

Coming to terms with data overload in science

@jtleek

FIXING SCIENCE

Most science research findings are false. Here's how we can change that



POLICY & ETHICS

Is There a Reproducibility Crisis in Science?

By Nature Video on May 28, 2016





1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility

Survey sheds light on the 'crisis' rocking research.

Monya Baker

25 May 2016 | Corrected: [28 July 2016](#)

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Is there a reproducibility crisis in science?



Space race



China's quest to become a space science superpower

With major spaceflight milestones behind it, China is working to build an international reputation for space science.

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Most Scientific Findings Are Wrong or Useless - Reason.com

reason.com/archives/2016/08/26/most-scientific-results-are-wrong-or-useless

Aug 26, 2016 - ScientistYanlevDreamstime Yanlev/Dreamstime"Science, the pride of modernity, our one source of objective knowledge, is in deep trouble.

PLOS Medicine: Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124

by JPA Ioannidis - 2005 - Cited by 4846 - Related articles

Aug 30, 2005 - Moreover, for many current scientific fields, claimed research findings ... Citation: Ioannidis JPA (2005) Why **Most** Published Research Findings Are False. what might have gone **wrong** with their data, analyses, and results.

Is Most Published Research Wrong? - YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42QuXLucH3Q>

Aug 11, 2016 - Uploaded by Veritasium

Why **Most** Published Research Findings Are False: The problem with the approach to **science** is that ...

Believe It Or Not, Most Published Research Findings Are Probably ...

bigthink.com/.../believe-it-or-not-most-published-research-findings-are-probably-false

Ten years ago, a researcher claimed **most** published research findings are false; ... of the Internet has worked wonders for the public's access to **science**, but this ... the case, experiments are underpowered,

176,000,000!



Replication crisis

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **replication crisis** (or **replicability crisis**) refers to a [methodological](#) crisis in [science](#) in which scientists have found that the results of many scientific studies are difficult or impossible to [replicate](#) on subsequent investigation, either by independent researchers or by the original researchers themselves.^[1] While the crisis has long-standing roots, the phrase was coined in the early 2010s as part of a growing awareness of the problem.

Since the reproducibility of experiments is an essential part of the [scientific method](#), the inability to replicate the studies of others has potentially grave consequences for many fields of science in which significant theories are grounded on unreproducible experimental work.

The replication crisis has been particularly widely discussed in the field of [psychology](#) (and in particular, [social psychology](#)) and in [medicine](#), where a number of efforts have been made to re-investigate classic results, and to attempt to determine both the validity of the results, and, if invalid, the reasons for the failure of replication.^{[2][3]}

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

1 [General](#)

2 [Medicine](#)

3 [Psychology](#)

3.1 [Replication rates in psychology](#)

3.2 [A disciplinary social dilemma](#)

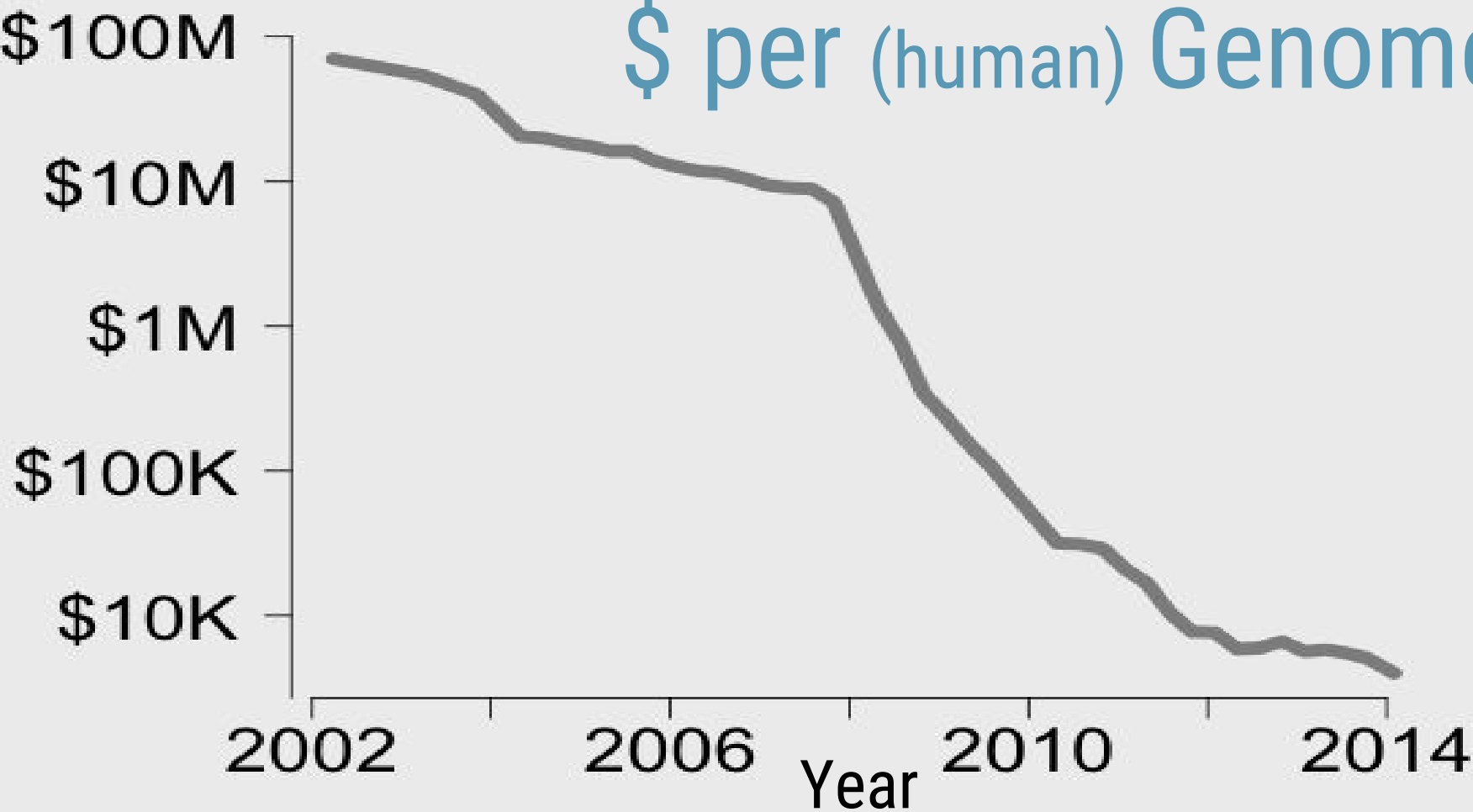
4 [Marketing](#)

A hypothesis

N = SAMPLE SIZE

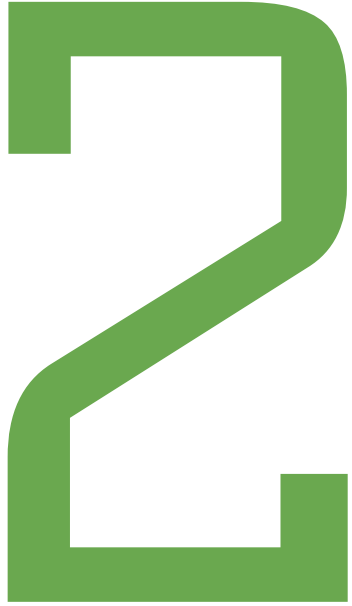
$$N = \frac{(\$ \text{ YOU HAVE})}{(\$ \text{ PER SAMPLE})}$$

\$ per (human) Genome



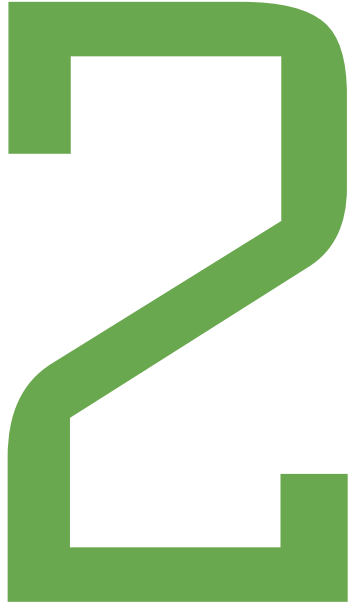
I DON'T KNOW HOW
TO DO STATISTICS BUT
IT DOESN'T MATTER
BECAUSE I DIDN'T
HAVE DATA.





The tools to solve the “crisis” exist

The humans are the problem



The tools to solve the “crisis” exist

The humans are the problem

What is the “crisis”?



Population



Question



Hypothesis



Experimental Design



Experimentor



Data



Analysis Plan



Analyst



Code



Estimate



Claim

Original

Reproduction



01100
10110
11110

01100
10110
11110



Original



Unobserved



Different




Incorrect

Reproduce

Format: Abstract ▾

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Nat Genet. 2009 Feb;41(2):149-55. doi: 10.1038/ng.295. Epub 2008 Jan 28. 

Repeatability of published microarray gene expression analyses.

Ioannidis JP¹, Allison DB, Ball CA, Coulibaly I, Cui X, Culhane AC, Falchi M, Furlanello C, Game L, Jurman G, Mangion J, Mehta T, Nitzberg M, Page GP, Petretto E, van Noort V.

 Author information

Abstract

Given the complexity of microarray-based gene expression studies, guidelines encourage transparent design and public data availability. Several journals require public data deposition and several public databases exist. However, not all data are publicly available, and even when available, it is unknown whether the published results are reproducible by independent scientists. Here we evaluated the replication of data analyses in 18 articles on microarray-based gene expression profiling published in Nature Genetics in 2005-2006. One table or figure from each article was independently evaluated by two teams of analysts. We reproduced two analyses in principle and six partially or with some discrepancies; ten could not be reproduced. The main reason for failure to reproduce was data unavailability, and discrepancies were mostly due to incomplete data annotation or specification of data processing and analysis. Repeatability of published microarray studies is apparently limited. More strict publication rules enforcing public data availability and explicit description of data processing and analysis should be considered.

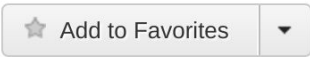
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Mostly, your results matter to others. [Nat Genet. 2009]

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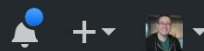
Mostly, your results matter to others. [Nat Genet. 2009]

Lack of correct data format and comparability limits future integrative [Nat Biotechnol. 2006]

ArrayExpress service for reviewers/editors of DNA microarray paper [Nat Biotechnol. 2006]

Review MGED standards: work in progress. [OMICS. 2006]

Review Microarray databases: standards and ontologies. [Nat Genet. 2002]

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Jeff L.
jtleek

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Developer Program Member



Baltimore, MD



<http://biostat.jhsph.edu/~jtleek/>

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The lecture slides for Coursera's Data Analysis class

JavaScript ★ 636 🔗 631

[rpackages](#)

R package development - the Leek group way!

★ 337 🔗 247

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The Leek group guide to genomics papers

★ 245 🔗 114

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WIRED

JAMA. 2016 Mar 15;315(11):1141-8. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.1952.



Evolution of Reporting P Values in the Biomedical Literature, 1990-2015.

Chavalarias D¹, Wallach JD², Li AH³, Ioannidis JP⁴.

Author information

Abstract

IMPORTANCE: The use and misuse of P values has generated extensive debates.

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate in large scale the P values reported in the abstracts and full text of biomedical research articles over the past 25 years and determine how frequently statistical information is presented in ways other than P values.

DESIGN: Automated text-mining analysis was performed to extract data on P values reported in 12,821,790 MEDLINE abstracts and in 843,884 abstracts and full-text articles in PubMed Central (PMC) from 1990 to 2015. Reporting of P values in 151 English-language core clinical journals and specific article types as classified by PubMed also was evaluated. A random sample of 1000 MEDLINE abstracts was manually assessed for reporting of P values and other types of statistical information; of those abstracts reporting empirical data, 100 articles were also assessed in full text.

MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES: P values reported.

RESULTS: Text mining identified 4,572,043 P values in 1,608,736 MEDLINE abstracts and 3,438,299 P values in 385,393 PMC full-text articles. Reporting of P values in abstracts increased from 7.3% in 1990 to 15.6% in 2014. In 2014, P values were reported in 33.0% of abstracts from the 151 core clinical journals (n = 29,725 abstracts), 35.7% of meta-analyses (n = 5620), 38.9% of clinical trials (n = 4624), 54.8% of randomized controlled trials (n = 13,544), and 2.4% of reviews (n = 71,529). The distribution of reported P values in abstracts and in full text showed strong clustering at P values of .05 and of .001 or smaller. Over time, the "best" (most statistically significant) reported P values were modestly smaller and the "worst" (least statistically significant) reported P values became modestly less significant. Among the MEDLINE abstracts and PMC full-text articles with P

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[Community-based care for the management of type 2 diabetes](#) [Ont Health Technol Assess Ser...

[Review Resistance exercise training for fibromyalgia](#) [Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2013]

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Hi John

I read with interest your recent paper in JAMA on p-values:

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2503172#>

But could not find the data or code. Would you mind letting me know where they are?

Thanks!

Dear Jeff,

I still have to publish the code (I managed it on a private git). I plan to do it early june since I am quite busy until then. I just want to properly explain how it works when I release it. I hope this won't be too long

As for
I will
the M

Regi

David

“So if I have time I will make a website with an API to retrieve data on requests.”

time,
t's

Hi,















The dataset is now online on dataverse <http://dx.doi.org/10.7910/DVN/6FMTT3>

After import of the sql you should have

- 1,985,670 rows for the table `medline_full_txt_list`
- 12,436,631 rows for the table `medline_full_txt_pv`
- 16,116,061 rows for the table `medline_pt`
- 9,088,701 rows for the table `medline_pvalues`

Tell me if there is any issue. Source code will follow.

7 Files

				 Download	
		medline_full_txt_list.sql Unknown - 228.3 MB - Apr 12, 2016 - 4 Downloads MD5: 5d78f42859d4044660cf636675281384 List of all PMC papers processed Data P-values		 Download	
		medline_full_txt_pv.sql Unknown - 1.0 GB - Apr 12, 2016 - 9 Downloads MD5: 9e3ee983cf8bee7d75153124abfae6e2 sql table of all P-values extracted from PMC full text Data P-values		 Download	
		medline_full_txt_pv.tab Tabular Data - 174.3 MB - Apr 12, 2016 - 14 Downloads 7 Variables, 3438298 Observations - UNF:6:tRQMIS7wwbyq7H4scJ6DAQ== CSV of all P-values extracted from PMC full text Data P-values		 Explore	 Download ▾
		medline_pt.sql Unknown - 1.5 GB - Apr 12, 2016 - 1 Download MD5: 68ebdedabc670c188d9b49629db931d3 sql of all P-values extracted from Medline abstracts Data P-values		 Download	

```
> library(readr)
> dat = read_csv("~/data/medicine/medline_full_txt_pv.csv")
```

Parsed with column specification:

```
cols(
  `7669595` = col_integer(),
  `0370635` = col_character(),
  `=` = col_character(),
  `0.14` = col_double(),
  `1995` = col_integer(),
  plain = col_character(),
  `1` = col_integer()
)
```

```
|=====| 100% 174 MB
=====| 64% 112 MB
```















```
> head(dat)
```

```
# A tibble: 6 x 7
```

	`7669595` <int>	`0370635` <chr>	`=` <chr>	`0.14` <dbl>	`1995` <int>	plain <chr>	`1` <int>
1	7669596	0370635	=	0.001	1995	plain	1
2	8611396	0370635	<	0.010	1996	plain	1
3	8611396	0370635	<	0.010	1996	plain	1
4	8611396	0370635	<	0.010	1996	plain	1
5	8611397	0370635	<	0.010	1996	plain	1
6	8611398	0370635	<	0.010	1996	plain	1

```
> |
```

7 Files

				 Download	
		medline_full_txt_list.sql Unknown - 228.3 MB - Apr 12, 2016 - 4 Downloads MD5: 5d78f42859d4044660cf636675281384 List of all PMC papers processed Data P-values		 Download	
		medline_full_txt_pv.sql Unknown - 1.0 GB - Apr 12, 2016 - 9 Downloads MD5: 9e3ee983cf8bee7d75153124abfae6e2 sql table of all P-values extracted from PMC full text Data P-values		 Download	
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		medline_pt.sql Unknown - 1.5 GB - Apr 12, 2016 - 1 Download MD5: 68ebdedabc670c188d9b49629db931d3 sql of all P-values extracted from Medline abstracts Data P-values		 Download	

P-values from Chavalarias et al. 2016 for the tidypvals package

Jeff Leek

26 July 2017

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[1.2 Load data](#)

[2 Tidy p-values](#)

[2.1 Format p-values](#)

[2.2 Select the appropriate columns and clean](#)

[3 Save data](#)

[4 Session information](#)

These p-values come from the paper: [Evolution of Reporting P Values in the Biomedical Literature](#). The csv file for the p-values from medline did not have column names, so to ensure we had the right data we downloaded the MySQL dump from the Dataverse <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?jsessionid=94274f10cbbdbecaaaf6da71ca209?fileId=2801917&version=RELEASED&version=.0> on 2017-07-24. We re-loaded it into a MySQL database and that is where the code starts.

1 Set up

1.1 Load packages

Original



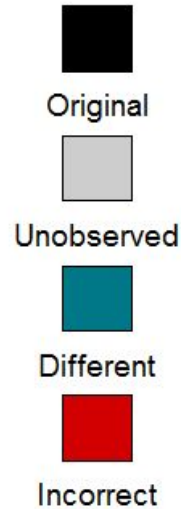
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Replication



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Replicate

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19

Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science

Open Science Collaboration^{*,†}

+ See all authors and affiliations

Science 28 Aug 2015:
Vol. 349, Issue 6251, aac4716
DOI: 10.1126/science.aac4716

Article

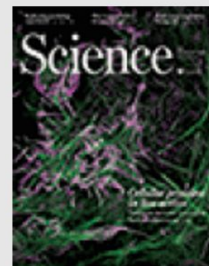
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Science

Vol 349, Issue 6251
28 August 2015

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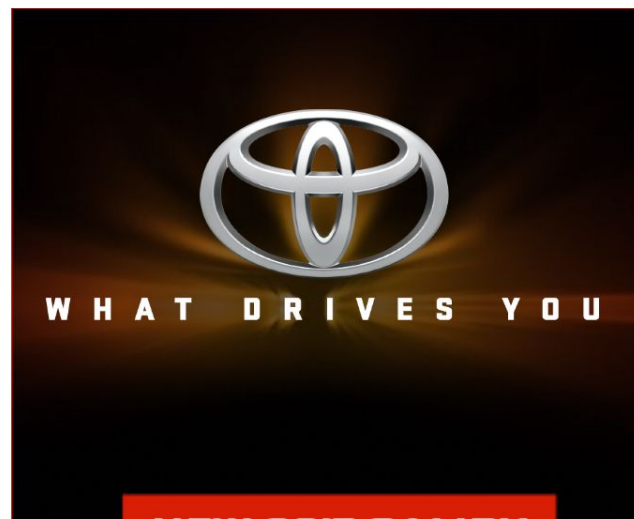
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Speaking of Science

Many scientific studies can't be replicated. That's a problem.



By **Joel Achenbach** August 27, 2015

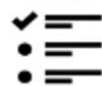




Over the course of four years, 270 researchers attempted to reproduce the results of 100 experiments that had been published in three prestigious psychology journals. It was awfully hard. They ultimately concluded that they'd succeeded just 39 times.



01100
10110
11110



01100
10110
11110



Original



Unobserved



Different



Incorrect

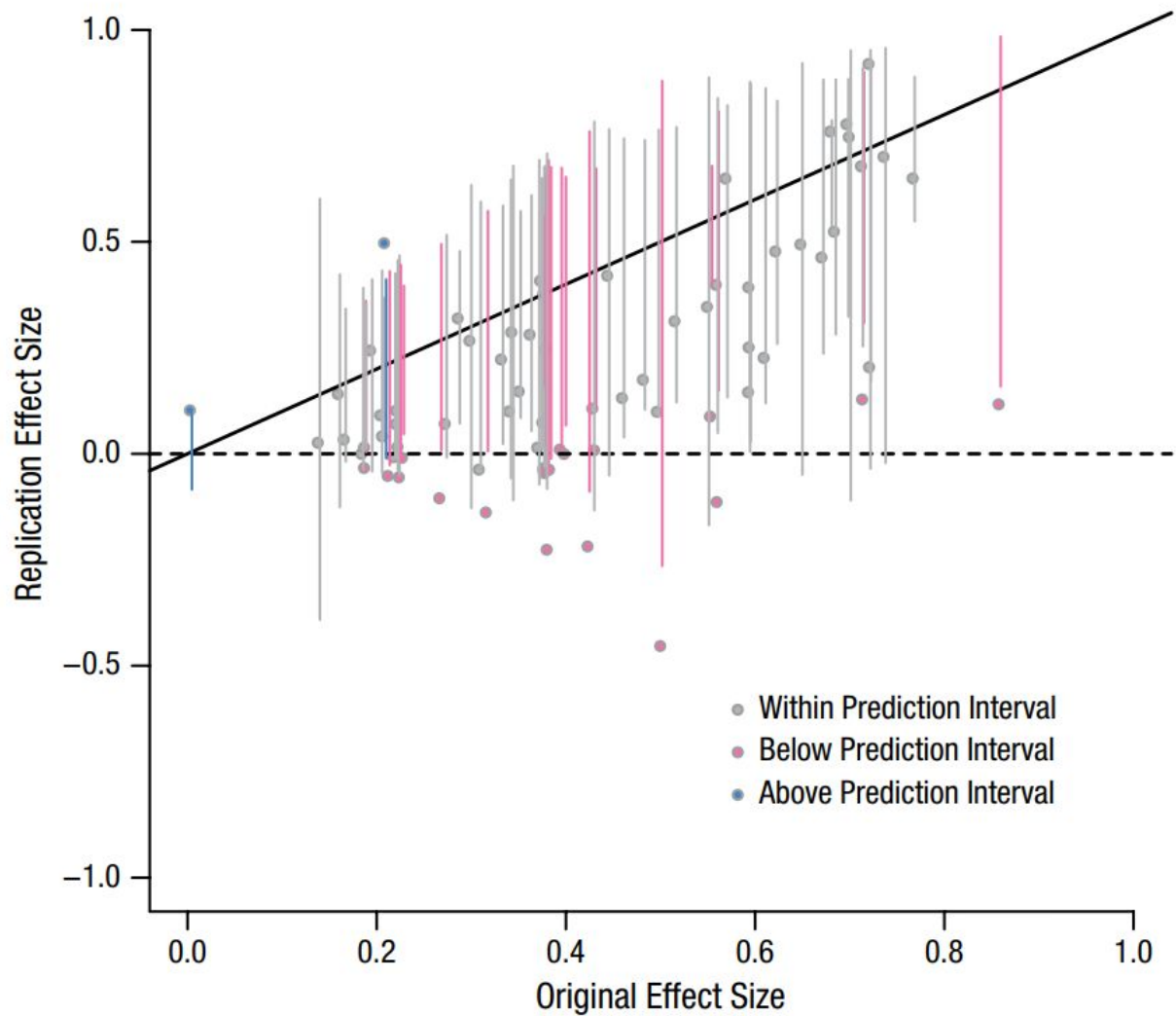
Replication Definition for 39

$P < 0.05$ in Original

$P < 0.05$ in Replicated Study

Alternative Definition

Effect size inside prediction
interval for effect based on
original study





Original



Unobserved

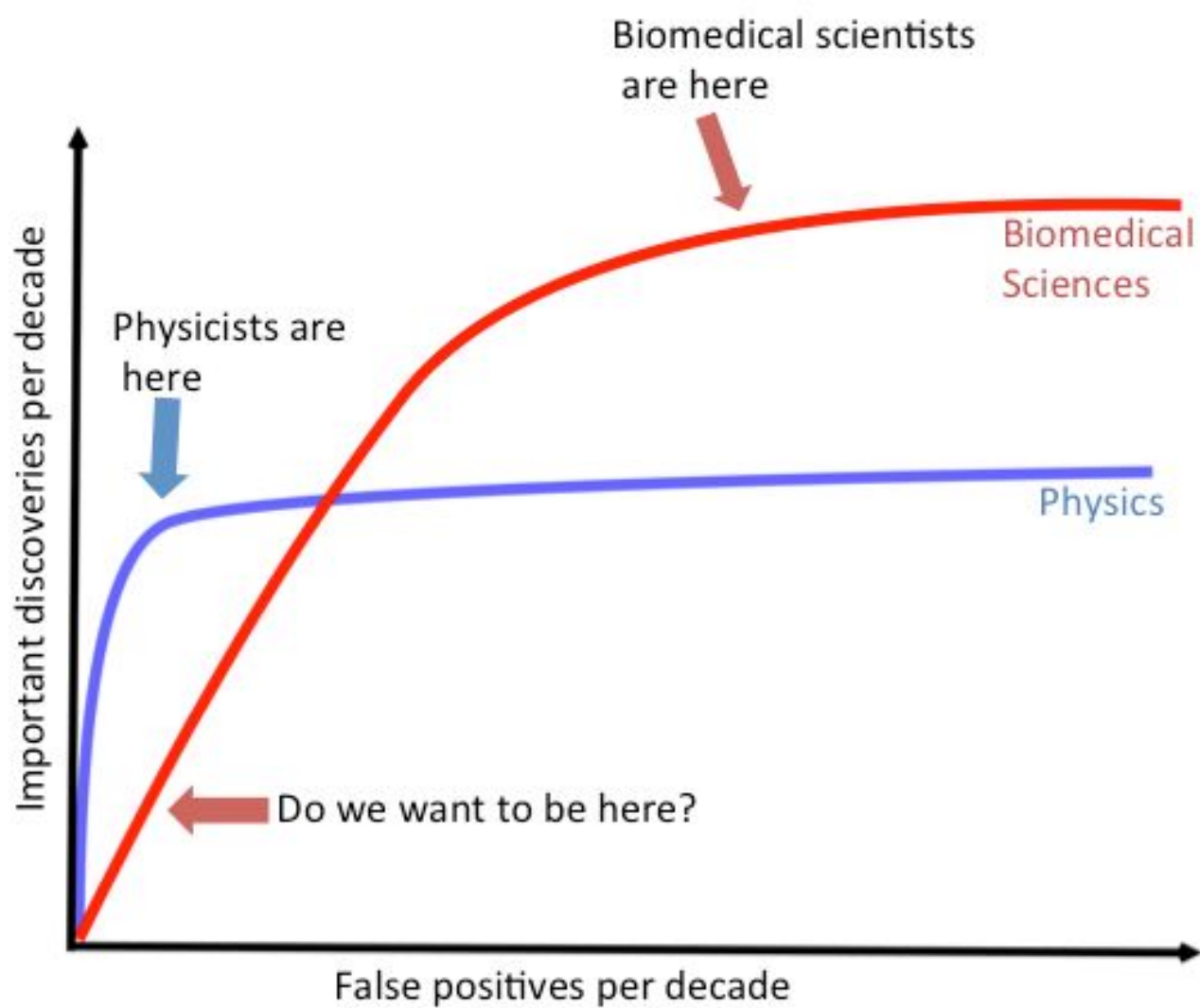


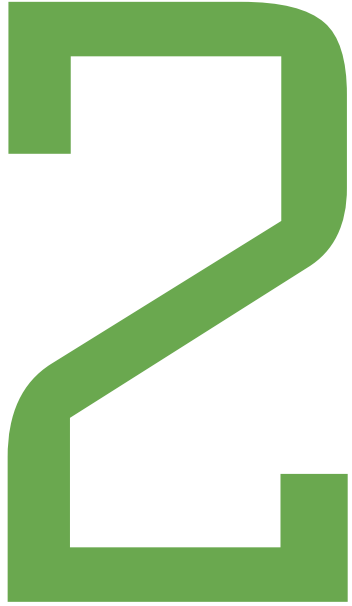
Different



Incorrect

False discovery





The tools to solve the “crisis” exist

The humans are the problem



How many people feel about statistics

Background

Many groups, including our own, have proposed the use of DNA methylation profiles as biomarkers for various disease states. While much research has been done identifying DNA methylation signatures in cancer vs. normal etc., we still lack sufficient knowledge of the role that differential methylation plays during normal cellular differentiation and tissue specification. We also need thorough, genome level studies to determine the meaning of methylation of individual CpG dinucleotides in terms of gene expression.

Results

In this study, we have used (insert statistical method here) to compile unique DNA methylation signatures from normal human heart, lung, and kidney using the Illumina Infinium 27 K methylation arrays and compared those to gene expression by RNA sequencing. We have identified unique signatures of global DNA methylation for human heart, kidney and liver, and showed that DNA methylation data can be used to correctly classify various tissues. It indicates that DNA methylation reflects tissue specificity and may play an important role in tissue differentiation. The integrative analysis of methylation and RNA-Seq data showed that gene methylation and its transcriptional levels were comprehensively correlated. The location of methylation markers in terms of distance to transcription start site and CpG island showed no effects on the regulation of gene expression by DNA methylation in normal tissues.

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**Synthesis, Structure, and Catalytic Studies of Palladium and Platinum
Bis-Sulfoxide Complexes**

Emma, please insert NMR data here! where are they? and for this compound, just make up an elemental analysis...

Drinkel et al. *Oganometalics* 2013

Medical school entrance requirements (U.S.)

One year of **biology**

One year of **physics**

One year of **English**

Two years of **chemistry**

The vast majority of statistical analysis is not performed by statisticians

 Jeff Leek  2013/06/14

Whether you know it or not, everything you do produces data - from the websites you read to the rate at which your heart beats. Until pretty recently, most of the data you produced wasn't collected, it floated off unmeasured. The only data that were collected were painstakingly gathered by scientists one number at a time in small experiments with a few people. This laborious process meant that data were expensive and time-consuming to collect. Yet many of the most amazing scientific discoveries over the last two centuries were squeezed from just a few data points. But over the last two decades, the unit price of data has dramatically dropped. New technologies touching every aspect of our lives from our money, to our health, to our social interactions have made data collection cheap and easy (see e.g. [Camp Williams](#)).

To give you an idea of how steep the drop in the price of data has been, in 1967 Stanley Milgram [did an experiment](#) to determine the number of degrees of separation between two people in the U.S. In his experiment he sent 296 letters to people in Omaha, Nebraska and Wichita, Kansas. The goal was to get the letters to a specific person in Boston, Massachusetts. The trick was people had to send the letters to someone they knew, and they then sent it to someone they knew and so on. At the end of the experiment, only 64 letters made it to the individual in Boston. On average, the letters had gone through 6 people to get there. This is where the idea of “6 degrees of Kevin Bacon” comes from. Based on 64 data points. [A 2007 study](#) updated that number to “7

Y = some outcome

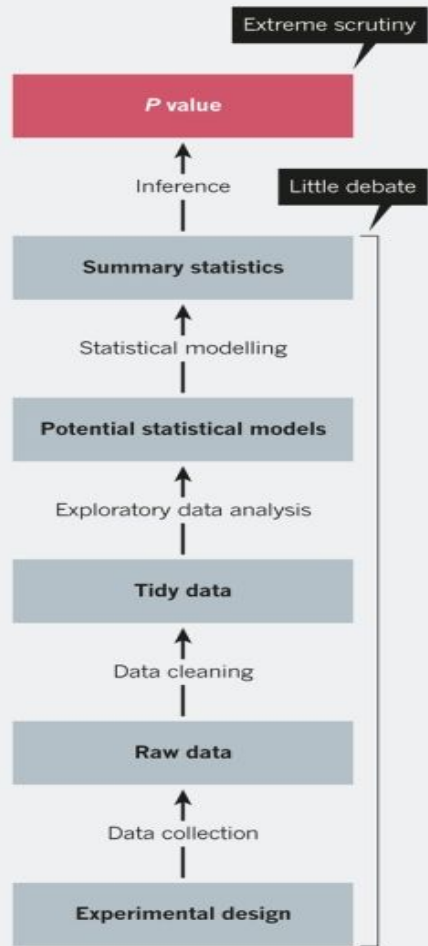
X = some covariate

D = (X, Y)

Im(Y ~ X)

DATA PIPELINE

The design and analysis of a successful study has many stages, all of which need policing.





Population



Question



Hypothesis



Experimental Design



Experimenter



Data



Analysis Plan



Analyst



Code



Estimate



Claim

“Statistics”

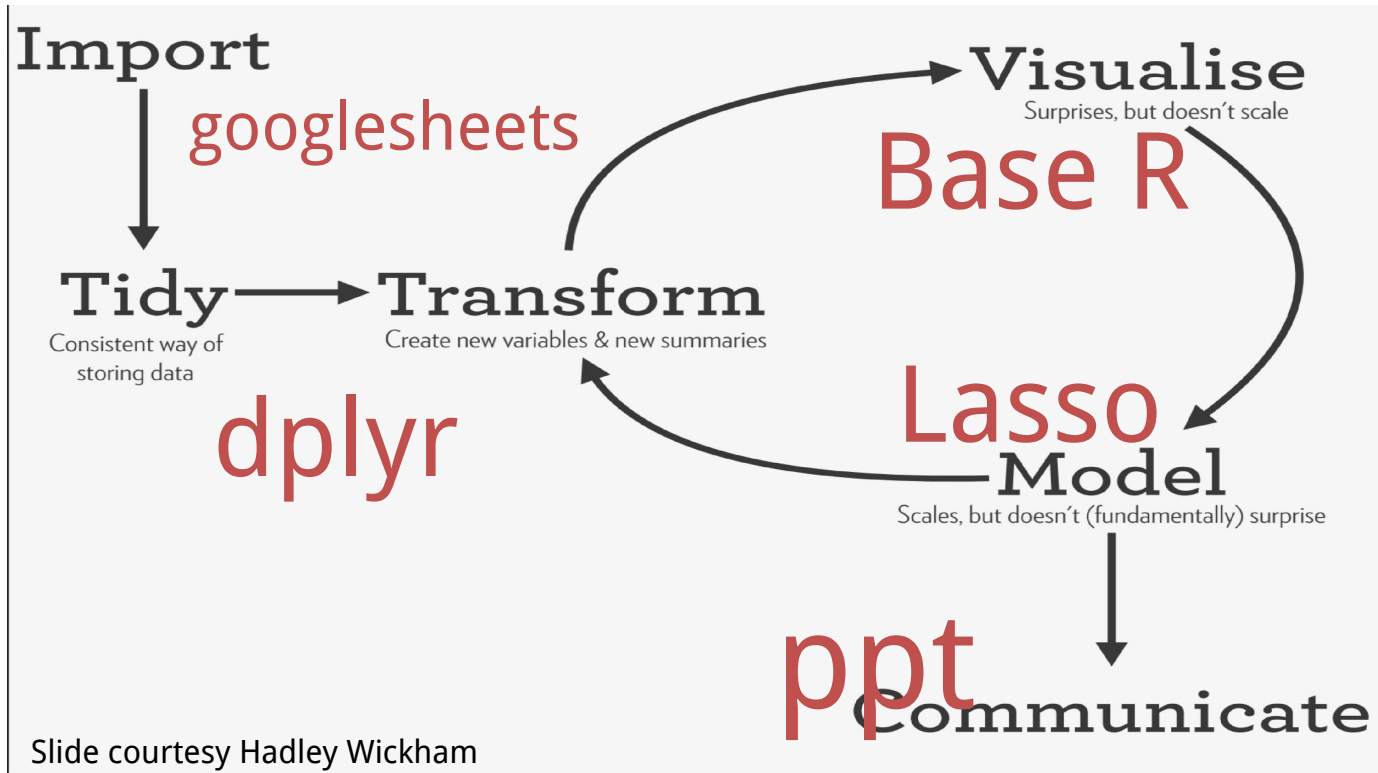
9 classes
1 month long
Always open

- 1 The Data Scientist's Toolbox
- 2 R Programming
- 3 Getting and Cleaning Data
- 4 Exploratory Data Analysis
- 5 Reproducible Research
- 6 Statistical Inference
- 7 Regression Models
- 8 Practical Machine Learning
- 9 Developing Data Products
-  Capstone Project

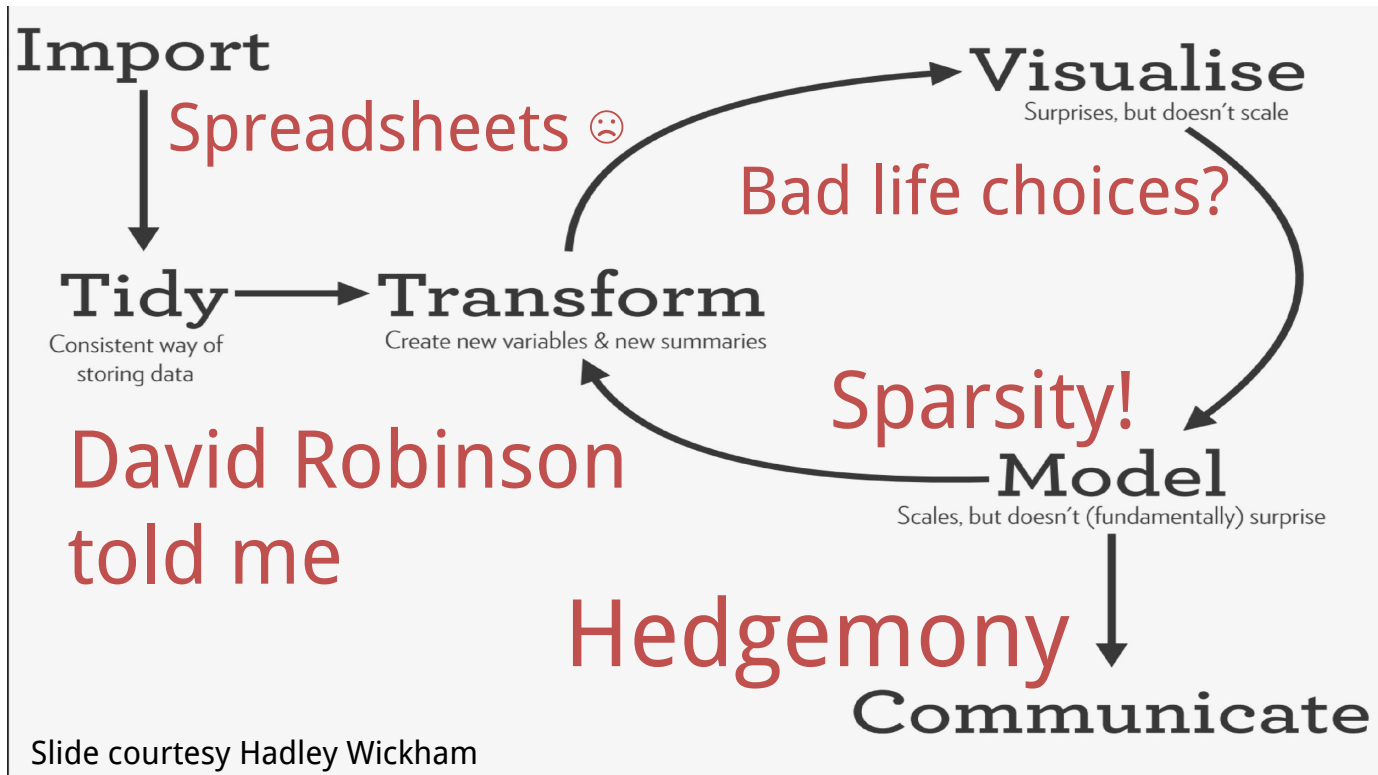
The core problem

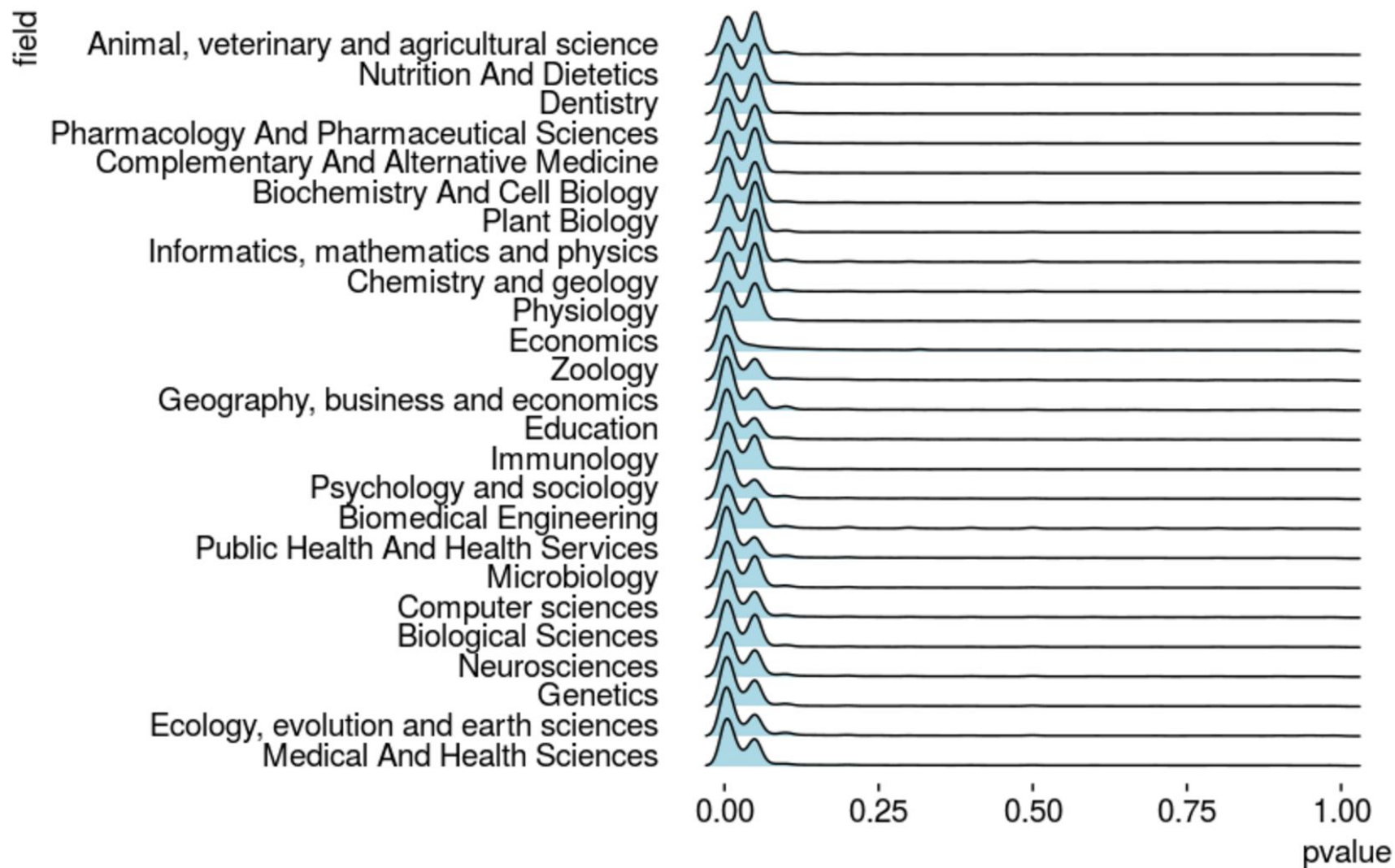
Who?
What?
When?
Why?
Where?

How?



Who?
What?
When?
Why?
Where?
How?







We take a random sample of individuals in a population and identify whether they smoke and if they have cancer. We observe that there is a strong relationship between whether a person in the sample smoked or whether they have lung cancer. We claim that smoking is related to lung cancer in the larger population.

79%

Inferential

vs

17%

Causal

n=47,141

We take a random sample of individuals in a population and identify whether they smoke and if they have cancer. We observe that there is a strong relationship between whether a person in the sample smoked or whether they have lung cancer. We claim that smoking is related to lung cancer in the larger population. We explain we think that the reason for this relationship is because cigarette smoke contains known carcinogens

65%

Inferential

vs

32 %

Causal

n=47,141

**HOW SHOULD I
ANALYZE DATA?**

USE DATA!



**HOW SHOULD I
ANALYZE DATA?**

USE DATA!

Data science
as a
Science

The Leek group

- Claire Ruberman
- Jack Fu
- Divya Narayanan
- Shannon Ellis
- Sean Kross
- **Leslie Myint**

Collaborators

- Andrew Jaffe
- Kasper Hansen
- Margaret Taub
- **Leah Jager**
- **Roger Peng**
- Ben Langmead
- Abhi Nellore
- Kai Kammers
- Leo Collado Torres
- **Prasad Patil**

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