Selection Bias

When the sample is not who you think it is.

Economics

Forms and remedies.

Forms

- Self-selection into a programme
- Survivorship — failures leave the data
- Attrition from a panel study
- Non-response correlated with the outcome
- Conditioning on a post-treatment variable

Remedies

- Randomisation where possible
- Model the selection process explicitly
- Compare respondents to known population data
- Bound the estimate under assumptions

> Survivorship bias is the most invisible: the firms, funds or people that failed are simply absent from the dataset.