**Introduction to the BMDS Model Averaging GUI**

**Installation**

1. Choose and/or create a folder where you will install the program; for example: C:\Users\jdoe\Documents\matest
2. Unzip the package contents into the target folder
3. Change to the “ModelAvg” subfolder, which was unpacked from the zip file
4. [Optional] Create a desktop shortcut to run the program:
   1. Right click on “runma.cmd” and choose “Copy”
   2. Right click on the Desktop and choose “Paste shortcut”

**Running the program – Simple example**

1. Double click the shortcut or the “runma.cmd” file to run the program
2. Click inside the Dataset Name box and choose “Load”
3. Select “sample.dax” and click [**Open**]
4. The **Model Options** and **Column Mapping** fields will show default values, which you can modify
5. The # Iterations field defaults to our recommended value of 10,000. For our example, change the value to 1,000.
   * In principle, raising the number of bootstraps will increase the accuracy of the results, but it can also lead to long runtimes.
6. Click [**Run**]
7. A result window will appear (see below for notes regarding the output):
   * **Model Averaging Results** – Results summarized as a table

**Running the program – Additional details**

1. Uncheck “Automatic Seed” to enter a specific value for the random number seed
2. Uncheck “Automatically Calculate Prior Weights” to enter specific values for each model’s prior weight
   * If manual prior weights are specified, the “Sum of Prior Weights” field turns red if the sum is (1 ± 5E-6). Runs will be disabled until the sum is corrected.
3. The tab order to move from field to field needs to be changed to move more intuitively
4. If the application fails to run, choose Tools->Enable Debug from the menu, which will cause informational popups when you click [Run].