

# Seven questions for a metric

Seven questions for a metric that blocks or is about to. Each answered question names the countermeasure from the article. Nothing here goes beyond what the article documents.

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**01 Is the best-scoring run picked out of several?**

Then the leaderboard measures luck rather than quality, because the selected run is the one that deviates furthest upward. Counter: fix the run before measuring it.

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**02 Does the value sit at the edge of its range?**

In the normal range a metric often tracks quality closely. At the edges that link breaks. Counter: state the range in which the metric holds.

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**03 Does the metric measure the cause or only what accompanies it?**

Green tests accompany good code. Made the target they yield tests that turn green, weak ones included. Counter: name the cause and check it separately.

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**04 Does the generator know the threshold before it starts?**

Then it writes toward the threshold rather than toward the task. Counter: reveal the threshold only after the first draft.

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**05 Has the instrument itself been checked?**

A check that has never faced a known-wrong input is not a check. Counter: feed in known-wrong inputs and watch the behaviour.

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**06 Were metric, threshold and analysis fixed before the first run?**

A threshold chosen afterwards measures the wish rather than the process. Counter: freeze the design by commit.

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**07 Does the metric have an opponent?**

Measure length alone and you get brevity at any price. Counter: put a second, opposing quantity beside it.

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**The rule above all of them**

A metric on thin, scattered data stays a hint on a dashboard. It may block only once its own uncertainty is narrow.