



MENU

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## How to Perform the Friedman Test in R

The **Friedman Test** is a non-parametric alternative to the Repeated Measures ANOVA. It is used to determine whether or not there is a statistically significant difference between the means of three or more groups in which the same subjects show up in each group.

This tutorial explains how to perform the Friedman Test in R.

### Example: The Friedman Test in R

To perform the Friedman Test in R, we can use the **`friedman.test()`** function, which uses the following syntax:

**`friedman.test(y, groups, blocks)`**

where:

- **y**: a vector of response values.
- **groups**: a vector of values indicating the “group” an observation belongs in.
- **blocks**: a vector of values indicating the “blocking” variable.

This function produces a Chi-Square test statistic and a corresponding p-value. If the p-value is less than a certain significance level (common choices are 0.10, 0.05, and 0.01), then there is sufficient evidence that the means between each of the groups is not equal.

To illustrate how to use this function, we will create a dataset that shows the reaction time of five patients on four different drugs. Since each patient is measured on each of the four drugs, we will use the Friedman Test to determine if the mean reaction time differs between drugs.

First, we'll create the dataset:

```
#create data
```

```
data <- data.frame(person = rep(1:5, each=4),  
                   drug = rep(c(1, 2, 3, 4), times=5),  
                   score = c(30, 28, 16, 34, 14, 18, 10, 22, 24, 20,  
                             18, 30, 38, 34, 20, 44, 26, 28, 14, 30))
```

```
#view data
```

```
data
```

	person	drug	score
1	1	1	30
2	1	2	28
3	1	3	16
4	1	4	34
5	2	1	14
6	2	2	18
7	2	3	10
8	2	4	22
9	3	1	24
10	3	2	20

11	3	3	18
12	3	4	30
13	4	1	38
14	4	2	34
15	4	3	20
16	4	4	44
17	5	1	26
18	5	2	28
19	5	3	14
20	5	4	30

Then we'll perform the Friedman Test using **score** as the response variable, **drug** as the grouping variable, and **person** as the blocking variable:

```
#perform Friedman Test
friedman.test(y=data$score, groups=data$drug, blocks=data$person)

Friedman rank sum test

data: data$score, data$drug and data$person
Friedman chi-squared = 13.56, df = 3, p-value = 0.00357
```

The Chi-Squared test statistic is **13.56** and the corresponding p-value is **0.00357**. Because this p-value is less than 0.05, we can reject the null hypothesis that the mean response time is the same for all four drugs. We have sufficient evidence to conclude that the type of drug used lead to statistically significant differences in response time.

Although a Friedman Test tells us if there are differences in mean response time across the drugs, it doesn't tell us specifically which

drugs have different mean response times. To figure that out, we need to conduct post-hoc tests.

For a Friedman Test, the appropriate post-hoc test is the pairwise Wilcoxon rank sum test with a bonferroni correction, which can be implemented using the following syntax:

```
pairwise.wilcox.test(data$score, data$drug, p.adj = "bonf")
```

where:

- **x**: response vector
- **g**: grouping vector
- **p.adj**: method for adjusting p-values; options include holm, hochberg, hommel, bonferroni, BH, BY, fdr, and none

Here is the syntax we will use for our example:

```
#perform post-hoc tests
pairwise.wilcox.test(data$score, data$drug, p.adj = "bonf")
    Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum test

data:  data$score and data$drug

    1      2      3
2 1.000 -      -
3 0.449 0.210 -
4 1.000 1.000 0.072

P value adjustment method: bonferroni
```

This produces a matrix that shows the p-value for each pairwise Wilcoxon rank sum test. We can see that the only drug groups that have a statistically significant difference at 0.10 are groups 3 and 4 ( $p = 0.072$ ).



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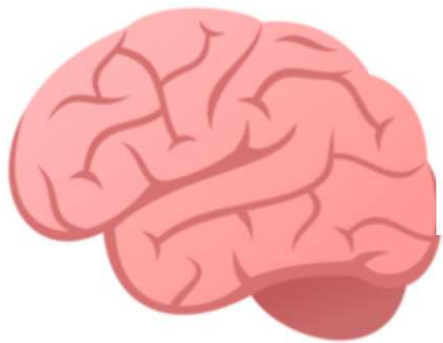


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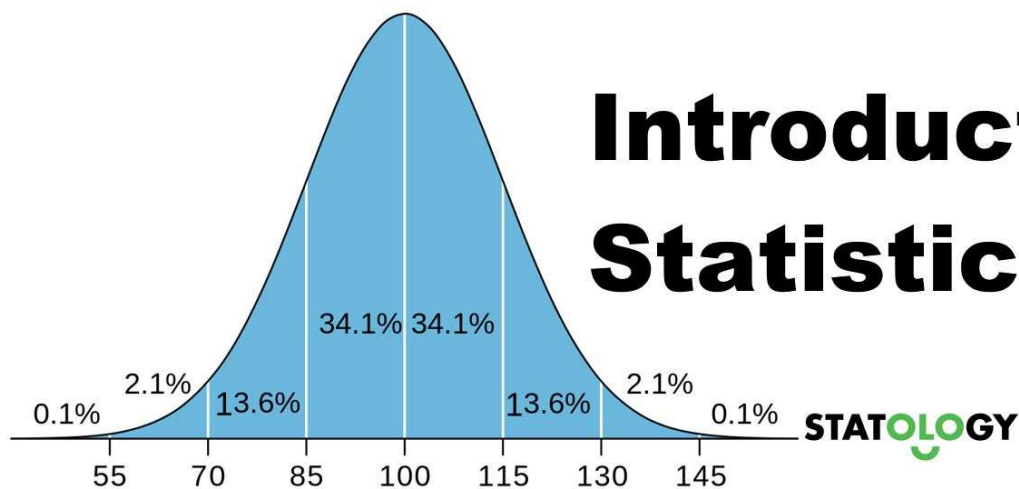
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