

## A summary of sorts

Hurlbert (1984) summarises the potential sources of "confusion" in an experiment and means to eliminate or minimise their effect:

Source of confusion	Sources of an experimental design that reduce or eliminate confusion
Temporal change	Control treatments
Procedure effects	Control treatments
Experimenter bias	Randomised assignment of experimental units to treatments Randomisation in conduct of other procedures "Blind" procedures (where measurement involves a large subjective element).
Experimenter-generated variability (random error)	Replication of treatments
Initial or inherent variability among experimental units	Replication of treatments Interspersion of treatments Concomitant observations
Nondemonic intrusion (ie the impingement of random events on an experiment in progress)	Replication of treatments Interspersion of treatments
Demonic intrusion (or, more realistically, where the experimental design introduces unrecognised systemic effects which alter the results and are mistakenly linked the treatment)	Eternal vigilance, exorcism, human sacrifices etc etc