

# video 2: multiple testing

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## introduction

- video link
- the whole idea is to avoid false positives

## cluth

- a player is clutch if they play better when it matters
- data 3 points shooting in nba
- clutch time: 4th quarter of close games
- conjecture: player shoots better in the clutch
- null: players shoots the same
- test stat: 3's made in clutch
- so lets set up a hypothesis test
- under the null the percentage of making a clutch 3 is the season 3 point percentage
- the test stat under the null is a binomial with parameter  $n$  and  $\theta_{season}$
- item so our p value is  $pv(t_{data}) = P(\tilde{t} \geq t_{data}) = \sum_{i=t_{data}}^n \binom{n}{i} \theta^i (1-\theta)^{n-i}$
- we can check this for each player and see how well this holds
- there are a few players that have low p-values on the first half of the season
- does this convince you?
- no we may want to test our conclusions on held out data.
- so we test those same players on the second half of the season and those p values no longer hold
- so what is going on?

### what is going on

- the likelihood of a single player overperforming by chance is quite low
- but we are looking at all players in the nba so that is 146 total players
- so the likelihood that a few of them overperformed by chance is much higher than  $\alpha$

### p -value distribution

- the p -value distribution under the null is uniform in zero and 1 (this approximately holds for discrete as well)
- so the distribution of p values for a single player is distributed uniformly between zero and one
- and thus the likelihood of a false positive in that case is  $\alpha$
- but in our example we are doing many hypothesis tests. there are over 146 players in our data set
- so how many false positives are we likely to see?
- approximately a fraction equal to  $\alpha$
- item so in other words we would expect 5% of the total players to be false positives

### multiple testing

- suppose we perform k independent hypothesis tests with significance level  $\alpha$
- the probability of a false positive for any test is  $\alpha$
- $P(\geq 1 \text{ false positive}) = 1 - P(\text{no false positives}) = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^k$  (given the tests are independent)
- if  $k=100$  and  $\alpha = .05$  then the likelihood of at least 1 false positive is 99%
- so what can we do? we could lower  $\alpha$

### challenge

- we want to find a value  $\alpha$  such that we keep the likelihood of any false positives below  $\alpha$  while doing k independent hypothesis tests at the same time
- $P(\text{false positive}) = P(\cup_{i=1}^k (\text{false positive in test } i))$

### union bound

- for events  $A_1 \dots A_k$
- $P(\cup_{i=1}^k A_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k P(A_i)$

### • bonferroni's correction

- how to set the p value threshold  $\tau$  so that  $P(\text{false positive}) \leq \alpha$
- $P(\text{false positives}) = P(\cup_{i=1}^k \text{false positive in test } i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k P(\text{false positive in test } i) \leq k\tau = \alpha$
- so in other words we reject the null if p value  $\leq \tau := \frac{\alpha}{k}$
- this guarantees that  $P(\text{false positive}) \leq \alpha$

### back to clutch example

- we are testing 146 players
- so if set our  $\alpha$  to  $\alpha_{mt} = \frac{\alpha}{146}$

### example 2

- goal evaluate impact of a single player on team performance
- stat  $t_{data} := m_{with} - m_{without}$  that is the mean number of points with our with out the player
- our data is nba games between 2012 and 2018
- we see that some players that do not play that much have a very high test stat
- the issue is that players who did not play that much may have a lot of noise

### hypothesis test

- so we can approach this as a permutation test
- we do a montecarlo subset of the permutations and estimate the p value using a permutation test
- doing this we see small p-values.

- are we convinced? no there are so many players so it is really easy to get false positives
- so we can apply bonferroni's correction and see how that affects things
- this gives us lebron james is the only real significant test
- so if we sort by p-value the list starts making a lot of sense
- so by ordering the p-values we can see players that overall have strong impact on their games
- this is also weighted by how much evidence we have in favor of the evidence of the players

### **p value distribution**

- bonferroni's correction basically zooms into the uniform p values to such a point that it is unlikely that there will be players that are significant due to noise alone.
- but this does naturally reduce power
- so we see kevin durant, is not listed as statistically significant with bonferroni's correction
- so we want to think about how this impacts our power.
- so testing many hypothesis at the same time and being very strict about our number of false positives forces us to incur some false negatives
- there is a trade off and sometimes it is better to allow for some more false positives so that you can still avoid a lot of false negatives.