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Using the Right Tools: Causal Graphs in Teaching Research Design

Marek Druzdze
Department of Information Science

Christopher Glymour
Department of Philosophy

A general principle for good pedagogic strategy is this: other things equal, make the essential principles of the subject explicit rather than tacit. We think that this principle is routinely violated in conventional instruction in statistics. Even though most of the early history of probability theory has been driven by causal considerations, the terms "cause" and "causation" have practically disappeared from statistics textbooks.

glass on
the road ○

○ thorns on
the road



○
bumpy
feeling

○
noise

○
steering
problems



