#### L15: Cross-Validation & p-values

#### Jeff M. Phillips

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p-values

Important:

#### Pr (observation | hypothesis) ≠ Pr (hypothesis | observation)

The probability of observing a result given that some hypothesis is true is *not equivalent* to the probability that a hypothesis is true given that some result has been observed.

Using the p-value as a "score" is committing an egregious logical error: the transposed conditional fallacy.



A **p-value** (shaded green area) is the probability of an observed (or more extreme) result assuming that the null hypothesis is true.



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### Essay

# Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P.A. Ioannidis PLOS 2:8, 2005

#### Summary

There is increasing concern that most current published research findings are false. The probability that a research claim is true may depend on study power and bias, the number of other studies on the factors that influence this problem and some corollaries thereof.

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Several methodologists have pointed out 10

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- "Fishing": computing T(y; φ<sub>j</sub>) for j = 1,..., J: that is, performing J tests and then reporting the best result given the data, thus T(y; φ<sup>best</sup>(y)).