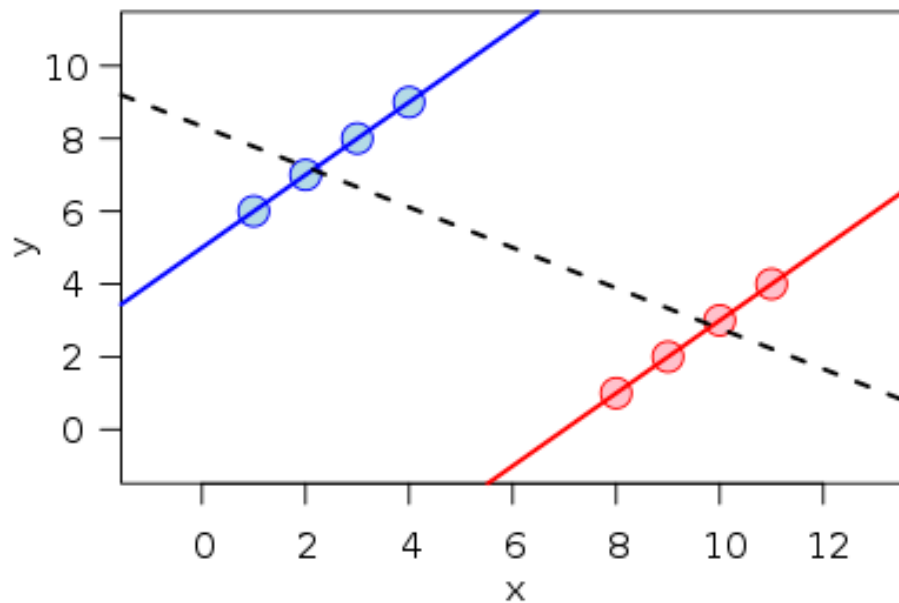


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Simpson's paradox is a phenomenon in probability and statistics in which a trend appears in several groups of data but disappears or reverses when the groups are combined.

The way you choose to look at your data can lead to completely different results. You can majorly impact what people believe to be true by how you choose to communicate your findings. You can guess how people intentionally or unintentionally comes to false conclusions.



- source: wikipedia

1 Examples

1.1 UC Berkeley gender bias

One of the well-known examples of Simpson's paradox is the University of California, Berkeley, gender bias.

Overall statistics shows a clear bias towards male (44%) over female (35%). But when we consider each major alone and compare results we get to a completely different conclusion which is a clear bias towards females.

Some explanations were produced trying to justify this weird contradicting results which is that, females tends to apply to more competitive fields with low acceptance rate unlike males.

What we learnt is that, we have to be careful when we look at our data and make conclusions.