TO TELL THE TRUTH: REPORTING WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LIE DETECTION

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Tens of thousands of individuals undergo polygraph security screening examinations every year. How good is the polygraph in detecting deception in such settings? About two and one-half years ago, the U.S. National Research Council's Committee to Review the Scientific Evidence on the Polygraph released its report, "The Polygraph and Lie Detection," addressing this issue. Assessing the statistical evidence regarding the accuracy of the polygraph was just the first part of the committee's job. We also needed to communicate the results of its assessments in a way that could educate the public and have maximal impact on public policy. In this talk we provide an overview of the committee's work, including the statistical evidence on the accuracy of the polygraph, and we discuss choices we made for reporting the results and their public impact.

Note: A full paper of this work will appear later in the year in
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