Getting help in statistics

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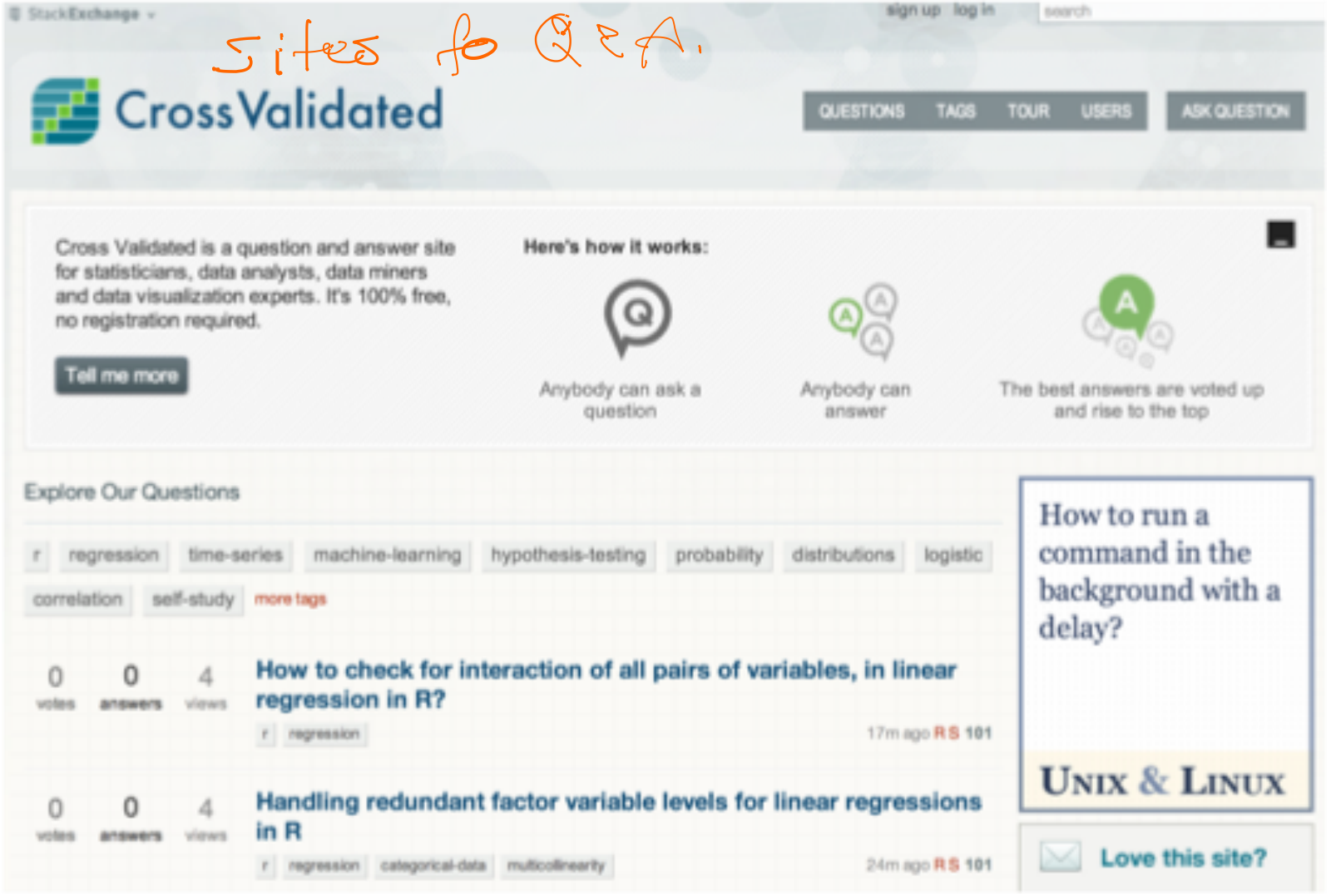
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Getting expertise

A guide for the lonely bioinformatician

45 Replies

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This may be a uniquely UK centric blog post but I suspect not. Let me start with a brief story. Sat with a coffee in our canteen a few weeks ago, I overheard a conversation between a few PIs about a grant application. "Don't worry", the lead PI said, "we've put money on the application to fund a bioinformatician". Good planning I hear you say, and I agree; however, note that none of the PIs in that discussion were themselves bioinformaticians; none of them can code; put them in front of a Linux terminal and they wouldn't know what to do.

Yes – we were witnessing the birth of yet another **"pet bioinformatician"**. What I mean by this term is a single bioinformatician employed within laboratory based group. These guys are becoming more and more common in UK academic groups, and it concerns me because it is possible they will become isolated and pick up bad practices as they don't have a senior bioinformatician to guide them. It also concerns me that their career and profesional development might suffer.

“Yes, we are witnessing the birth of Yet another “pet bioinformatician”. What I mean by this term is a **single bioinformatician employed within a laboratory based group.**”

Collaboration

The Center for Computational Biology

A joint research center in the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, the Department of Computer Science, and the Department of Biostatistics

The Center for Computational Biology (CCB) is a multidisciplinary center dedicated to research on genomics, genetics, DNA sequencing technology, and computational methods for DNA and RNA sequence analysis. CCB brings together scientists and engineers from many fields, including computer science, biostatistics, genomics, genetics, molecular biology, physics, and mathematics, all of whom share a common interest in gaining a better understanding of how genes and genomes affect biological functions. We develop and apply technology that uses sequence data to study a wide range of questions, including how genes cause disease, how genes change in response to different conditions within the cell, and how genomes evolve.

In addition to its research program, CCB provides bioinformatics expertise to departments and centers throughout the Schools of Medicine and Public Health, through a consulting group trained in the latest computational methods. CCB provides the computing hardware for the analyses run through its consulting group.

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