

# 11. Significance Tests Significance Tests



that you actually record for this absolute value.

OK, you could do one sided.

You could do-- so here we did two sided.

You could do everything you want.

You could test a different value, et cetera.

I would encourage you to practice doing this.

OK, just to make sure that you know how to do it,

this is the same thing that we did before.

▶ 8:37 / 8:37

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#### Setup:

A geneticist at the Broad Institute wishes to study the relationship between a collection of five genes and obesity. In particular, he suspects that the number of mutations in these five genes  $\mathbf{X}=(X_1,\ldots,X_5)$  is correlated to the blood sugar level Y, when all other factors such as diet are kept identical.

A dataset consisting of measurements obtained from n=125 patients is obtained from a nearby hospital. As statisticians, we attempt to perform linear regression with the assumption that the relationship of Y given X is linear.

All problems on this page refers to this setup.

## Building a hypothesis test

2/2 points (graded)

Let's say we suspect that the number of mutations in gene 1 has some (non-zero) correlation with blood sugar level. To test this, we beign by defining the null hypothesis  $H_0: \beta_1 = 0$ , and the alternative hypothesis  $H_1: \beta_1 \neq 0$ .

Using the setup given above, what is an appropriate choice for the unit column vector  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^5$ ? That is, what  $\mathbf{u}$  gives  $\mathbf{u}^T \beta = \beta_1$ ?

(For convenience, enter your answers to all answer boxes in this problem as a row vector to represent  $\mathbf{u}^T$ . For instance, if your answer is  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ , type "[1,2]". Do not round; enter exact fractional values if applicable.)

Alternatively, we could also test whether gene 2 has a more positive correlation than gene 3. In this scenario, we setup the null hypothesis  $H_0: \beta_2 \leq \beta_3$  and  $H_1: \beta_2 > \beta_3$ . Alternatively, we could write this as  $H_0: \beta_2 - \beta_3 \leq 0$  and  $H_1: \beta_2 - \beta_3 > 0$ .

What choice of unit vector **u** satisfies  $\mathbf{u}^T \beta \leq 0 \iff \beta_2 - \beta_3 \leq 0$ ?

$$\mathbf{u}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0, \text{sqrt}(2)/2, -\text{sqrt}(2)/2, 0, 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
 Answer:  $[0, 1/\text{sqrt}(2), -1/\text{sqrt}(2), 0, 0]$ 

#### **Solution:**

For the first setup,  $\mathbf{u}=(1,0,0,0,0)$  is the right choice, since we just want the first coordinate  $\beta_1$ . In the second setup, we want the second coordinate minus the third. Therefore, we ought to normalize the vector (0,1,-1,0,0). Therefore,  $\mathbf{u}=(0,\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}},-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}},0,0)$  is the correct choice.

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You have used 2 of 3 attempts

Answers are displayed within the problem

### Statistics for the LSE

1/1 point (graded)

Again, use the setup as in the previous problem.

We assume that the model is homoscedastic; i.e.  $arepsilon\sim\mathcal{N}\left(0,\sigma^2I_{125}
ight)$ , so that  $\mathbf{Y}=\mathbb{X}eta^*+arepsilon$ .

In the linear regression model, we derived  $\hat{\beta} = \beta^* + (\mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{X})^{-1} \mathbb{X}^T \epsilon$ , so  $\hat{\beta}$  is a p-dimensional Gaussian. We saw previously that  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n-n} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbb{X}\hat{\beta}\|_2^2$  is an unbiased estimator of  $\sigma^2$ .

Let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a unit vector in  $\mathbb{R}^5$ . What distribution does the quantity  $S = \frac{\mathbf{u}^T \hat{\beta} - \mathbf{u}^T \beta}{\hat{\sigma} \sqrt{\mathbf{u}^T (\mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{X})^{-1} \mathbf{u}}}$  obey?

- $\circ$   $\mathcal{N}$  (0,1), the standard normal distribution.
- ullet  $t_{120}$ , a t-distribution with n-p=120 degrees of freedom.  $\checkmark$
- $\chi^2_{120}$ , a chi-squared distribution with 120 degrees of freedom.

### **Solution:**

The correct answer is " $t_{120}$ , a t-distribution with n-p=120 degrees of freedom."

The formula provided gives  $\mathbf{u}^T \hat{\beta} - \mathbf{u}^T \beta^* = (\mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{X})^{-1} \mathbb{X}^T \epsilon$ , which obeys the Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \mathbf{u}^T (\mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{X})^{-1} \mathbf{u})$ .

To see why, note that the covariance must be  $(\mathbf{u}^T(\mathbb{X}^T\mathbb{X})^{-1})(\sigma^2I)(\mathbf{u}^T(\mathbb{X}^T\mathbb{X})^{-1})^T=\sigma^2\mathbf{u}^T(\mathbb{X}^T\mathbb{X})^{-1}\mathbf{u}$ .

From the definition of the t-distribution, we conclude that S obeys the law  $t_{120}$ , since S uses the unbiased estimate  $\hat{\sigma}$  in place of  $\sigma$ .

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You have used 1 of 2 attempts

Answers are displayed within the problem

## Designing the test

1/1 point (graded)

Let us work with the first scenario from the previous problem. We have the two-tailed hypotheses test  $H_0: \beta_1 = 0$ ,  $H_1: \beta_1 \neq 0$ . Consider the test statistic

$$T := rac{\mathbf{u}^T\hat{eta}}{\hat{\sigma}\sqrt{\mathbf{u}^T(\mathbb{X}^T\mathbb{X})}^{-1}\mathbf{u}}$$

where  ${f u}$  is the appropriate **unit vector** (a vector of length  ${f 1}$ ) such that  ${f u}^Teta=eta_1$  .

Keep in mind the following intuition: we ought to reject  $H_0$  if  $\hat{\beta}_1$  is far away from zero, the presumed value of  $\beta_1$  under the null **hypothesis**. How far is "far"? We studied this previously in the Hypothesis Testing unit, and we now apply that knowledge to this setting.

We design the two-sided test with level lpha

$$\psi := \mathbf{1}\left(|T| \geq q_{lpha/2}
ight).$$

where  $q_{\alpha}$  is the  $(1-\alpha)$  quantile of the distribution of T, which has a certain distribution under  $H_0$  (refer to the solution to the previous problem, which asks for the distribution of a certain random variable S). If we decide to test at the level  $\alpha=0.001$ , what is the numerical value of  $q_{\alpha/2}$ ? Round to the nearest  $10^{-3}$ .

#### **Solution:**

We saw previously that the statistic T, under the null hypothesis  $\beta_1=0$ , obeys the t-distribution with n-p=125-5=120 degrees of freedom. Since we are doing a two-tailed test at significance level  $\alpha=0.001$ , we wish to compute  $q_{\alpha/2}$  such that  $\Pr\left(|T|>q_{\alpha/2}\right)=0.001$ . Plugging this into a calculator (or looking the values up in a t-distribution table) gives  $q_{\alpha/2}\approx 3.373$ . (Note that this is very different from the quantile function  $q_{\alpha}$  for a normal distribution!)

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You have used 3 of 3 attempts

Answers are displayed within the problem

Discussion

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