

Statistics 514: Design of Experiments

Problem Solving Top-Ten's

*“Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man;
and writing an exact man.”*

Top 10 Ways to Get Unstuck

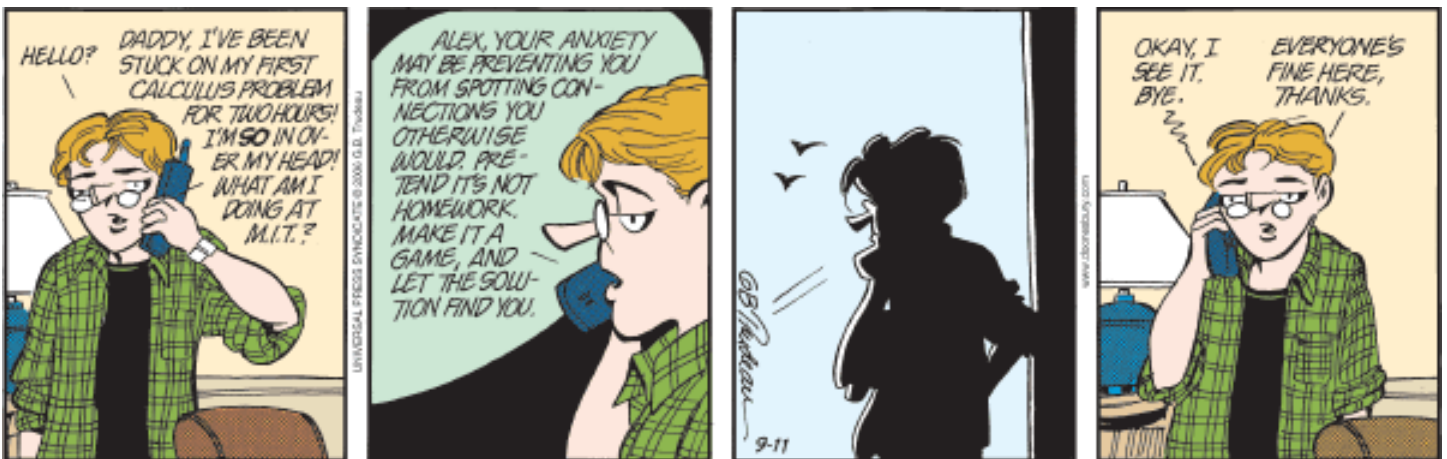
1. Re-read the problem.
2. Modify your strategy.
3. Change your strategy.
4. Combine your strategy with another strategy.
5. Look at the problem from a new perspective.
6. Look at the answer.
7. Look at other similar problems.
8. Get help. (Consider all available resources.)
9. Wait awhile and try again.
10. All of the above.

Top 10 Reasons for Getting Stuck in the First Place

1. You tried to rush through the problem without thinking.
2. You didn't read the problem carefully.
3. You don't know what the problem is asking for.
4. You don't have enough information.
5. You're looking for an answer that the problem isn't asking for.
6. The strategy you're using doesn't work for this particular problem.
7. You aren't applying your strategy correctly.
8. You failed to combine your strategy with another strategy.
9. The problem has more than one answer.
10. The problem can't be solved.

Top 10 Worst Problem-solving Habits

1. Trying to do it all in your head; not writing anything down.
2. Arbitrarily choosing a strategy.
3. Staying with a strategy when it's not working.
4. Giving up on a strategy too early.
5. Getting fixated on a single strategy and trying to use it for everything.
6. Not asking yourself: "Does this make sense?"
7. Being afraid to ask for help.
8. Not checking your answer.
9. Not noticing patterns.
10. Going through the motions instead of thinking.



"There is no other rule besides pulling it off."