

Advanced Statistics Practice Test

Model solution

Bernhard Angele

Part 1 – Data analysis (50 %)

Scenario

The university wants to find out whether therapy animals are useful in lowering student stress ahead of exams. In order to test this, they asked 24 students to each have three different exam revision sessions: one with no therapy animals present, one with a therapy cat, and one with a therapy dog. The students were then asked to report their stress levels on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is no stress at all and 100 is extreme stress.

Assignment

Conduct the appropriate ANOVA and the corresponding post-hoc t -tests comparing all three factor levels to each other (assume all assumptions are met). In order to help you with this, a number of intermediate values have already been computed for you below. Report the results of the ANOVA and t -tests as one would in the results section of an academic manuscript (using APA style). Finally, in layperson (non-academic) language describe the results and summarise what you can conclude about the effect of therapy dogs and cats. There is no word limit, but the whole report should be rather brief. You may use a calculator, Microsoft Excel, or any other computer programme, as well as your pet notes and any other offline resources you wish to bring to the test. Your test must be your own work and you may not collaborate with anyone else. Show your work so you can get partial credit in case you make small calculation mistakes.

Data

In order to save you time, part of the ANOVA table is provided below, as well as the group means and standard deviations and the means and standard deviations of the differences between factor levels for each student.

Means table

Condition	Mean	SD	N
Cat	47.0	4.42	24
Dog	46.0	5.10	24
No animal	57.6	7.08	24

Differences between groups

$Condition_1$	$Condition_2$	$Mean(Condition_1 - Condition_2)$	$SD(Condition_1 - Condition_2)$
Cat	No animal	-10.6	9.3
Dog	No animal	-11.5	8.82

<i>Condition</i> ₁	<i>Condition</i> ₂	<i>Mean</i> (<i>Condition</i> ₁ – <i>Condition</i> ₂)	<i>SD</i> (<i>Condition</i> ₁ – <i>Condition</i> ₂)
Cat	Dog	0.958	7.15

ANOVA Table

Source	SS	df	MS	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Subjects	549.875	23	23.908		
Within Subjects	3620	48	75.417		
–Animal condition	1969.083	2	984.542	27.433	<i>p</i> < .01
–Residual	1650.917	46	35.889		
Total	4169.875	71			

Paired t-tests (post-hoc)

Remember, for the paired t-test, we calculate the differences between the means for each participant and use a t-test to determine whether we can reject the H_0 that the true population mean of these differences is 0 ($H_0 : \mu_{d0} = 0$)

If the H_0 is true, the t-value is calculated as follows: $t_{n-1} = \frac{\bar{d} - \mu_{d0}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{\bar{d} - 0}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}}$

We can estimate the standard error of the difference mean $\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{d}}$ from the standard deviation of the difference:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{d}} = \frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Plugging this into the equation for t , we get:

$$t_{n-1} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

$$t_{Dog-Cat} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{0.958}{\frac{7.15}{\sqrt{24}}} = 0.656$$

$$t_{Dog-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{-11.5}{\frac{8.82}{\sqrt{24}}} = -6.388$$

$$t_{Cat-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{-10.6}{\frac{9.3}{\sqrt{24}}} = -5.584$$

The df for each of these t-values is 23. When determining p -values, you must correct for multiple comparisons by either multiplying the observed p -value by the number of comparisons or dividing the critical p -value ($\alpha = .05$) by the number of comparisons (in this case, 3).

Model writeup

In order to evaluate the effect of therapy animals on stress, we performed a one-way within-subjects ANOVA with stress rating (on a scale from 0 to 100) as the dependent variable and therapy animal (no animal vs. cat vs. dog) as the within-subjects independent variable. The ANOVA showed that overall, there was a significant main effect of therapy animal, $F(2, 46) = 27.433$, $p < .01$. Post-hoc paired t -tests showed that participants reported higher stress after a revision session with no animal than after one with a cat, $t(23) = -5.584$, $p < .01$, and after a session with a dog $t(23) = -6.388$, $p < .01$. There was no significant difference between the amount of stress reported after a session with a cat and a session with a dog, $t(23) = 0.656$, $p > .05$ (all p -values reported are Bonferroni-corrected). In conclusion, it seems that both having a therapy cat and

having a therapy dog present will reduce stress levels in students compared to having no animal present, while there was no difference between having a dog present and having a cat present. The choice of therapy cat or therapy dog (Note: I'll give credit for any conclusion here, as long as it doesn't contradict the pattern in the ANOVA and the t -tests).