

Lecture 8: Non-parametric Comparison of Location

GENOME 560

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Review

- What do we mean by nonparametric?
- What is a desirable location statistic for ordinal data?
- What are NP equivalents of a one-sample t-test?

Goals

- Comparing the medians of two samples using the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test
- Comparing the medians of many mutually independent samples using the Kruskal-Wallis test

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- Reject H_0 if T_x is very large or very small compared to possible values of T_x for $n = N$

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14.3	X	6
14.7	X	7
15.6	Y	8
16.7	Y	9

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$$T_x = (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 6 + 7) = 23$$

Distribution of T_x When N is Small

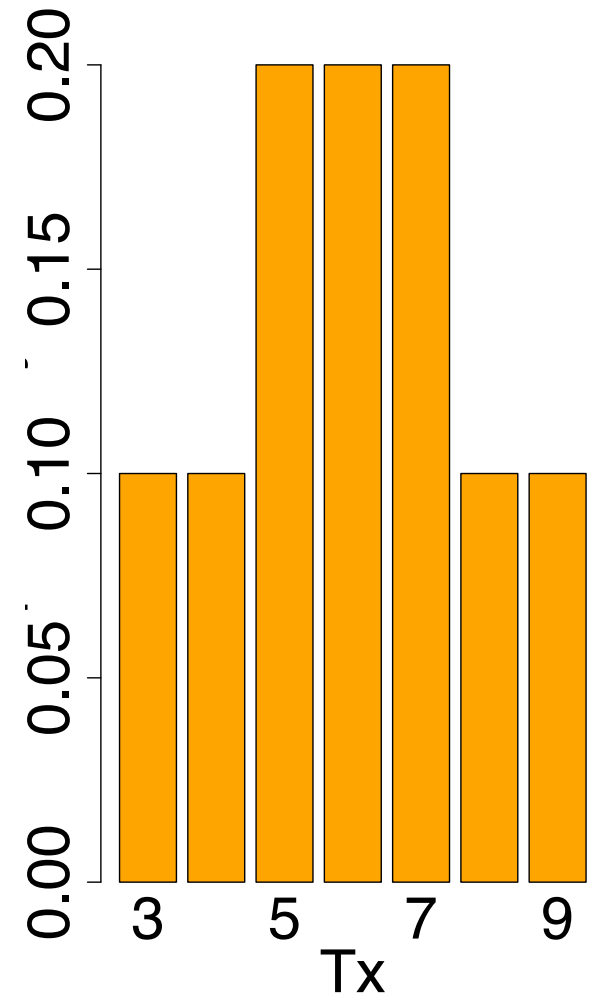
- Consider a case where $n_x = 2$ and $n_y = 3$
- We know ranks must be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
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- Consider a case where $n_x = 2$ and $n_y = 3$
- We know ranks must be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Again, the issue is how to assign these ranks amongst the samples X and Y
- There are $\binom{5}{2} = 10$ ways of assigning five ranks to two samples
- Each way is equally likely under the null hypothesis so each has a probability of 10%

Distribution of T_x When N is Small

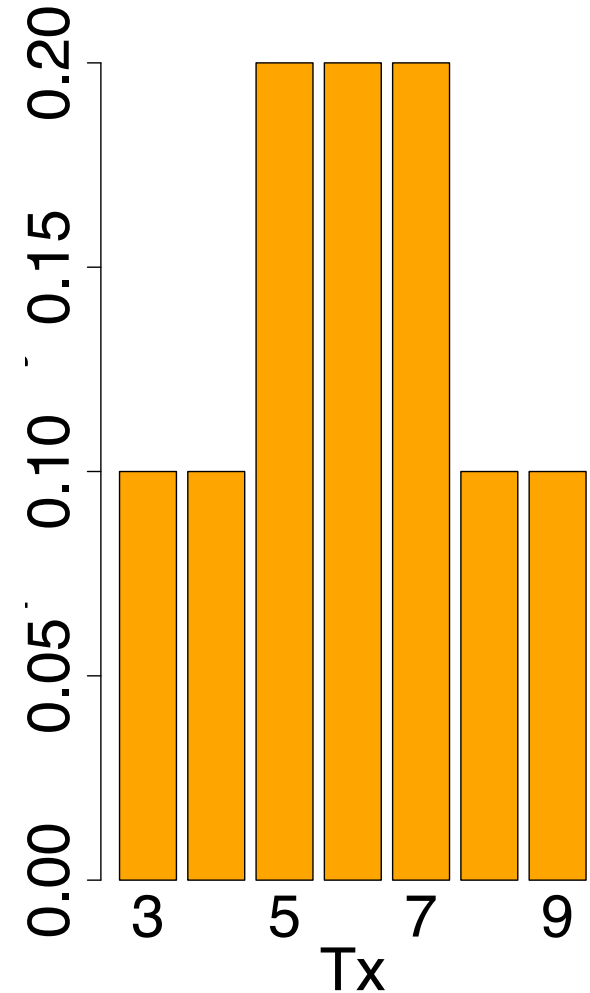
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1, 2	3, 4, 5	3	0.10
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2, 3	1, 4, 5	5	0.10
2, 4	1, 3, 5	6	0.10
1, 5	2, 3, 4	6	0.10
2, 5	1, 3, 4	7	0.10
3, 4	1, 2, 5	7	0.10
3, 5	1, 2, 4	8	0.10
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3, 5	1, 2, 4	8	0.10
4, 5	1, 2, 3	9	0.10

$$P(T_x \leq 4) = 0.2$$



Distribution of T_x When N is Large

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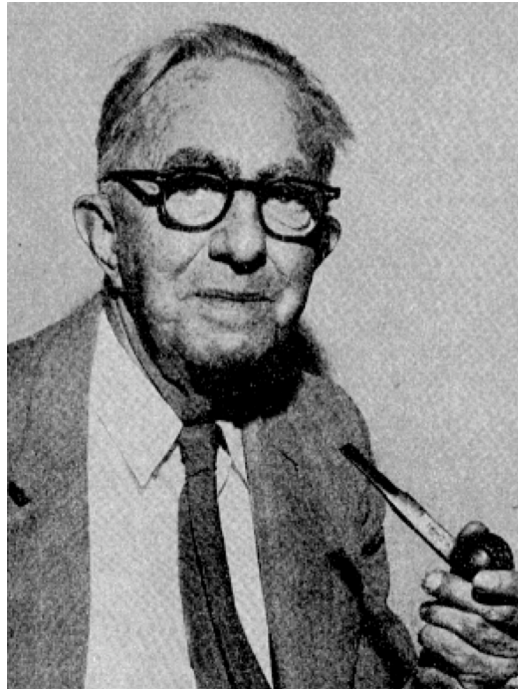
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Accept H_0

Frank Wilcoxon



Wilcoxon lived from 1892 to 1965. He was a polymath, working as an oilman and a tree surgeon before training as a physical chemist, working in plant research and then in process control in industry. In a single paper in 1945 he published both tests that bear his name.

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- Used to test whether the medians of the samples are equal
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- Rank the pooled samples

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- Pool all observations
 - Rank the pooled samples
 - Sum the ranks for each sample to get individual sample rank sums R_1, R_2, \dots, R_k

Kruskal-Wallis Test

- Under the null hypothesis, what should be true about the relationship between any two rank sums R_i, R_j ?

$$R_1, R_2, \dots, R_k$$

Kruskal-Wallis Test

- The sum of all the sample rank sums is

$$R_1 + R_2 + \dots + R_k = \frac{N(N + 1)}{2}$$

Kruskal-Wallis Test Outcome

- Given the way the test statistic/hypotheses are constructed, what does a rejection of H_0 mean?

Nonparametric Location Tests

- Can be used to perform one or two sample tests with fewer assumptions about the distribution from which the sample(s) are drawn
- Usage of sign and rank (rather than interval, as with parametric tests) enable this and confer other benefits
 - More robust (immune to outliers)
 - Can be used on ordinal data
- NP tests still have assumptions, and still must be used with care (e.g. zeroes for sign test, ties, similarity of distributions for rank-sum test)

AND THERE IS NO FREE LUNCH

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- If we assume normality and identity of variance, then a two sample t-test gives:

$$p = 0.02$$

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- Different nonparametric tests perform better or worse in this regard (efficiency)
- All will do better than their parametric counterparts when assumptions are violated
- The Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test is particularly good, giving up little power even for normally distributed data

R Goals

- Executing nonparametric tests in R
- Playing around with different distribution shapes and test assumptions
- Examining effect size vs. test outcome

Reading/Resources

- <http://www.statsoft.com/Textbook/Nonparametric-Statistics/button/2>
- <http://sci2s.ugr.es/keel/pdf/algorithm/articulo/wilcoxon1945.pdf>
- <http://www.mayo.edu/mayo-edu-docs/center-for-translational-science-activities-documents/berd-5-6.pdf>
- Nonparametric statistics: an introduction, Jean Gibbons (available online through UW libraries at <http://goo.gl/NERixX>)