

# Unit 3: Foundations for inference

## 3. Hypothesis tests

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LBJ - SDA - Spring 2024

University of Texas

# Outline

## 1. Housekeeping

## 2. Main ideas

1. Use hypothesis tests to make decisions about population parameters
2. Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals at equivalent significance/confidence levels should agree
3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant
4. Hypothesis tests are prone to decision errors

## 3. Summary

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# 1. Use hypothesis tests to make decisions about population parameters

Hypothesis testing framework:

1. Set the hypotheses.
2. Check assumptions and conditions.
3. Calculate a *test statistic* and a p-value.
4. Make a decision, and interpret it in context of the research question.

# Hypothesis testing for a population mean

## 1. Set the hypotheses

- $H_0 : \mu = \text{null value}$
- $H_A : \mu < \text{or } > \text{or } \neq \text{null value}$

# Hypothesis testing for a population mean

## 1. Set the hypotheses

- $H_0 : \mu = \text{null value}$
- $H_A : \mu < \text{or } > \text{or } \neq \text{null value}$

## 2. Check assumptions and conditions

- Independence: random sample/assignment, 10% condition when sampling without replacement
- Sample size / skew:  $n \geq 30$  (or larger if sample is skewed), no extreme skew

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  - Independence: random sample/assignment, 10% condition when sampling without replacement
  - Sample size / skew:  $n \geq 30$  (or larger if sample is skewed), no extreme skew
3. Calculate a *test statistic* and a p-value (draw a picture!)

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{SE}, \text{ where } SE = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$



# Hypothesis testing for a population mean

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3. Calculate a *test statistic* and a p-value (draw a picture!)

$$Z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{SE}, \text{ where } SE = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

4. Make a decision, and interpret it in context of the research question
  - If p-value  $< \alpha$ , reject  $H_0$ , data provide evidence for  $H_A$
  - If p-value  $> \alpha$ , do not reject  $H_0$ , data do not provide

## Application exercise: 3.2 Hypothesis testing for a single mean

See course website for details.

## Your turn

Which of the following is the correct interpretation of the p-value from App Ex 3.2?

- (a) The probability that average GPA of UT students has changed since 2001.
- (b) The probability that average GPA of UT students has not changed since 2001.
- (c) The probability that average GPA of UT students has not changed since 2001, if in fact a random sample of 63 UT students this year have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher.
- (d) The probability that a random sample of 63 UT students have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher, if in fact the average GPA has not changed since 2001.
- (e) The probability that a random sample of 63 UT students have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher or 3.16 or lower, if in fact the average GPA has not changed since 2001.

## Your turn

Which of the following is the correct interpretation of the p-value from App Ex 3.2?

- (a) The probability that average GPA of UT students has changed since 2001.
- (b) The probability that average GPA of UT students has not changed since 2001.
- (c) The probability that average GPA of UT students has not changed since 2001, if in fact a random sample of 63 UT students this year have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher.
- (d) The probability that a random sample of 63 UT students have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher, if in fact the average GPA has not changed since 2001.
- (e) *The probability that a random sample of 63 UT students have an average GPA of 3.58 or higher or 3.16 or lower, if in fact the average GPA has not changed since 2001.*

## Common misconceptions about hypothesis testing

1. P-value is the probability that the null hypothesis is true

*A p-value is the probability of getting a sample that results in a test statistic as or more extreme than what you actually observed (and in favor of the null hypothesis) if in fact the null hypothesis is correct. It is a conditional probability, conditioned on the null hypothesis being correct.*

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2. A high p-value confirms the null hypothesis.

*A high p-value means the data do not provide convincing evidence for the alternative hypothesis and hence that the null hypothesis can't be rejected.*

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2. A high p-value confirms the null hypothesis.

*A high p-value means the data do not provide convincing evidence for the alternative hypothesis and hence that the null hypothesis can't be rejected.*

3. A low p-value confirms the alternative hypothesis.

## Common misconceptions about hypothesis testing

- 1.
2. A high  $p$ -value confirms the null hypothesis.  
*A high  $p$ -value means the data do not provide convincing evidence for the alternative hypothesis and hence that the null hypothesis can't be rejected.*
3. A low  $p$ -value confirms the alternative hypothesis.  
*A low  $p$ -value means the data provide convincing evidence for the alternative hypothesis, but not necessarily that it is confirmed.*



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## 1. Housekeeping

## 2. Main ideas

- 1. Use hypothesis tests to make decisions about population parameters

- 2. Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals at equivalent significance/confidence levels should agree

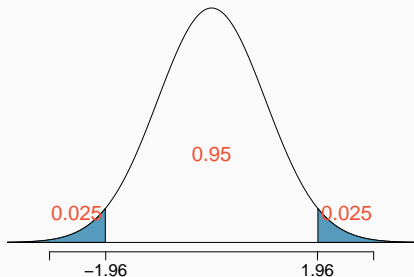
- 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

- 4. Hypothesis tests are prone to decision errors

## 3. Summary

## 2. Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals at equivalent significance/confidence levels should agree

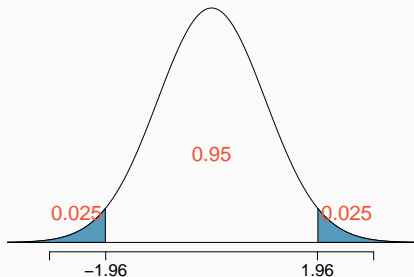
Two sided



95% confidence level  
is equivalent to  
two sided HT with  $\alpha = 0.05$

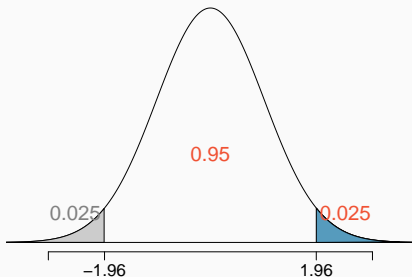
## 2. Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals at equivalent significance/confidence levels should agree

Two sided



95% confidence level  
is equivalent to  
two sided HT with  $\alpha = 0.05$

One sided



95% confidence level  
is equivalent to  
one sided HT with  $\alpha = 0.025$

### Your turn

What is the confidence level for a confidence interval that is equivalent to a two-sided hypothesis test at the 1% significance level? *Hint: Draw a picture and mark the confidence level in the center.*

- (a) 0.80
- (b) 0.90
- (c) 0.95
- (d) 0.98
- (e) 0.99

### Your turn

What is the confidence level for a confidence interval that is equivalent to a two-sided hypothesis test at the 1% significance level? *Hint: Draw a picture and mark the confidence level in the center.*

- (a) 0.80
- (b) 0.90
- (c) 0.95
- (d) 0.98
- (e) **0.99**

### Your turn

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- (a) 0.80
- (b) 0.90
- (c) 0.95
- (d) **0.98**
- (e) 0.99

## Your turn

A 95% confidence interval for the average normal body temperature of humans is found to be (98.1 F, 98.4 F). Which of the following is true?

- (a) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98.2$  would be rejected at  $\alpha = 0.05$  in favor of  $H_A : \mu \neq 98.2$ .
- (b) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98.2$  would be rejected at  $\alpha = 0.025$  in favor of  $H_A : \mu > 98.2$ .
- (c) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98$  would be rejected using a 90% confidence interval.
- (d) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98.2$  would be rejected using a 99% confidence interval.



## Your turn

A 95% confidence interval for the average normal body temperature of humans is found to be (98.1 F, 98.4 F). Which of the following is true?

- (a) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98.2$  would be rejected at  $\alpha = 0.05$  in favor of  $H_A : \mu \neq 98.2$ .
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- (c) *The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98$  would be rejected using a 90% confidence interval.*
- (d) The hypothesis  $H_0 : \mu = 98.2$  would be rejected using a 99% confidence interval.

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3. Summary

### 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

(a)  $n = 100$

(b)  $n = 10,000$

### 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

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#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

(a)  $n = 100$

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Suppose  $\bar{x} = 5$ ,  $s = 2$ ,  $H_0 : \mu = 4.5$ , and  $H_A : \mu > 4.5$ .

### 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

(a)  $n = 100$

(b)  $n = 10,000$

Suppose  $\bar{x} = 5$ ,  $s = 2$ ,  $H_0 : \mu = 4.5$ , and  $H_A : \mu > 4.5$ .

$$Z_{n=100} = \frac{5 - 4.5}{\frac{2}{\sqrt{100}}}$$

### 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

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Suppose  $\bar{x} = 5$ ,  $s = 2$ ,  $H_0 : \mu = 4.5$ , and  $H_A : \mu > 4.5$ .

$$Z_{n=100} = \frac{5 - 4.5}{\frac{2}{\sqrt{100}}} = \frac{5 - 4.5}{\frac{2}{10}} = \frac{0.5}{0.2} = 2.5, \quad p\text{-value} = 0.0062$$

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$$Z_{n=10000} = \frac{5 - 4.5}{\frac{2}{\sqrt{10000}}}$$



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#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

(a)  $n = 100$

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Suppose  $\bar{x} = 5$ ,  $s = 2$ ,  $H_0 : \mu = 4.5$ , and  $H_A : \mu > 4.5$ .

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### 3. Results that are statistically significant are not necessarily practically significant

#### Your turn

All else held equal, will p-value be lower if  $n = 100$  or  $n = 10,000$ ?

(a)  $n = 100$

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#### 4. Hypothesis tests are prone to decision errors

		Decision	
		fail to reject $H_0$	reject $H_0$
Truth	$H_0$ true		
	$H_A$ true		

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		Decision	
		fail to reject $H_0$	reject $H_0$
Truth	$H_0$ true	✓	
	$H_A$ true		

## 4. Hypothesis tests are prone to decision errors

		Decision	
		fail to reject $H_0$	reject $H_0$
Truth	$H_0$ true	✓	<i>Type 1 Error, <math>\alpha</math></i>
	$H_A$ true		

- ▶ A *Type 1 Error* is rejecting the null hypothesis when  $H_0$  is true:  $\alpha$ 
  - For those cases where  $H_0$  is actually true, we do not want to incorrectly reject it more than 5% of those times
  - Increasing  $\alpha$  increases the Type 1 error rate, hence we prefer to small values of  $\alpha$

## 4. Hypothesis tests are prone to decision errors

		Decision	
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Truth	$H_0$ true	✓	Type 1 Error, $\alpha$
	$H_A$ true	Type 2 Error, $\beta$	

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		Decision	
		fail to reject $H_0$	reject $H_0$
Truth	$H_0$ true	✓	Type 1 Error, $\alpha$
	$H_A$ true	Type 2 Error, $\beta$	Power, $1 - \beta$

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  - For those cases where  $H_0$  is actually true, we do not want to incorrectly reject it more than 5% of those times
  - Increasing  $\alpha$  increases the Type 1 error rate, hence we prefer to small values of  $\alpha$
- ▶ A *Type 2 Error* is failing to reject the null hypothesis when  $H_A$  is true:  $\beta$
- ▶ *Power* is the probability of correctly rejecting  $H_0$ , and hence the complement of the probability of a Type 2

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## Summary of main ideas

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