Why this lesson?

- Going back to the foundations of our work: how are we advancing knowledge?
- Most of the material is from Z. Dienes, psychology as a science
- From epistemiological aspects to statistical aspects
- Disclaimer 1: I am no epistemiologist (but we need to think about epistemiology)
- Disclaimer 2: "The philosophy of science is as useful to scientists as ornithology is to birds" (Richard Feynman)

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- Background: Reacting against logical positivism:
 - some sentences are not verifiable (eg: "free will is an illusion")
 - 2 problems to solve:
 - verify a specific statement: "this swan is white"
 - generalization: "all swans are white"
 - induction: seeing many examples of a fact leads to trust that this fact is "true"

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- You find 12 individuals with the same destruction: their spatial navigation is very bad
 - what can you say ?
- You find an individual with the same destruction, but their spatial navigation is good
 - what do you conclude about the theory ?

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- Popper accepted all these arguments

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 - more precise
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 - A statistical test never entirely falsifies!

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- The concept of a "paradigm shift": science progress with new paradigms
 - the earth rotation in the solar system
- Paradigm shifts are prompted by too many inconsistencies in the current paradigm

- 3 axioms:
 - Axiom 1 and 2 : P(an event A) >= 0; P(all events) = 1
 - Axiom 3: If A and B are mutually exclusive, then
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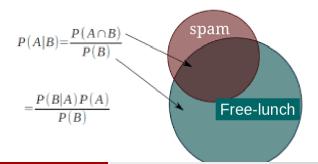
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 - example : prob. of the gaz molecules to hit the wall
- Frequentist: limit of the relative frequency of an event in across random trials
- Objective/physical probability associated with a collective
 - prob(catch a cold): Collective 1: people who live in Montreal.
 Collective 2: Those who have to walk across campus.

Bayes and likelihood functions

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 - "as reasonable expectation representing a state of knowledge or as quantification of a personal belief"
- Subjective/Evidential probabilities should still follow the physical probability axioms



Bayes and likelihood functions

• Derivation of Bayes theorem is easy: accept conditional probabilities

$$P(H, D) = P(H|D)P(D)$$

$$P(H, D) = P(D|H)P(H)$$

$$P(H|D) = \frac{P(D, H)}{P(D)} = \frac{P(D|H)P(H)}{P(D)}$$

Bayes and likelihood functions : can we use this to choose between theories?

• Posterior: P(H|D)

• Prior: P(H|D)

• Likelihood: $P(D \mid H)$: Careful: not a frequentist probability!

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$$P(H_1|D) = \frac{P(D, H_1)}{P(D)} = \frac{P(D|H_1)P(H_1)}{P(D)}$$

$$P(H_0|D) = \frac{P(D, H_0)}{P(D)} = \frac{P(D|H_0)P(H_0)}{P(D)}$$

• Ratio: posterior odds = Bayes-factor \times prior-odds

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- Prior: P(H|D)
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- Ratio: posterior odds = Bayes-factor \times prior-odds
- $BF = \frac{P(D|H_1)}{P(D|H_0)}$
- <1 : supports H0, 1-3: not worth mention , 3-10: substantial, 10-30: strong</p>

Back to the basics: Effect size

What is the non standardized effect?

Imagine 2 groups (1 and 2):

$$\mu = \bar{x_1} - \bar{x_2}$$

What is the standardized effect ? (eg Cohen's d)

$$d = \frac{\bar{x_1} - \bar{x_2}}{\sigma} = \frac{\mu}{\sigma}$$

"Z": Effect accounting for the sample size

$$Z = \frac{\mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}$$

Significance testing as perverse probabilistic reasoning

Consider a typical medical research study, for example designed to test the efficacy of a drug, in which a null hypothesis H_0 ('no effect') is tested against an alternative hypothesis H_1 ('some effect'). Suppose that the study results pass a test of statistical significance (that is P-value <0.05) in favor of H_1 . What has been shown?

- 1. H_0 is false.
- 2. H_1 is true.
- 3. H_0 is probably false.
- 4. H_1 is probably true.
- 5. Both (1) and (2).
- 6. Both (3) and (4).
- 7. None of the above.

Figure 1: Westover, 2014

Significance testing as perverse probabilistic reasoning

Table 1 Quiz answer profile

Answer	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Number	8	0	58	37	6	69	12
Percent	4.2	0	30.5	19.5	3.2	36.3	6.3

Figure 2: Westover, 2014

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- Probability of observing a **statistic** equal to the one seen in the data, or one that is more "extreme", when the null hypothesis is true
- meaning:
 - a statistic = a function of the data: s = f(Data)
 - define with common sense : eg difference between the means
 - but: what if there are different choices? What if several could be biologically relevant?
 - can I play with several statistics? Is that a problem?

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- Probability of observing a statistic equal to the one seen in the data, or one that is more "extreme", when the null hypothesis is true
- meaning:
 - concept of repeating the same study in the same way an infinite number of times!
 - same study design
 - same sampling scheme

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- Probability of observing a statistic equal to the one seen in the data, or one that is more "extreme", when the null hypothesis is true
- meaning:
 - How do we define the null?
 - Is the null plausible? or at least possible?
 - Can we build the null from

p-values: Illustration with a normal null

credit C.Greenwood

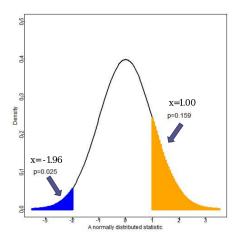


Figure 3: Illustration of p-value

p-values: Illustration with a Gamma null

credit C.Greenwood

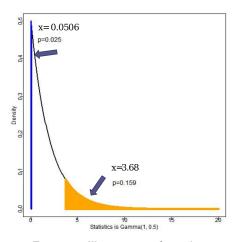


Figure 4: Illustration of p-value

p-values: Illustration with a uniform null

credit C.Greenwood

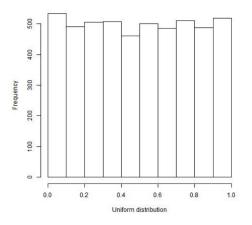


Figure 5: Illustration of p-value

Back to statistics: p-values and power

Decision/H	H0 True	H1 True
reject not reject	lpha (type I) 1 - $lpha$	1-eta (Power) eta (type II)

What is power?

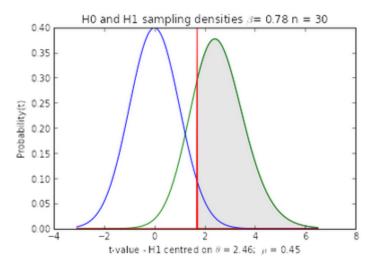


Figure 6: Illustration of Power

Power: experimentally

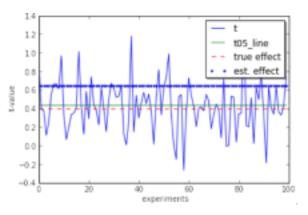


Figure 7: Illustration of Power

Recall the definition

• Power will depend on **5** things:

The non standardized effect : μ

The standard deviation of the data : σ

The number of subjects : *n*

The type I risk of error : α

And on the distribution of the statistic under the alternative hypothesis.

$$t_{obs} = rac{\hat{\mu}}{\hat{\sigma_{\mu}}} = rac{\hat{\mu}}{\hat{SE}_{\mu}}$$

• We estimate the effect $\hat{\mu}$ under normal noise. Our statistic is:

$$t_{obs} = rac{\hat{\mu}}{\hat{\sigma_{\mu}}} = rac{\hat{\mu}}{\hat{SE}_{\mu}}$$

• Power is $P(t_{obs} > t_{.05})$, with $t_{.05}$ the t for $\alpha = 0.05$ under the null.

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We need a theoretical result

• With normal data, the $t=\frac{\hat{\mu}}{S\hat{E}_{\mu}}$ statistic follows a non central t distribution with non centrality parameter:

$$\theta = \mu \sqrt{n}/\sigma$$

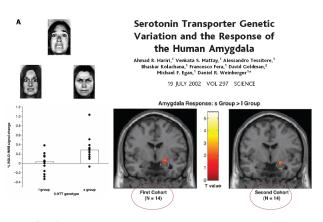
and n-1 degrees of freedom.

• We are done! assuming we know all these things ... ;)

Some python code:

```
Inputs: sample_size (n), mu, sigma, alpha
Returns: power
11 11 11
import scipy.stats as sst
# define H1
df = n-1
theta = np.sqrt(n)*mu/sigma
ncrv = sst.nct(df. theta)
# find the threshold value
t_alph_null = sst.t.isf(alpha, df)
power = 1 - ncrv.cdf(t alph null)
return power
```

Some first studies: small Ns



- Authors report $m_1 = .28, m_2 = .03, \text{SDM}_1 = 0.08, \text{SDM}_2 = 0.05, N_1 = N_2 = 14$
- How do we compute the effect size ?

- ullet First, compute the standard deviation of the data from the ${
 m SDM}$
 - get σ from SDM : $\sigma = \sqrt{14-1} \times \text{SDM}$
 - ullet Combine the σ to have one estimation across the groups
 - formula easy to recompute or find

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$$\sigma = \sqrt{14 - 1} \times \text{SDM}, \ d = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{\sigma} = 1.05$$

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- What is the percentage of variance explained?
- Write the estimated model: $Y = [1 \dots 1]^t [m_1 m_2] + \mathrm{residual}$
- Compute the total sum of square Y^tY , then the proportion:

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$$V_e = \frac{(n_1 + n_2)(m_1 - m_2)^2}{n_1 s_1^2 + n_2 s_2^2 + (n_1 + n_2)(m_1 - m_2)^2} > 40\%$$

Power in practice:

- Harvard Medical School researchers show that broccoli reduces
 Parkinson patients symptoms X. 20 participants in each of 2 groups.
- \bullet The diffence in the measure of symptom A is significant with a t-test $p{=}0.02$
- You decide to replicate the study at the MNI. How many subjects should you test?

What happens if ... p is "significant" but study power is low ?

- Study in Button et al, 2013, more than half of the studies published have less than 30% power
- Low Positive Predictive Value $P(H_A \text{ true} \mid \text{test significant})$
 - ullet Depends on the prior probability of H_A and H_0 and lpha
- Inflated effect size

PPV

• Define : $P_1 = P(H_1)$ and $P_0 = P(H_0)$

$$PPV = \frac{(1-\beta)P_1}{(1-\beta)P_1 + \alpha P_0}$$

• With $R = P_1/P_0$ and $W = 1 - \beta$:

$$PPV = \frac{WR}{WR + \alpha}$$

 Wikipedia (ML): PPV = number-of-true-positive / (number-of-true-positive + number-of-false-positive)

Low PPV P(H_A is true | test signif.) with low power

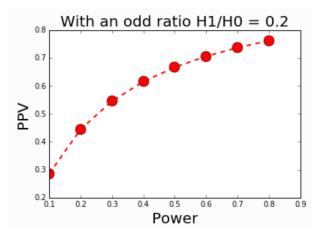


Figure 8: PPV = f(power), alph=0.05

Low PPV with high alpha: $P(H_A \text{ is true } | \text{ test signif.})$

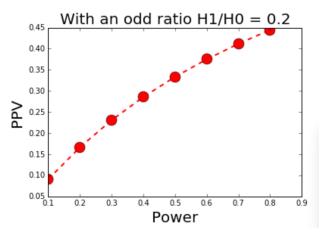


Figure 9: PPV = f(power), alph=0.2

Credits and References

- Zoltan Dienes: understanding psychology as a science
- Celia Greenwood for some slides
- Many others

Questions

Questions