Section 2.2: Observational and Experimental Studies

Friday, November 10, 2023 11:54 AM

confounding variables - two variables are confounded when their effects on a response variable cannot be distinguished from each other

lurking variable - an important variable that was not originally considered to be important

actual example: students in the 10:30 section of Math 191 are doing significantly better than the 1:30 section

is it the time of day?

no, because the Intercurban math department believes that a lurking variable is the program the students are in

10:30 Mechanical
1:30 C.V.I

in Winter, suddenly the 10:30 section starts doing worse because Mech has a higher workload in the second term

- originally, (time of day) vs (program) were confounding variables because we didn't know which one was more important

- only after we got additional info could we determine which variable

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