

Advanced Statistics Practice Test

Model solution

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This is a variation of the practice test with different data. The solutions are below.

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 120 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	52.2	4.75	120
Dog	52.7	4.72	120
No animal	48.6	4.67	120

Differences between groups

<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	No animal	3.58	6.4
Dog	No animal	4.12	5.7
Cat	Dog	-0.542	6.37

Task

ANOVA Table

Source	SS	df	MS	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Subjects	3408.656	_____	_____		
Within Subjects		_____	_____		
–Animal condition	1205.972	_____	_____	_____	_____
–Residual		_____	_____		
Total	9136.656	359			

Paired t-tests

$$t_{Dog-Cat} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$t_{Dog-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$t_{Cat-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Solutions on the next page.

Solution

ANOVA Table

Source	SS	df	MS	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Subjects	3408.656	119	28.644		
Within Subjects	5728	240	23.867		
–Animal condition	1205.972	2	602.986	31.736	<i>p</i> < .01
–Residual	4522.028	238	19		
Total	9136.656	359			

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: $t_{n-1} = \frac{\bar{d} - \mu_{d0}}{\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{d}}} = \frac{\bar{d} - 0}{\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{d}}} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\hat{\sigma}_{\bar{d}}}$

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:

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

$$t_{Dog-Cat} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{-0.542}{\frac{6.37}{\sqrt{120}}} = -0.932$$

$$t_{Dog-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{4.12}{\frac{5.7}{\sqrt{120}}} = 7.918$$

$$t_{Cat-Noanimal} = \frac{\bar{d}}{\frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{3.58}{\frac{6.4}{\sqrt{120}}} = 6.128$$

The df for each of these t-values is 119. 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).