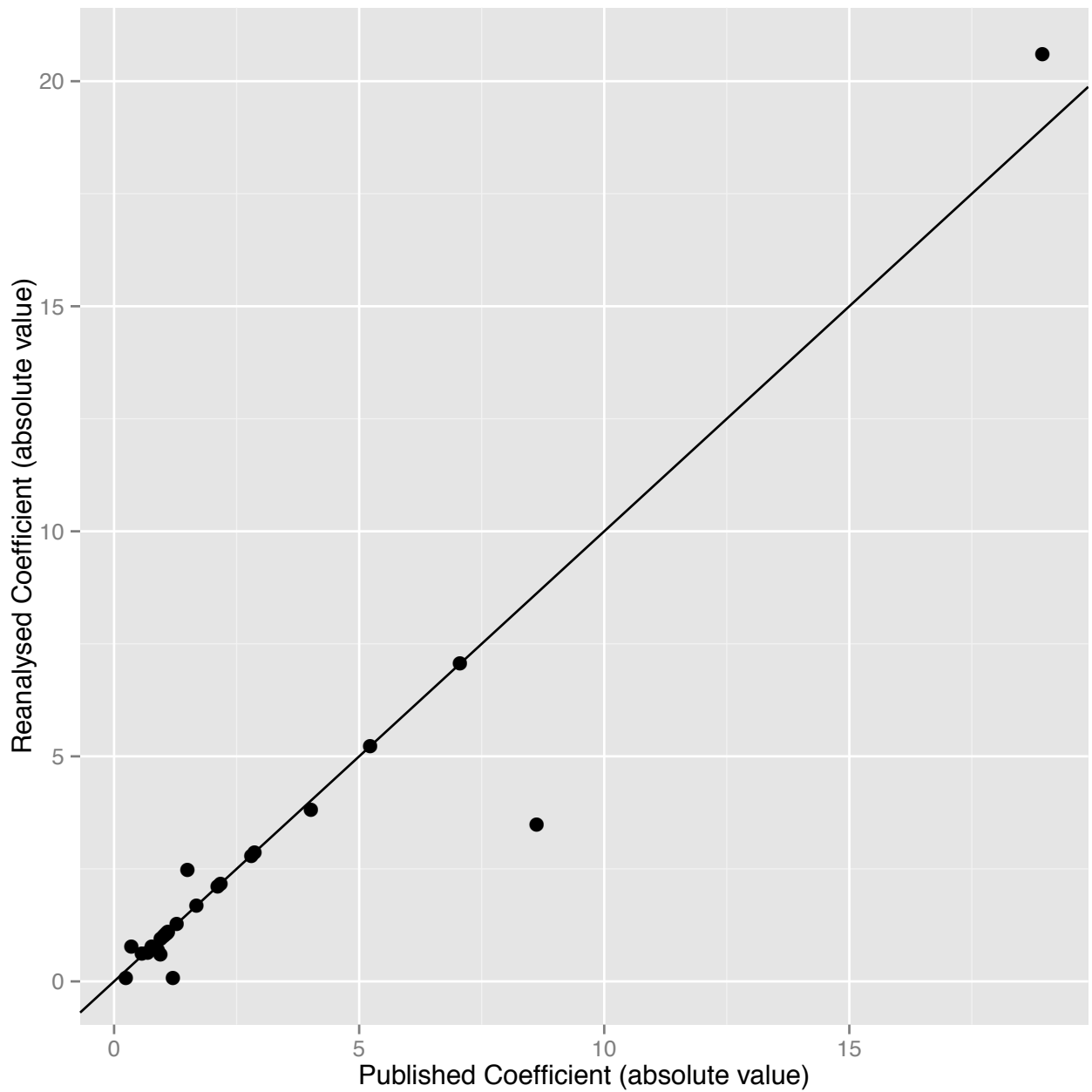
616 Figure 2. PVE values from reanalysis versus published DFA. Points on the 1:1 line represent

617 analyses differing by 1% or less.

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624 Figure 3. Discriminant function coefficients from the reanalysis versus the published results.

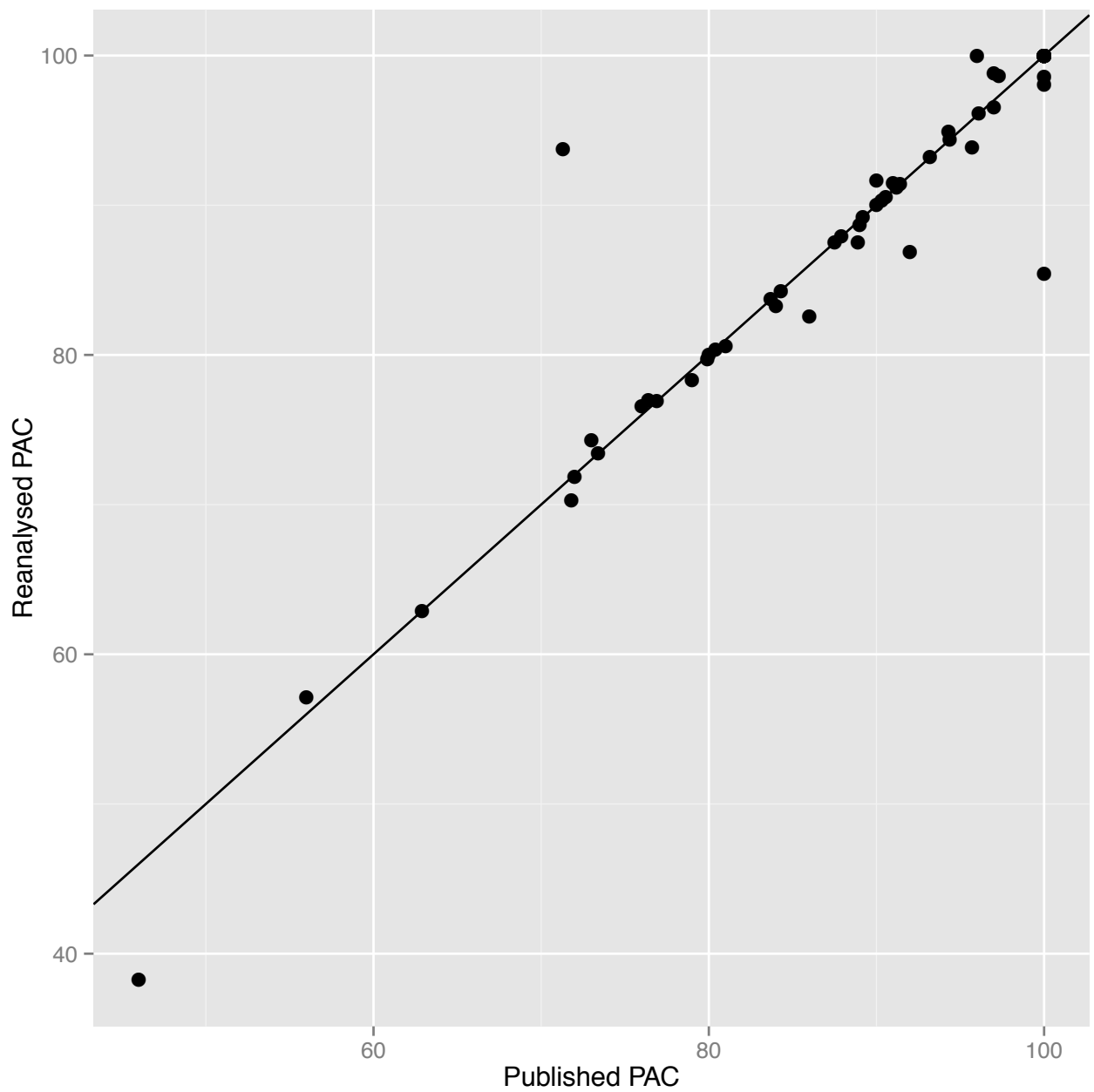
625 Absolute values are used because the signs of coefficients depends on the order of variables.

626 Points on the 1:1 line represent analyses differing by 1% or less.

627

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633 Figure 4. PAC by reanalysis versus published DFA. Points on the 1:1 line represent analyses

634 differing by 1% or less.

635