



Verification

What is verification?

Basically, verification means double checking.

Why is verification important?

Anyone can make a costly or deadly error, no matter how prestigious or smart they may be. By verifying their work and your own, you can greatly limit such mistakes.

How can you verify your research?

1. **Check your results** by using different equations and different sources to make sure the answers are the same.
2. **If you find a major discrepancy between credible sources**, dig until you find the cause.
3. **Be aware that you may find small discrepancies that can't be resolved.** If so, give preference to figures that are contrary to your viewpoint and use the most cautious plausible interpretations of the data.
4. **Work in a spreadsheet and:**
 - spot check your calculations with an online calculator.
 - chart the available data to spot potential hiccups.
 - sum all parts of a whole to make sure they add up to 100%.
5. **Step back from the results and ask yourself, "Does this make sense in the real world?"**



REMEMBER: Misinformation and confusion can spread if everyone assumes that everyone else has verified the numbers, so nobody checks them.