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Innovative analytical and statistical technology as a corruption counteraction tool: conceptual analysis

Інноваційні аналітико-статистичні технології як інструмент протидії корупції: концептуальний аналіз

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Written by:

Yuliia Yatsyna¹

https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7286-4655

Igor Kudinov²

https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7785-1637

Abstract

The article is devoted to conceptual analysis of the problem of innovative analytical and statistical technologies implementations as a corruption prevention tool. This study defines corruption as the unlawful use of administrative resources for personal or group benefits, violating both formal and informal norms. It is stated that "corruption counteraction" means actions to prevent, combat, and mitigate corruption in society. The paper introduces several approaches for analytical and statistical technologies classification with grouping such technologies into high, middle and low technologies. Hi-tech is applied to the most advanced technologies based on scientific and technical progress and associated with automated technology. Automated analytical and statistical technologies are innovative in utilizing machine learning, deep learning, neural networks, NLP, network analysis, and real-time data analysis. The use of such technologies, which autonomously perform tasks previously reserved for humans, has shown potential for more effective corruption counteraction. "innovative analytical and statistical technology" is defined as a modern collection of methods and tools for data analysis, designed to identify complex dependencies and useful patterns in data, improving decision-making, and detecting anomalies.

Keywords: analytics, anti-corruption, statistics, integrity, quality control.

Анотація

Стаття присвячена концептуальному аналізу проблеми інноваційних аналітичних статистичних технологій як інструменту запобігання корупції. Корупція визначається як незаконне використання адміністративних ресурсів на користь особистих або групових інтересів, що порушує як формальні, так і неформальні норми. В свою чергу, «протидія корупції» означає дії з попередження, боротьби зменшення корупції В суспільстві. Аналітико-статистичні технології поділяються на високі, середні та низькі. Високі технології мають безпосереднє відношення до найбільш передових технологій, метою автоматизації людської розумової праці. Вони інноваційними завдяки використанню технологій машинного та глибокого навчання, нейронних мереж, NLP, аналізу мереж та аналізу даних в реальному часі. Технології автоматизації розумової діяльності знайшли своє місце в анти-корупційній діяльності. Тому «інноваційна аналітична та статистична технологія» визначається як сучасний набір методів та інструментів аналізу даних, спрямованих на виявлення складних (паттернів) даних, залежностей В вдосконалення процесу прийняття рішень та виявлення аномалій.

Ключові слова: аналітика, анти-корупція, статистика, порядність, контроль якості.

² Head of CSO "Center for Independent Social Research", PhD, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of Sociology department, Zaporizhzhia National University, Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. Researcher ID: J-2713-2017



¹ Head of CSO "Union of Social Engineers of Ukraine", Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. CResearcher ID: J-2901-2017



Introduction

Corruption is a global issue that affects the development of individual states as well as the entire global community as a whole. It creates an unhealthy environment for economic growth, undermines trust in state institutions, promotes illegal activity, and leads to inequality. Innovative analytical-statistical technologies as a corruption prevention tool are becoming especially relevant in today's world, where technology is gaining more and more significance. Thanks to the spread of digital technologies and broad access to big data, there is the possibility to counteract corruption more effectively. However, for the successful implementation and use of these technologies, it is necessary to clearly understand the basic concepts related to this issue. It becomes particularly important considering complexity and multifaceted nature of corruption as a social phenomenon and the technologies used to prevent it. Without a proper understanding of how analytical-statistical technologies work and how they can be effectively applied for corruption prevention, there is a risk that they will not be used properly or will be used with insufficient effectiveness. Therefore, clarifying the content of the main concepts related to this problem becomes a vitally important task. The main goal of this article is to define key concepts related to innovative analytical-statistical technologies for preventing corruption and to clarify their content in the context of anti-corruption policy. To achieve the goal the following research questions are identified: 1) to define the essence of notion "corruption counteraction tool": 2) to define the essence of notion "innovative analytical and statistical technology".

Theoretical Framework or Literature Review

The theoretical foundation of this study rests on two main concepts: corruption counteraction tools and innovative analytical and statistical technology. The examination of corruption counteraction tools requires the exploration of various legal, economic, and sociological theories that have emerged in the battle against corrupt practices. This encompasses laws, regulations, ethical guidelines, and the general public stance on corruption. On the other hand, innovative analytical and statistical technologies represent the evolving methodologies that modern data science, artificial leverage intelligence, and computational algorithms to understand and address problems. In this framework, the synergy between these two

realms presents an interdisciplinary approach that offers a novel perspective on combating corruption through technological means.

The literature on the topic is vast and multifaceted, encompassing a range disciplines, including law, economics, political science, and sociology. Scholars such as Rose-Ackerman and Palifka (2018), Sičáková-Beblavá & Beblavý (2007) have delved into the structural and behavioral aspects of corruption, outlining the legal frameworks and societal norms that are essential in combating this complex issue. Concurrently, there has been a burgeoning interest in the application of innovative analytical and statistical technologies in various fields. Research by Rogers (1983) in innovation essence, Hastie, Tibshirani, and Friedman (2016) in statistical learning, and developments in big data analytics by Wu et al. (2014) have set the stage for utilizing cutting-edge technology in the analysis and prediction of complex phenomena, including corruption. The intersection between these two areas forms the basis of our investigation, seeking to harness the insights from both theoretical underpinnings empirical findings to create a comprehensive understanding of how corruption can be effectively countered through the use of modern technology.

Methodology

The study is based on the close observation and of various sources: documentation, current legislation, and websites of public authorities and software producers have been reviewed meticulously, with an emphasis on those highlighting the prospects of using their products as anti-corruption tools. Additionally, the research incorporates insights from the field of modern information technologies, aligning them with the broader sphere of anti-corruption policy. The methodology includes an in-depth analysis of innovative analytical and statistical technologies that are utilized as tools for corruption monitoring and counteraction. Sources range from scholarly articles on the development and application of cutting-edge software (Rogel-Salazar, 2023) to legislative documents reflecting current regulations governing anti-corruption measures (Kikalishvili, 2021). Furthermore, the empirical basis for the analysis is drawn from diverse materials, such as media reports, successful realworld applications of various information technologies for automating anti-corruption



activities (Odilla, 2023), and documents from international non-governmental organizations (IDIA, 2019; Paul, Jolley, & Anthony, 2020). These components together form a robust and multifaceted foundation, offering a holistic view of how technology intersects with law and policy in the ongoing global effort to combat corruption. In synthesizing these various sources, this study provide aspires to a comprehensive understanding of the existing landscape and to identify new avenues for employing technology as an innovative and effective tool in the fight against corruption.

Results and Discussion

Our analysis starts with abstract concepts, specifically concepts that do not have stable interpretations and have the same vague essence as the content of real politics – from the phenomenon of corruption. There are several reasons for this.

Firstly, the phenomenon of corruption is a multilevel and multi-dimensional phenomenon in the structure of social relations, which can be studied in various aspects — economic, cultural, sociological, and, of course, political (Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2018). That is why there are countless definitions of corruption, which are used depending on various methodological approaches, research objectives and tasks.

Secondly, corruption as a phenomenon is constantly adapting to changes in political, economic and social conditions, as well as to measures of counteraction and mitigation. "It is hard to give a clear definition of corruption because it manifests differently, encompasses the entire social sphere, economy, politics, culture, morality, law, psychology, power, management system, etc." (Nevmerezhytskyi, 2008, p. 44).

It is generally recognized that public power is the source, nurturing environment and at the same time the main area of corruption spread in the state. The concept of "corruption" within the political sphere implies "bribery" and "corruption" of officials, and represents one of the forms of alienation of "public servants" from the general people (Marych, 2013).

In this regard, S. Zadorozhny draws attention to the fact that the essence of corruption is revealed only in the system "human – public power" by identifying and revealing five clusters of signs of corruption as 1) type of state-administrative relations; 2) legal deviation; 3) socio-political

institution; 4) a set of group behavior strategies and 5) a cultural-psychological phenomenon (Zadorozhnyi, 2016). Corrupt relations deform political, economic, social and other orders and arise, firstly, in the interactions of the private sector of the economy, citizens and their associations with public bodies, institutions and officials of public power, in connection with the processes of power regulation of various spheres of public life and the provision of public services. Corruption in a broad sense is a self-reproducing system of societal relations that contradicts societal norms and morals (Sičáková-Beblavá & Beblavý, 2007). It arises in connection with the unjust acquisition and/or redistribution of benefits by an individual vested with official powers, acting in the interest of persons included in this system by using the opportunities derived from these powers (Trepak, 2020, p. 52). M. Kikalishvili also points to the systemic nature of corruption as a "complex systemic phenomenon that impacts all layers of society and changes the psychological properties of participants in the societal process" (Kikalishvili, 2021, p. 104).

From a criminological perspective, corruption is defined as a "complex, deep-rooted, widespread, systemically dangerous phenomenon, caused by political, economic, socio-psychological, and other factors. It involves the unlawful use of public authority powers and opportunities to satisfy private interests, as well as instigation towards or facilitation of such usage. Essentially, corruption is a peculiar way of converting public authority powers and opportunities into unlawful benefits" (Trepak, 2020, p. 53).

O. Lozynskyi provides a classification of approaches to understanding the essence and content of corruption – economic, political, legal, historical, and psychological: "1) as an illegal mechanism of socio-economic exchange between representatives of power and business, which has certain value and economic expediency for them; 2) as an abuse (excess) of power, an official position, as an attribute of the functioning of power (its bureaucratic institutions) under various forms of political governance; 3) as an administrative violation, which entails a fine and temporary suspension from activity; 4) as a technology for rapid, unjust, illegal enrichment and strengthening of a small number of social groups - the oligarchy; 5) as covert unlawful activity of public (political, official) persons, caused by specific features of individual psychology and mass psychology" (Lozynskyi, 2021, pp. 28-33).



Corruption from the point of view of economics in the broad sense is defined as a socio-economic phenomenon, engendered by shadow economic relations between officials and interested parties in order to satisfy personal interests through the commercialization of public goods and values. In a narrow sense, corruption is defined as the process of commercialization by officials of their functional duties (Mazur, 2005, p. 36).

One of the directions of research on the phenomenon of corruption is the study of mechanisms for preventing and combating corruption in the state. This direction includes, for example, the research of S. Zadorozhnyi. The author systematized definitions of the corruption concept in five clusters: "as a special type of public administration relations; as a legal deviation; as a socio-political institution, a certain systemic phenomenon; as a culturalpsychological phenomenon; as a corresponding set of strategies for the behavior of various kinds of social groups seeking to gain illegal advantages and preferences through the use of power and official position" (Zadorozhnyi, 2016, pp. 70-72).

The most widely used definition of corruption (Transparency International, 2023) is "abuse of public power for private gain". This is a very generalized definition, which allows any actions by officials aimed at gaining personal benefit to be considered as corruption. That is, their goal could be either giving unjustified advantages to third parties (for example, during tender procurement), or actions associated with satisfying, for example, feelings of revenge of a subordinate towards the boss. The latter example of official actions is better to classify as a fraud. Therefore, identifying corruption with fraud is understandable. According to the provisions of International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 240, "fraud is an intentional action by one or more individuals among management, those charged with governance, employees, or third parties, involving the use of deception to obtain an unjust or illegal advantage" (ISA, 2010). The international auditing "PricewaterhouseCoopers" interprets fraud as an "intentional deception with the aim of stealing money, property, or legitimate rights" (PWC, 2011). The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) defines fraud organizations (or so-called "corporate" fraud) as "the use of one's occupation for personal enrichment through the deliberate misuse or misapplication of the employing organization's resources or assets" (ACFE, 2022, p. 6).

A separate category of fraud is financial resource fraud. Thus, S. Chornutskyi operates with the term "fraud in relation to state resources" and defines it as "intentionally committed violations of the law (violations committed for the purpose of obtaining personal benefit or the benefit of third parties), which led to harm as a result of the loss of state resources or their non-receipt" (Chornutskyi, 2011, p. 129).

In general, in our study, we understand corruption as the unlawful use by an official of the granted administrative resources for personal or group benefit, which can have both a material and immaterial form. Meanwhile, unlawful use means a violation of both formal normative-legal institutions, including norms of official behavior and ethics, and informal norms of behavior, ethics, and morality.

Continuing our analysis, we move to the phrase "corruption counteraction". Modern scientists also have not yet decided on the semantic designation of social activity directed against corruption. We come across such phrases as: "counteraction to corruption" / "corruption counteraction", "prevention of corruption" / "corruption prevention", "fight against corruption", "corruption mitigation corruption" / "corruption mitigation", "corruption control" and so on.

According to O. Novikov. corruption counteraction is an "activity in the sphere of public administration aimed at reducing opportunities for the corruption of social relations" (Novikov, 2020, p. 53). In this case, in the scientific aspect, counteraction to corruption has a narrow and broad meaning. In the first case, it is a system of measures aimed at reducing the volume of corruption, limiting the influence of corruption on other social phenomena and processes, as well as actions to neutralize factors of corrupt behavior, apply sanctions to subjects of corruption offenses and eliminate their consequences. A broad understanding of counteraction to corruption is interpreted as lawful activity that helps reduce the opportunities for such actions, in particular by ensuring the rule of law, implementing other principles of law, democratic developing a society, establishing a rule of law state (Novikov, 2020, p. 54).

A. Prykhodko's According to research. prevention, counteraction, and fight are three different directions of anti-corruption activity. If prevention and fighting manifestations of corruption in the state involve the combined activity of all interested parties (state, business,

civil society) to "identify, study, limit or eliminate phenomena that generate corruption offenses or facilitate their spread ... by all available means of communicative interaction, the implementation of which is objectified by preventive. repressive, and elimination measures", then counteraction is purely the activity of "anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies aimed at detecting corruption offenses, proper investigation, bringing offenders to justice, as well as protecting persons who have been harmed as a result of corrupt actions" (Prykhodko, 2020, pp. 140-141).

Finally, we consider it necessary to take as an axiom the statement that corruption as a phenomenon cannot be destroyed, so it is impossible to fight or prevent it. However, the only thing that can be done with it is to counter its spreading. Therefore, we understand under the concept of "corruption counteraction" the activity of actors / subjects of anti-corruption activity in terms of preventing corruption manifestations (detecting and eliminating the causes of the spread of corruption crimes); fighting against corrupt acts (their termination, exposure, and direct investigation) minimizing and eliminating the consequences of committed corruption offenses (Okuniev, Boiko, & Lukin, 2018).

As for the phrase "corruption counteraction tool", it is appropriate here to quote M. Kikalishvili, who defines the similar term "measures against corruption crime" as "a complex of actions and / or means by which a and multi-aspect activity implemented, which combines elements of social management with private and public initiatives and is aimed at creating obstacles to the commission of corrupt acts, resisting their spread, as well as an appropriate response to those acts that have already manifested in actual offenses"(Kikalishvili, committed pp. 22-23). So, "corruption counteraction tool" in our research is understood as the means to create obstacles to the commission of corrupt acts, resist their spread, and also respond to those actions that have already manifested in actual committed offenses. In a such context corruption counteraction tool can be associated with a quality control tool.

From abstract concepts and phenomena, we move to the world where uncertainty always gets its definition – the world of mathematics and information science, namely to clarify the concept of "innovative analytical and statistical technology". The term "analytical and statistical

technology" can have different interpretations, depending on the context in which it is used. However, in a general sense, it is a technology based on the application of data analytics methods and statistical analysis to solve various tasks in different fields.

For example, E. Rogers understood technology is as "a project of instrumental action that reduces the uncertainty of causal relationships on the way to achieving the desired result. Technology usually consists of two components: 1) the hardware part, that is, the device that embodies the technology as a physical or material object, and 2) the informational part (software), that is, the information base of this device" (Rogers, 1983, pp. 13-14). Thus, we see that technology can be considered as a tool, the nature of the use of which is determined by a pre-determined goal. In our study, we understand "technology" as a documented mechanism or method of applying certain physical or material objects, the operation of which is pre-determined by a set of instructions.

Next concept is statistics and analytics. At the current stage of society development, the term "statistics" is used in two senses. Firstly, in everyday life, it is understood as a set of quantitative data about a certain phenomenon or process. Secondly, experts in the field of statistical methods call "statistics" a function of observation results used estimate to characteristics and distribution parameters and 2023. hypothesis testing (Rogel-Salazar, pp. 14-24).

It should be noted that the application of statistical methods in complex systems is impossible without the use of laws of thought, more precisely analytical methods — analytics. Analytics appears as a discipline that combines three most important components: the methodology of information-analytical work, the organizational provision of this process, and the technology-methodological support for the development and creation of instrumental means for its implementation.

So, analytics is the basis for intellectual, logical and thinking activity aimed at solving practical tasks, allowing the actor / subject of cognition to predict the future state of the object of analysis. It plays an integrative role in reconstructing the past, revealing the present, and forecasting the future. Overall, by analytics, we understand "the set of principles of methodological, organizational, and technological support for individual and collective thinking activities that



allow effective processing of information to improve the quality of existing and new knowledge, as well as preparation of an information base for making optimal management decisions" (Zakharova & Filipova, 2013, pp. 26-27).

Analytics acts as a comprehensive discipline, combining methodological approaches from various scientific directions aimed at mining, proper presentation, and management of knowledge. It integrates the results obtained in various scientific fields: from mathematics to synoptics and meteorology. Also, analytics includes some working methods psychology and psychoanalysis, social and political science, history, source studies, library science. linguistics, pedagogy, jurisprudence, and many others. Almost a complete complex of sciences that have ever attempted a scientific invariant description of the features of the behavior of an individual or a group in different situations: during group and individual activities, during expressing thoughts, synthesizing goals and choosing methods of their achievements, and other situations.

Therefore, in the general sense, by analytical and we understand statistical technology documented procedure or algorithm for data analysis. Any analytical and statistical data analysis usually includes a whole range of procedures and algorithms that are performed sequentially, in parallel, or according to a more complex scheme. It is important to emphasize that skilled and effective application of analytical and statistical analysis is by no means checking one separately taken statistical hypothesis or evaluating the characteristics or parameters of one given distribution from a fixed family. Operations of this kind are just a separate brick from which analytical and statistical technology is composed.

Let's turn to such analytical and statistical technologies which are called "innovative". Quality expert Kaeru Ishikawa divides analytical and statistical methods into three groups: intermediate, and advanced. elementary, Elementary methods include such simple tools as: a control sheet, a quality histogram, a causeand-effect diagram, a Pareto chart, stratification, a scatter diagram, a control card. Intermediate methods are methods of acceptance control, distribution theory, statistical estimates, and criteria. Advanced methods are methods based the use of computer technologies: experimental design, multidimensional analysis, operations research methods (Ishikawa, 1989).

We are interested in advanced methods, as they have a direct relation to innovation. In modern literature, there are many definitions of innovation. The simplest definition of innovation as an idea, practice or object that "is perceived as new by the individual or other implementer" (Rogers, 1983, p. 11).

In modern research, two approaches to defining the innovation concept are common:

- 1) static, where innovation acts as a "productinnovation", when it is presented as the result of an innovative process in the form of a new technique (product), technology, a new method introduced to the market;
- dynamic, where innovation acts as a "process-innovation" of research, design, production development. organization. commercialization and distribution of new products, technologies, principles instead of the existing ones (Huturov, 2019, p. 16).

It should be noted that in modern (especially English) scientific and technical literature in relation to innovative technologies, the term "hitech" is also used. The term "high technology" is used to denote the most advanced technologies that rely on the latest achievements of scientific and technical progress. There are such technologies among the technologies of analytical and statistical data analysis - like in any scientific-practical field that is intensively developing.

"High", as in other areas, means that analytical and statistical technology is based on modern achievements of analytical and statistical theories and practices, in particular, on achievements in the theory of probability, applied mathematical statistics. At the same time, "based on modern achievements" means, firstly, that mathematical basis of technology has been obtained relatively recently within framework of the relevant scientific discipline, and secondly, that calculation algorithms have been developed and justified according to it (i.e., they are not obtained heuristically).

Subsequently, new approaches and results may force a reassessment of the applicability and capabilities of technology, lead to its replacement with a more modern one. Otherwise, "high analytical and statistical technologies" turn into "classical" technologies. Thus, high analytical and statistical technologies are the results of recent serious scientific research.

High analytical and statistical technologies are contrasted, accordingly, with low analytical and statistical technologies (with classical ones situated between them). "Low analytical and statistical technologies" are those technologies that do not correspond to the modern level of science and practice. Usually, they are simultaneously outdated and not entirely adequate to the tasks being solved.

Classical analytical and statistical technologies are understood as long-standing technologies that have retained their importance for modern and statistical practice. analytical technologies based on the method of least squares (including methods of point estimation of parameters of the predictive function, nonparametric methods of confidence estimation of parameters and the predictive function as a whole, tests of various hypotheses about them), Kolmogorov, Smirnov, omega-square type statistics, non-parametric Spearman and Kendall correlation coefficients (to attribute them only to ranking analysis methods means to condescend to "low analytical and statistical technologies") and many other statistical procedures.

There is another approach (Köbis, Starke, & Rahwan, 2022; Kovtun, 2011; Odilla, 2023) to the classification of analytical and statistical technologies, according to which they can be traditional divided into (classical) automated. The classical one involves the activities of 1-2 experts with a minor application of computer (information) technologies, during which analysis of interrelations. interdependencies of various indicators is carried out to identify deviations from the norm (this includes stereotype methods, adjusted indicators, associated comparisons, and so on).

In turn, automated group assumes, firstly, the involvement of intelligent systems in the data processing, which are trained to perform analytical and statistical operations with datasets and capable of replacing a person in most operations performed. These technologies include data mining, anomaly detection in them, or new knowledge discovery (novelty detection, knowledge discovery). The use of these algorithms allows the automation of the work of several specialists and simplifies the process of preparing reports about exceptional (new, anomalous) situations. Based οn classification, automated technologies should be considered as innovative analytical and statistical technologies. We can add that the use of the indicated technologies in modern conditions of societal development is impossible without the

use also of such technologies as machine learning, deep learning, neural networks, natural language processing (NLP), network analysis, real-time data analysis, which allow obtaining fast and accurate results of analysis of large volumes of data.

As noted by (Köbis, Starke, & Rahwan, 2021), active implementation of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies brings new hope for more effective corruption counteraction. Artificial intelligence differs significantly from static information and communication technologies. "Classic" technologies allow to digitize the procurement procedures, the provision of government services online, and the publication of open government data. However, traditional technologies cannot autonomously. operate while intelligence, on the contrary, was specifically designed for this. Thanks to its learning capabilities, artificial intelligence autonomously perform a wide range of tasks previously reserved for humans (Rahwan et al., 2019). In the context of today's digital transformation of states, artificial intelligence can take on anti-corruption tasks, such as predicting, detecting, and exposing corruption cases (Lima & Delen, 2020; López-Iturriaga & Sanz, 2017).

Thus, in practical use, applied statistical methods and analytics involve not just separate data description methods, estimation, hypothesis testing, but complete, integrated procedures – so-called "analytical and statistical technologies". The concept of "analytical and statistical technology" in our understanding is analogous to the concept of "technological process" in the theory and practice of production organization (The Ukranian Week, 2022).

Naturally, some statistical technologies better meet the needs of the researcher (user, statistician), others worse; some are modern, others outdated; the properties of some are studied, others not. It should be noted that competent and effective application of analytical and statistical methods is by no means just a check of one separately taken statistical hypothesis or an assessment of characteristics or parameters of one given distribution from a fixed family. Such operations are only a separate brick that makes up the analytical and statistical technology. The procedure of analytical and statistical data analysis is an information technology process, i.e., a certain information technology in which statistical information



undergoes various operations (sequentially, in parallel or according to more complex schemes).

Conclusions

Upon concluding the conceptual analysis of the deployment of innovative analytical and technology in anti-corruption activities, two foundational concepts have been delineated.

The first concept, referred to as the "corruption counteraction tool", is characterized as a mechanism designed to impede corrupt acts, resist their proliferation, and respond to those actions that have culminated in actual committed offenses. Within this framework, the corruption counteraction tool can be likened to a quality control instrument, serving to maintain integrity and hinder corrupt practices.

The second term, "innovative analytical and statistical technology", is indicative of a broad spectrum of methods and tools. This encapsulates the utilization of mathematical and statistical data analysis techniques with the objectives of unveiling valuable relationships and patterns within data, enhancing decision-making efficiency, and identifying irregularities across various domains. More specifically, this term embodies the application of sophisticated, contemporary data analysis methods such as machine learning, deep learning, networks, natural language processing, and graph analysis. The goal here is to discern intricate relationships and useful patterns in data sets. Included within this definition are real-time data analysis techniques, enabling prompt and precise analytical outcomes for substantial data volumes. When fused with quality control tools, analytical and statistical technology foster standardized rules and algorithms for data evaluation in contexts that may be overwhelmingly complex for human cognition, such as handling immense quantities of data and iterations. This synthesis brings forth a robust approach to monitoring and mitigating corruption, leveraging state-of-the-art technology to navigate the multifaceted landscape of integrity and governance.

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