

Week 1: Introduction to Statistics

Unit 5: Different Kinds of Analytic Approaches





Qualitative vs. quantitative data

- The type of analytical approach you take depends on the type of data you have collected and the question you are answering.
- There are two types of data: qualitative and quantitative.

Qualitative Data

- Qualitative → Quality
- Deals with descriptions
- Data can be observed but not measured
- Colors, textures, smells, tastes, appearance, etc.

Quantitative Data

- Quantitative → Quantity
- Data that can be measured
- Length, height, area, volume, weight, speed, time, temperature, cost, etc.

Descriptive vs. inferential analysis

There are two common types of analysis that are referred to as "descriptive" and "inferential".

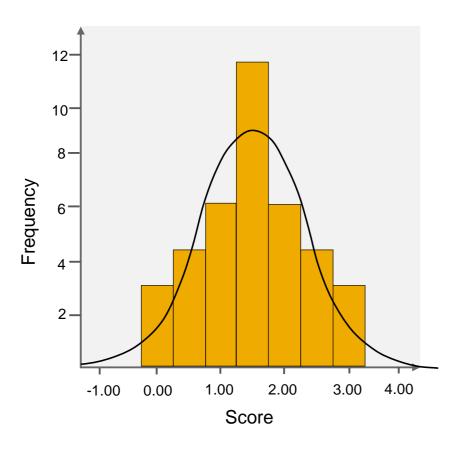
Descriptive Statistics

- Organize
- Summarize
- Simplify
- Describe and visualize data

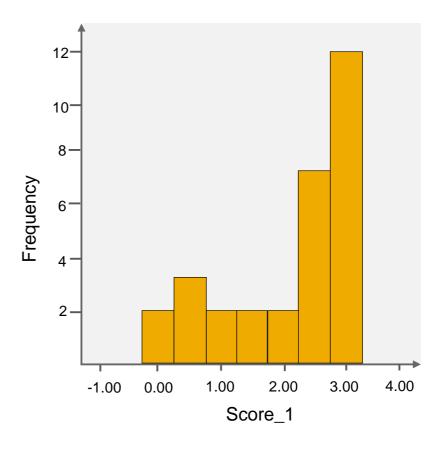
Inferential Statistics

- Generalize from samples to populations
- Test hypotheses
- Make predictions

Normal vs. non-normal



A normal distribution looks like the bell curve



A non-normal distribution

https://cyfar.org/inferential-analysis for more information

Common parametric statistical tests

Correlation: Analyze the association between variables		
Pearson correlation	Tests for the strength of the association between two continous variables	
Spearman correlation	Tests for the strength of the association between two ordinal variables (does not assume that data is normally distributed)	
Chi-square	Tests for the strength of the association between two categorical variables	
Comparison of means: Analyze the difference between the means of variables		
One sample T-test	Compares the mean of a sample to a pre-specified value and tests for a	

Some of these tests will be described in more detail later in this course.

Comparison of means: Analyze the difference between the means of variables		
One sample T-test	Compares the mean of a sample to a pre-specified value and tests for a deviation from that value	
Paired T-test	Tests for the difference between two related variables	
Independent T-test	Tests for the difference between two independent variables	
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	Tests for the difference between group means in a sample after any other variance in the outcome variable is accounted for	

Regression: Analyze how change in one variable predicts change in another variable	
Simple regression	Tests how change in the predictor variable predicts the level of change in the outcome variable
Multiple regression	Tests how change in the combination of two or more predictor variables predicts the level of change in the outcome variable

Common nonparametric statistical tests

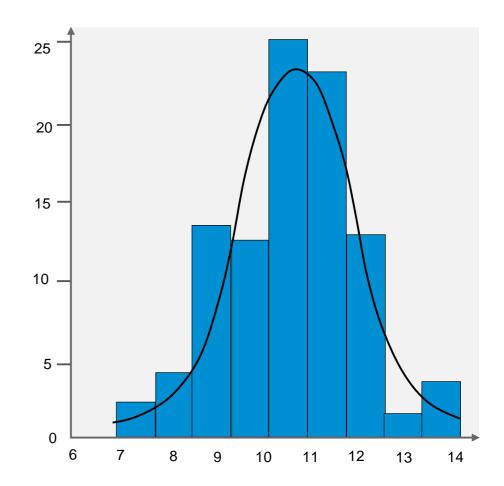
Nonparametric: used when the data does not meet the assumptions required for parametric tests		
Sign test	Tests if two related variables are different – ignores the magnitude of change, only takes into account direction. The sign is an alternative to one sample T-test or a paired T-test.	
Wilcoxon rank-sum test	Tests for the difference between two independent variables – takes into account magnitude and direction of difference	
Wilcoxon sign-rank test	Tests for the difference between two related variables – takes into account the magnitude and direction of difference	

For more information, see

http://sphweb.bumc.bu.edu/otlt/mph-modules/bs/bs704_nonparametric/BS704_Nonparametric_print.html

Choosing parametric or nonparametric statistical tests

- It can sometimes be difficult to assess whether a continuous outcome follows a normal distribution and whether a parametric or nonparametric test is appropriate.
- The most practical approach to assessing normality involves analyzing the distribution of the outcome in the sample using a histogram.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodness of fit for more information

Summary

- Descriptive analysis informs you about the basic qualities of the data.
- Inferential analysis uses statistical tests to analyze whether a pattern in the data is due to chance or due to the intervention that is observed, and what the strength of that relationship is.
- In this course, you'll learn about some of these descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, and how these techniques can be misused.



Thank you.

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