

# Is Doing Nothing Something?

Me    Myself    I

Binghamton

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# Relaxing Assumptions about doing something and nothing

- the first thing
- the second thing
- the third thing

It is improbable doing nothing is the same as not doing something, yet strong evidence of this exists.

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# The Problem with Something

These reasonable claims obscure two things:

- 1 thing 1
- 2 thing 2

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# Theory of Nothing

Our strategy is to examine how doing nothing amounts to doing something because:

- reason 1
- reason b

and measure the differences in these effects before and after doing nothing.

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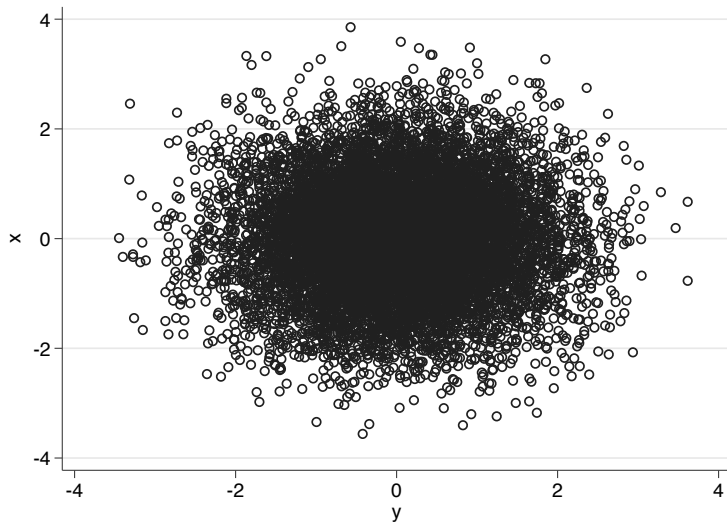
# Some Results

Table: Something or Nothing?<sup>†</sup>

|                       | Coefficient | Std. Err. | z-score |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Meaningful Variable 1 | 0.001       | 0.019     | 0.06    |
| Meaningful Variable 2 | 11.525      | 3.010     | 3.83    |
| Meaningful Variable 3 | -1.296      | 0.529     | -2.45   |
| intercept             | -2.023      | 0.143     | -14.16  |
| N                     | a billion   |           |         |
| model $\chi^2$        | 63.53*      |           |         |

<sup>†</sup> I made these up. You should not do this in a paper. \*  $p \leq .01$

# Nothing and Something



# Conclusions

Doing nothing is not always not the same as doing something.

- finding 1
- finding 2
- finding 3