Reviewer’s report

Title: The value of functional data analysis (FDA): a systematic review of its application

Version: 3 Date: 31 December 2012

Reviewer: YUKUN WU

Reviewer’s report:

This article still has lots of language problems:
Page 2, Line 3 in "Results", the majority (is) related
Page 5, Line 2 in paragraph 2, is highly [flexible]
Page 5, last line, related data seems to be "correlated" data
Page 7, item (1), via principal component (analysis)
Page 8, section "Inclusion and exclusion criteria", one "original research" is redundant
Page 12, paragraph 2, line 3, those of [,] the data
Page 20, paragraph 2, last line, "upon" or "on" is redundant.
and many many other errors.

The authors extensively searched recently published articles and summarized the application fields of FDA. For medical researchers, it is important to know what methods other peers used in the field. Functional data analysis has been well-developed and extensively applied in medical fields. This article lists many applications of FDA. For most readers who are not familiar with FDA, the classical textbooks can provide sufficient background and values of FDA. Experienced readers will hope to see the methodological comparison of FDA in each aspect. This article is obviously not "systematic" enough to cover each aspect of FDA.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests