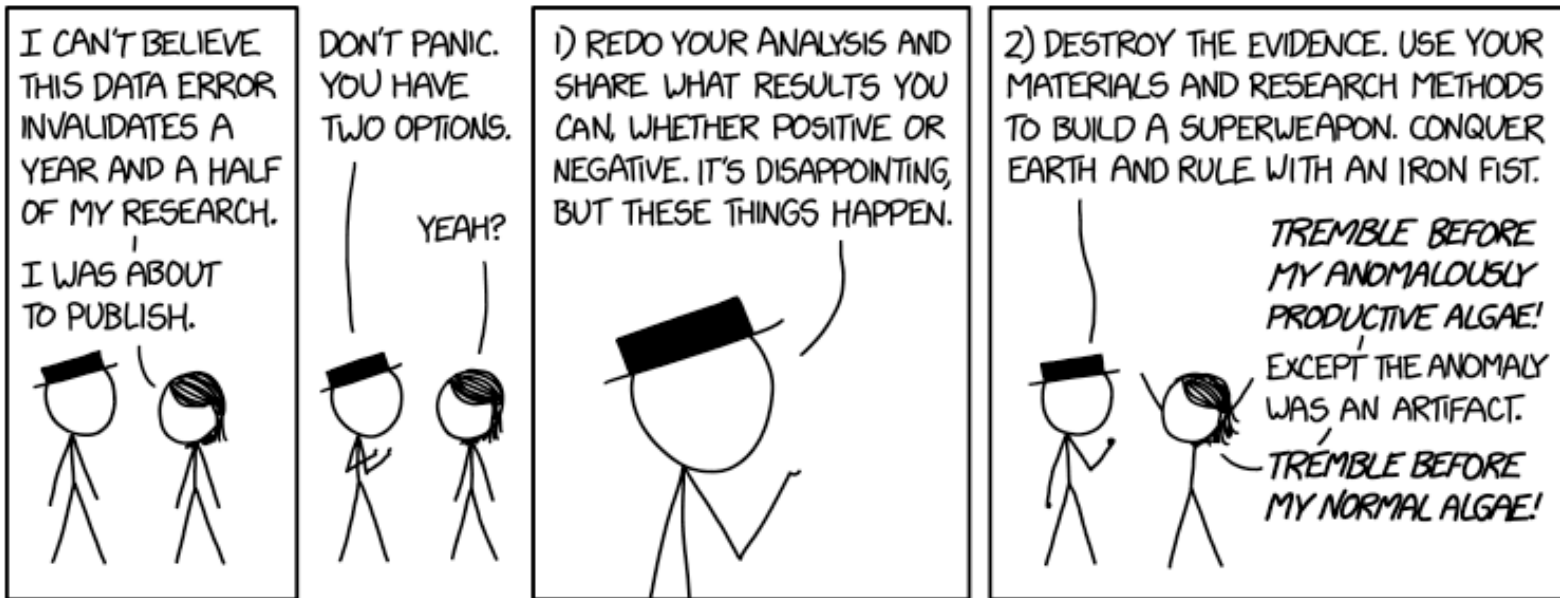


DATA ERROR



PERMANENT LINK TO THIS COMIC: [HTTPS://XKCD.COM/2239/](https://xkcd.com/2239/)

IMAGE URL (FOR HOTLINKING/EMBEDDING): [HTTPS://IMGS.XKCD.COM/COMICS/DATA_ERROR.PNG](https://imgs.xkcd.com/comics/data_error.png)

TRANSCRIPT:

[Megan is talking to Black Hat.]

Megan: I can't believe this data error invalidates a year and a half of my research.

Megan: I was about to publish.

[In a frame-less panel Black Hat replies while holding two fingers up one on either hand.]

Black Hat: Don't panic. You have two options.

Megan: Yeah?

[Closeup shot of Black Hat holding one hand out with the palm up.]

Black Hat: 1) Redo your analysis and share whatever results you can, whether positive or negative. It's disappointing, but these things happen.

[Zoom out on Black Hat and Megan. Black Hat holds his closed fist up in front of him. Megan throws both arms up in the air.]

Black Hat: 2) Destroy the evidence. Use your materials and research methods to build a superweapon. Conquer Earth and rule with an iron fist.

Megan: Tremble before my anomalously productive algae! Except the anomaly was an artifact. Tremble before my normal algae!