

How to ask for stats help

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1. Search a specific website for suggestions:

- Cross Validated (good for simulations or machine-learning type problems)
- r-sig-mixed-models (for general MEM errors or advice)
- Stack Exchange / Reddit/stats (for big picture stat questions)

2. Ask Dr. Google more generally:

- If you have an error: google your error message (using copy/ paste)
- Search really general terms to bring up papers from other fields (sometimes this leads to a helpful solution!)

3. If Google isn't proving useful...

- Redo the search, adding terms like "lme4" / "R stats" (to make a more useful search string)
- Try to take an abstract view of the problem: what's *one* piece you're stuck on? Redo search more specifically.
- Try going to Wikipedia and seeing if there are synonyms, or looking to see if there are key words you've missed
- You could also try adding in a person's name to see if a smart person in your field has answered the question: (add "Bolker", "Levy", ... to your search)

4. Phone a friend

- Email a colleague!
- Send me a message!
- Post on Twitter!