

# Interim analysis tool

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# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## DATA COLLECTION

- All data at once

18 data points (e.g 18 mice)

- Not all data at once

Example 1

6 data points

6 data points

6 data points

Example 2

2

4

3

3

1

5

Interim  
analysis 1

Interim  
analysis 2

Final  
analysis

Advantage: you can possibly stop earlier and thereby use less mice

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## APPROACH

What groups on this campus often do:

Allowed chance for a false positive =  $\alpha$

Interim analysis 1:  $p < \alpha?$

Interim analysis 2:  $p < \alpha?$

Final analysis:  $p < \alpha?$

Problem 1: Total probability of a false positive  $> \alpha$   
Problem 2: Influence on the power?

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## APPROACH

Step 1: perform the power analysis in Gpower as you would without interim analysis

Step 2: use our tool

Ex.: control group, experimental condition 1 & 2

Group means: 1, 2, 3

SD: 1.25

We can process 6 mice at a time

Stages: 6; 12; 18; 24; 27

Mice per group: 2; 4; 6; 8; 9

**F tests** - ANOVA: Fixed effects, omnibus, one-way

**Analysis:** A priori: Compute required sample size

<b>Input:</b>	Effect size f	=	0.6531973
	$\alpha$ err prob	=	0.05
	Power (1- $\beta$ )	=	0.8
	Number of groups	=	3
<b>Output:</b>	Noncentrality	=	11.5200012
	Critical F	=	3.4028261
	Numerator df	=	2
	Denominator df	=	24
	Total sample size	=	27
	Actual power	=	0.8210086

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## TOOL: INPUT

### Simulating Alpha Spending

**Test:**  
F-test

**st.dev.**  
1.25

**group means (semicolon delimited, eg., 1;2;1)**  
1;2;3

**type I error**  
0.05

**data points per stage (semicolon delimited, eg., 3;9;17)**  
4;6;8;9

**type:**  
OBF

**# sim (eg., 10000)**  
1000

Susanne Blotwijk: simulation algorithm  
<https://www.icds.be> (Wilfried Cools: shiny suit)

T-test of one-way ANOVA

alpha

Alpha spending function, leave it as is

Same group parameters as the ones you used for the Gpower calculation

Number of mice per group at each interim analysis

Number of simulations  
Higher number: takes more time  
Lower number: lower accuracy and precision

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## TOO FEW SIMULATIONS

	test 1	test 2	test 3	test 4
cumulative power	0.07	0.39	0.71	0.82
alphas	0	0.02	0.03	0.04
cumulative alpha	0	0.02	0.04	0.05
target cumulative alpha	0	0.02	0.04	0.05
expected number	22.11			
expected stop	2.83			

These two rows differ too much  
→ accuracy is too low → more simulations needed

At least one number here is 0  
→ precision is too low → more simulations needed

1) Two numbers in this part of the column differ too much  
→ accuracy is too low → more simulations needed

2) Less than two significant digits  
→ precision is too low → more simulations needed

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## TOO LITTLE POWER

	test 1	test 2	test 3	test 4
cumulative power	0.0691	0.378	0.6891	0.7879
alphas	0.0034	0.014	0.0285	0.032
cumulative alpha	0.0033	0.0164	0.0376	0.05
target cumulative alpha	0.0033	0.0164	0.0376	0.05
expected number	22.2503			
expected stop	2.8638			

→ Total power decreases by adding interim analyses.

If  $< 0.8$ , there are two options:

- 1) Add an extra mouse to the final stage
- 2) Remove one of the interim analyses

# INTERIM ANALYSIS

## TOOL: OUTPUT

### Simulating Alpha Spending

Test:  st.dev.  group means (semicolon delimited, eg., 1;2;1)

type I error  data points per stage (semicolon delimited, eg., 3;9;17)

type:  # sim (eg., 10000)

Susanne Blotwijk: simulation algorithm  
<https://www.icds.be> (Wilfried Cools: shiny suit)

SIMULATE the alpha spending function sample sizes

	test 1	test 2	test 3	test 4
cumulative power	0.0431	0.3273	0.6512	0.8414
alphas	0.0019	0.0102	0.0228	0.0352
cumulative alpha	0.002	0.0114	0.0284	0.05
target cumulative alpha	0.0019	0.0114	0.0284	0.05
expected number				23.8699
expected stop				2.9783

Total Power

Alpha values you should apply at each analysis

Total chance of a type I error at each analysis

Expected number of used mice

Total number of mice you should request per group, so in total  $3 \times 10 = 30$