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**Mathematically Elegant Answers to Research Questions No One is Asking  
(meta-analysis, random effects models, and Bayes factors)**

The statistical tools listed in the title share that a mathematically elegant solution has become the consensus advice of statisticians, methodologists and some mathematically sophisticated researchers writing tutorials and textbooks, and yet, they lead research workers to meaningless answers, that are often also statistically invalid. Part of the problem is that advice givers take the mathematical abstractions of the tools they advocate for literally, instead of taking the actual behavior of researchers seriously.