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"Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves." ~Henry David Thoreau

Data dredging (aka. p-hacking)

Description

"A well-wrapped statistic is better than Hitler's "big lie" it misleads, yet it cannot be pinned on you."

~ Darrell Huff, How to Lie with Statistics

Data dredging (also known as **data snooping** or **_p_-hacking**)[1][a] is the misuse of data analysis to find patterns in data that can be presented as statistically significant, thus dramatically increasing and understating the risk of false positives. This is done by performing many statistical tests on the data and only reporting those that come back with significant results.[2]

The process of data dredging involves testing multiple hypotheses using a single data set by exhaustively searching—perhaps for combinations of variables that might show a correlation, and perhaps for groups of cases or observations that show differences in their mean or in their breakdown by some other variable.

Category

1. General

Date Created
6. December 2022
Author
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"Truth has to be repeated constantly, because Error also is being preached all the time, and not just by a few, but by the multitude. In the Press and Encyclopaedias, in Schools and Universities, everywhere Error holds sway, feeling happy and comfortable in the knowledge of having Majority on its side." ~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe