Extra Credit Opportunity

Instructions

Mass media regularly covers poorly-conducted statistical analyses. Often this coverage applies a causal interpretation to results that do not satisfy or even attempt to justify satisfaction of the zero conditional mean assumption.

To prepare for the extra credit opportunity, you will need to:

1. Identify an article in a media publication (i.e. article in on an online news site) that covers a statistical result

2. Find the original research that the media coverage is based on

3. Read both articles

Once you have done this, write a short report (1-3 pages) that answers the following questions:

1. What claim is made by the original scientific article? Is this the same as the claim reported in the media article?

2. Is the scientific article convincing? Why or why not? (Is the zero conditional mean assumption plausible? How did the authors justify it?)

3. How could the scientific article be improved? Is there a more appropriate research design for the question they asked?

A satisfactory submission will add 1% to your final grade. You can take advantage of this

opportunity up to three times, for a total 3% addition to your grade if scoring perfectly each time.

Submissions should be e-mailed to me (arw@berkeley.edu) with the e-mail title "118 Extra Credit Submission."