

# A Bayesian Meta-analysis Method that Corrects for Publication Bias

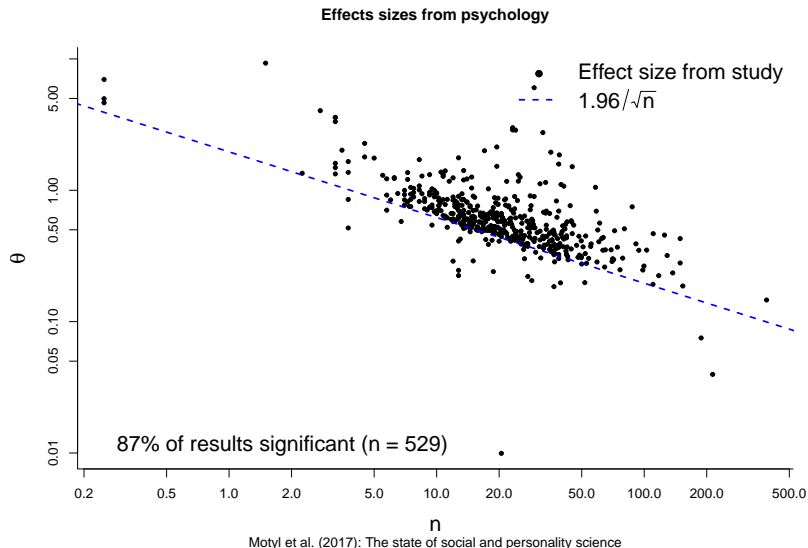
Jonas Moss

University of Oslo

June 26, 2018

Nordstat 2018

# This is What $p$ -hacking Looks Like!



## Motivation and Setup

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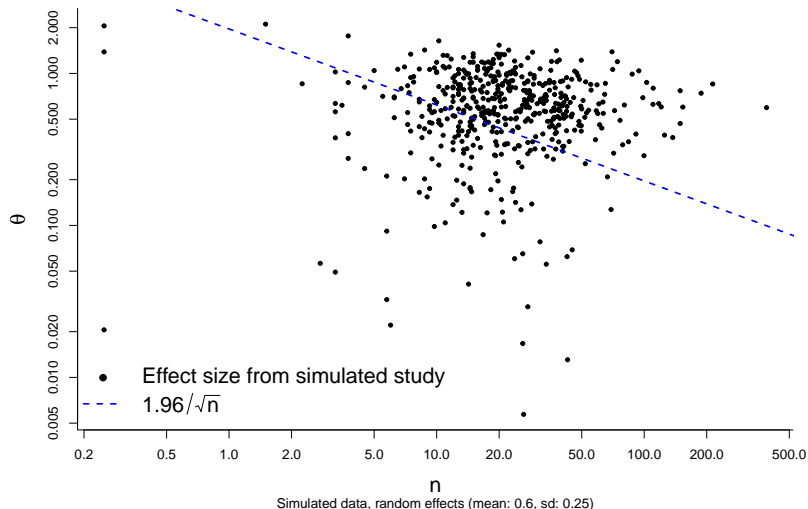
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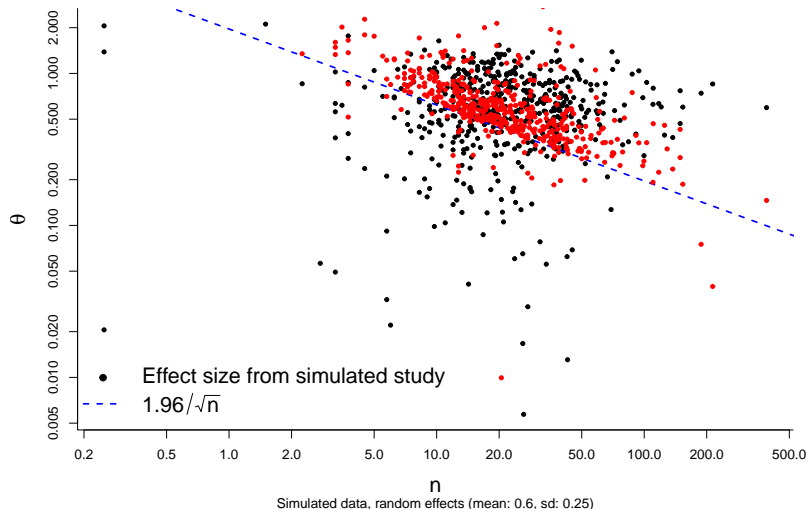
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- ▶ **Question:** Is the classical model realistic in presence of *p*-hacking?

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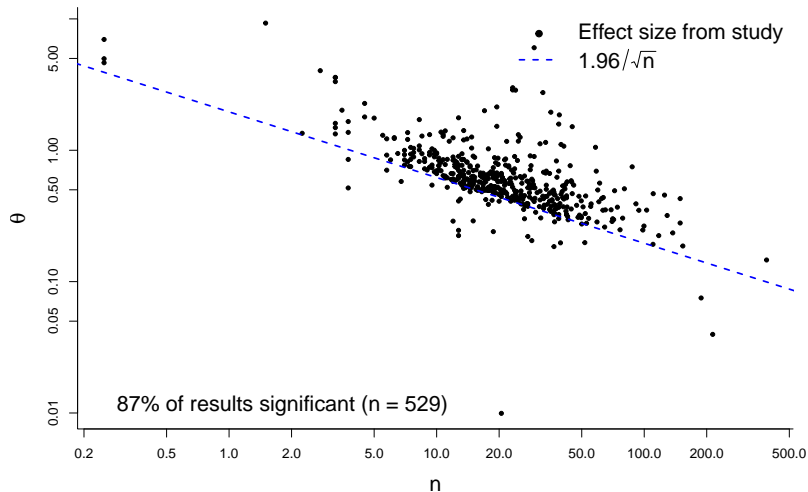
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- ▶ **Problem:** The first plot also contains studies that weren't affected by selection for significance!

# Revisiting the First Plot



Motyl et al. (2017): The state of social and personality science



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- ▶ On to examples!

## Example I: Meta-analysis of a Field

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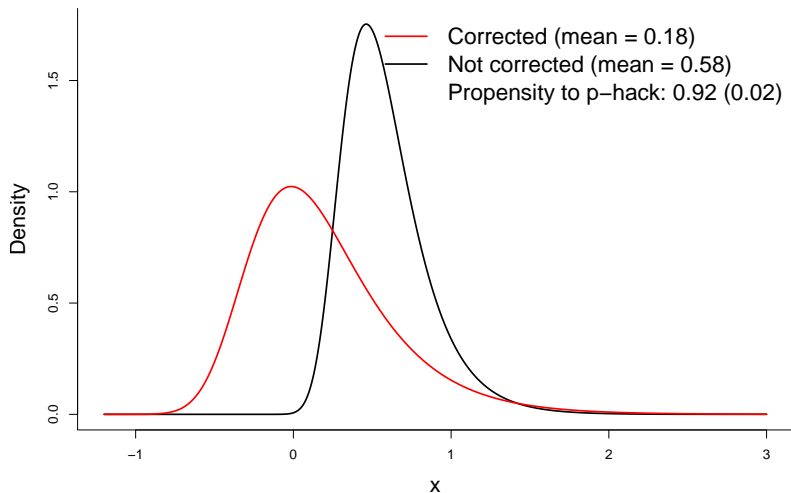
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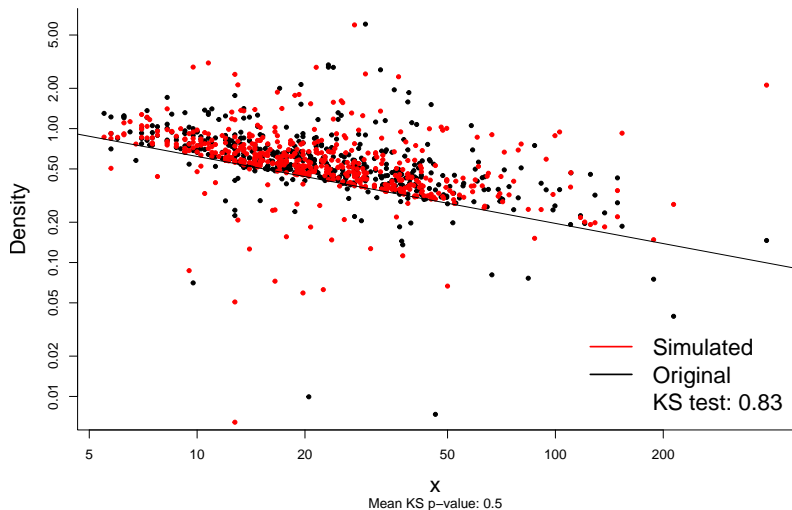
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- ▶ **Priors:**  $\theta_0 \sim N(0, 1)$ ,  $\sigma \sim \text{Exp}(1)$ ,  $p \sim \text{Uniform}$

# Posterior Predictive Distributions

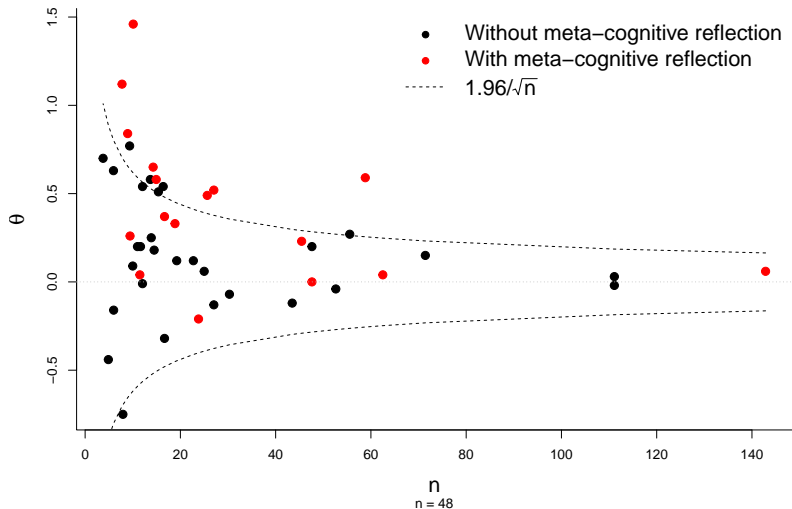


# A Simulation from the Posterior



## Example II: Ordinary Meta-analysis

# Bangert-Drowns, Hurley & Wilkinson (2004)





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Model	$\theta_0$	$\theta_M$	$\sigma$	$p$
Corrected	0.02(0.06)	0.14(0.16)	0.1(0.1)	0.3(0.07)
Not corrected	0.14(0.05)	0.21(0.10)	0.2(0.05)	NA



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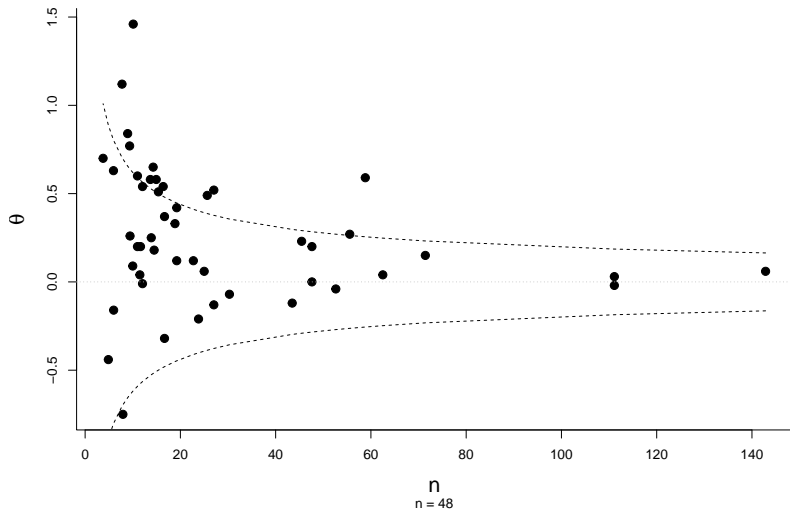
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- ▶ Publication is easier with larger  $n$ .

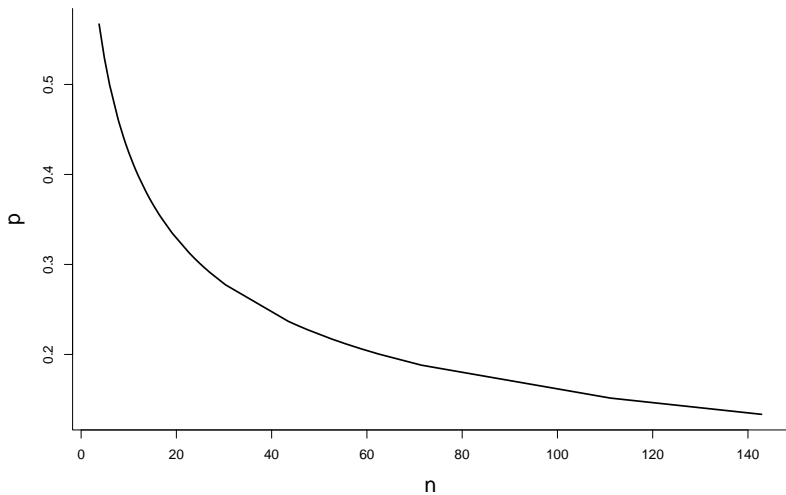
# Visually Evidence for Logistic Regression on $p$



## Results without Meta-cognition

Model	$\theta_0$	$\sigma$	$p_0$	$p_1$
Random effects	0.07(0.07)	0.1(0.05)	-0.7(0.3)	-0.5(0.3)
Fixed effects	0.04(0.07)	NA	-0.8(0.3)	-0.6(0.4)

# The Shape of the $p$ -hacking Propensity



## Conclusion

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  - ▶ Stay Bayesian!

## *The End*

- ▶  $p$ -hacking is everywhere and must be accounted for!
- ▶ When correcting for publication bias we should
  - ▶ Care about selection for significance!
  - ▶ Try out the mixture model to do the correction!
  - ▶ Stay Bayesian!
- ▶ An R-package at GitHub:

`straussR`

Statistical Reanalysis under Selection for Significance

<https://github.com/JonasMoss/straussR>

## References

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