

Dr. Wen-bin Chiou, the corresponding author for the retracted paper discussed in DataColada[1], was invited to contribute to the posting on his retracted paper. Here are his unedited comments which appear edited in the original post for brevity and clarity.

Uri Simonsohn, 2013/09/17

As the corresponding author of this paper, I admit that I got the data files from the research assistant and then conducted data analyses for research questions without reviewing the details.

The problems of the datasets might come from the data collection and data coding.

Although the data collection and data coding was done by my research assistant, I must be responsible for the issue.

Unfortunately, the RA had left my lab last year and studied abroad. At this time, I cannot get the truth from him and find out what was really going wrong.

My supplementary responses to the anomalies are shown below:

1. As to the decimal points and negative numbers in the affect measure, I recoded the data (the affect measures) and sent the editor with the new dataset. I guess the problem does not exist in the new one.

2. With regard to the impossible similar results of coin-size estimates between the two experiments, maybe the RA sorted the coin-size estimate variable in making the data file for me, producing excessively similar results.

Actually, in the review process of this paper the editor asked us to conduct a new experiment with a different dependent measure (reported as the Experiment 2 of this paper).

It is more likely that there were problematic data collection and coding made by the RA in this new experiment.

To be honest, I have never thought of or committed to faking data myself. If I really wanted to do that, I should have the chance to make it before retraction (or even avoid retraction).

However, I do appreciate that Dr. Simonsohn point out the problems I should have noticed. His scrutinization in the post can prevent researchers from making the same mistakes I have made.

I learn invaluable lessons from this retraction experience. From then on, I have double checked on the consistency between the original data of questionnaires (or measures) and the data files in my recent work. Moreover, instead of relying on the research assistant, I do the data coding myself as could as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Simonsohn for including my clarifications in this post.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wen-Bin Chiou

2013/09/12