




Tidy-TS: A Type-Safe Framework for Statistical Data Analysis in the TypeScript Ecosystem

John Thomas Menchaca MD ^{1,2}

¹ University of Utah, Department of Biomedical Informatics ² University of Utah, Department of Internal Medicine

DOI: [10.xxxxxx/draft](https://doi.org/10.xxxxxx/draft)

Software

- [Review](#) 
- [Repository](#) 
- [Archive](#) 

Editor: [Open Journals](#) 

Reviewers:

- [@openjournals](#)

Submitted: 01 January 1970

Published: unpublished

License

Authors of papers retain copyright and release the work under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License ([CC BY 4.0](#)).

Summary

Tidy-TS is a type-safe library for statistical computing, data transformation, and visualization in the TypeScript ecosystem. It introduces a functional grammar for manipulating tabular data using arrays of objects, which are the idiomatic format in JavaScript runtimes. Inspired by the tidyverse philosophy ([Wickham et al., 2019](#)), it brings static typing, schema validation, and compile time guarantees to data workflows in TypeScript.

The library supports pipelines that load data from files, APIs, or databases, apply transformations that preserve type information, run statistical analyses, and produce interactive visualizations using Vega-Lite ([Satyanarayan et al., 2016, 2017](#)). These workflows remain entirely within TypeScript and avoid the need to switch languages for analysis or presentation.

Tidy-TS is designed for use in browsers, servers, and notebooks. It targets teams working fully in TypeScript who face fragmented toolchains and inconsistent data handling. Features such as asynchronous row-wise operations, concurrency controls, columnar storage, and WebAssembly acceleration support mid-scale interactive analytics in both research and production environments. The addition of a type system extends this paradigm to include substantive compile-time guarantees through static types, which existing literature suggests can prevent 15–38% of production bugs ([Bunge, 2019](#); [Gao et al., 2017](#); [Khan et al., 2021](#)).

Statement of need

JavaScript and TypeScript are widely used for building interactive data applications, but they lack a type-aware and expressive toolkit for statistical computing. Existing libraries like Arquero and Danfo.js offer partial solutions for dataframe operations, but they do not provide a unified type-safe environment that combines data wrangling, statistical analysis, schema validation, asynchronous control, and visualization.

Without a shared grammar or consistent type model, developers are often left writing brittle glue code across loosely coupled tools. This leads to duplicated logic, reduced testability, and unnecessary language switching. Many teams using TypeScript for data ingestion and application logic still rely on Python or R for analysis and modeling. This workflow involves exporting and reimporting data with assumptions about column names, types, and missing values. Subtle errors such as incorrect joins, inconsistent handling of null and undefined values, or mismatched column references often go undetected until late stages. These issues create avoidable risk in data pipelines. Tidy-TS is designed to minimize this class of error.

This library implements and builds upon a tidyverse-style grammar of data manipulation using TypeScript's structural type system. Each operation in a pipeline maintains and refines the type signature of the data. For example, mutate not only adds a column but also updates the inferred structure, helping downstream transformations and visualizations remain type-safe. Operations

like select, drop, join, pivot, and summarize also all preserve static typing. Descriptive statistics follow conventions from R but enforce type correctness at compile time rather than through runtime checks. For example, functions that summarize over potentially null values require the developer to explicitly handle missing data before returning numeric output. This type-safe approach is illustrated in Example 1, which demonstrates how a complete data analysis workflow maintains type information through transformations, grouping, and aggregation.

Example 1: Type-Safe Data Transformation Pipeline

```
import { createDataFrame, stats as s } from "@tidy-ts/dataframe";

const sales = createDataFrame([
  { region: "North", product: "Widget", quantity: 10, price: 100 },
  { region: "North", product: "Gizmo", quantity: 20, price: 50 },
  { region: "South", product: "Widget", quantity: 20, price: 100 },
  { region: "East", product: "Widget", quantity: 8, price: 100 },
]);

const analysis = sales
  .mutate({
    revenue: (row) => row.quantity * row.price,
    moreQuantityThanAvg: (row, _i, df) => row.quantity > s.mean(df.quantity)
  })
  .groupBy("region")
  .summarize({
    total_revenue: (group) => s.sum(group.revenue),
    avg_quantity: (group) => s.mean(group.quantity)
  })
  .arrange("total_revenue", "desc");
```

Tidy-TS also includes support for statistical hypothesis testing (Example 2). These functions are validated against R using randomized test suites to ensure parity in results. Output from statistical tests is returned in typed objects that contain test names, effect sizes, p-values, confidence intervals, and relevant statistics in a structured format. Providing these features natively is a priority for this work, particularly as research experiences a convergence between data collection and data analysis enabled by technologies like TypeScript and interactive applications. Example 2 demonstrates how Tidy-TS exposes statistical tests directly and via an API that guides users to the correct test based on their intention, invoking the tidyverse philosophy of human-centered design. Both methods return the same structured, typed results.

Example 2: Statistical Hypothesis Testing with Type Safety

```
import { stats as s } from "@tidy-ts/dataframe";

// Create test "height" data for 6 individuals
const heights = [170, 165, 180, 175, 172, 168];

// Direct test API
// Access specific statistical tests
const directTest = s.test.t.oneSample({
  data: heights,
  mu: 170,
  alternative: "two-sided",
  alpha: 0.05
});

// Compare API
```

```
// Intent-driven hypothesis testing api
const compareAPI = s.compare.oneGroup.centralTendency.toValue({
  data: heights,
  comparator: "not equal to" // or "less than" | "greater than"
  hypothesizedValue: 170,
  parametric: "parametric", // or "nonparametric" | "auto"
  alpha: 0.05
});

// Both return the same typed result:
// {
//   test_name: "One-sample t-test",
//   p_value: 0.47...,
//   effect_size: { value: 0.31..., name: "Cohen's D" },
//   test_statistic: { value: 0.76..., name: "T-Statistic" },
//   confidence_interval: { lower: 166.08..., upper: 177.24...,
//     confidence_level: 0.95 },
//   degrees_of_freedom: 5,
//   alpha: 0.05,
//   alternative: "Two-Sided"
// }
```

58 Many modern analytics workflows also rely on remote API calls or external services for validation
59 and analysis. Tidy-TS supports asynchronous transformations natively, permitting row-wise
60 async operations within mutate, filter, and summarize operations. It also includes both
61 dataframe-level and operation-level controls for concurrency and retries. This eases the task
62 of building analytics pipelines dependent on external services or subject to API rate limits.
63 Applications that call remote artificial intelligence (AI) models or services are a key use case.

64 Modern workflows also ingest data from various sources. Tidy-TS provides tools to import
65 CSV, Parquet, Arrow, and JSON in a type-safe manner with the help of Zod schema. Likewise,
66 databases queries made with raw SQL can be made type-safe with schema validation. For
67 data queried via popular type-safe Object-Relational Mappers, Tidy-TS can create dataframes
68 using their provided types directly.

69 Tidy-TS ultimately builds on lessons from tools like pandas, dplyr, and Polars and adapts them
70 for modern Typescript development needs.

71 Research applications

72 Tidy-TS supports many common data analysis workflows in research environments. At the
73 University of Utah's Department of Biomedical Informatics, the library is used for healthcare
74 data analysis where the added type safety aids in integrating between multiple data sources.
75 These projects include both ad hoc quality improvement analysis and real-time evaluation of
76 clinical data streams intended for integration into the electronic health record.

77 The ability to perform asynchronous transformations also helps researchers to incorporate
78 external data sources in an idiomatic pipeline. One can fetch data from a repository, process
79 and clean it, invoke async AI tools, perform statistical testing, and visualize the results (see
80 Figure 1) all within a single type-safe TypeScript workflow without switching to Python or R
81 for analysis.

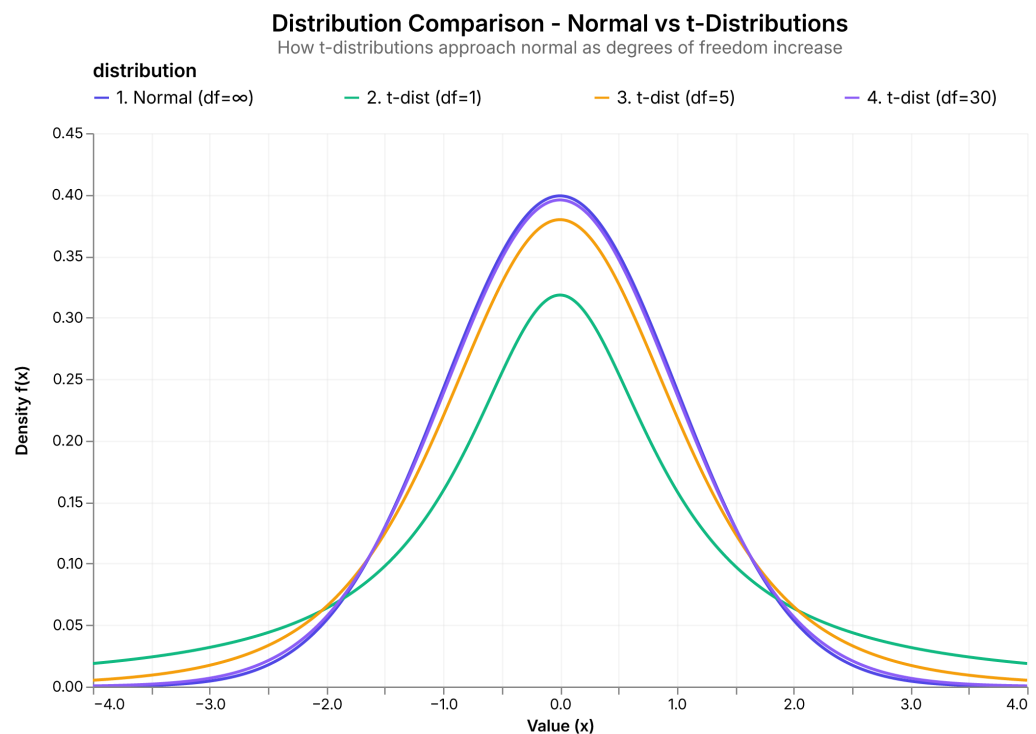


Figure 1: Publication-quality statistical visualization generated with Tidy-TS, showing normal and t-distributions with varying degrees of freedom.

Tidy-TS runs in multiple environments including Node.js, Deno, Bun, and modern browsers. It can also be used interactively in Jupyter notebooks through the Deno kernel, enabling data analyses and exploration alongside graph outputs with minimal configuration. This extends the reach of the type-safe analytics and reproducibility to an interactive workflow commonly used in data science and research.

Acknowledgements

No external funding was received in support of this work. The author is grateful to Dr. Kensaku Kawamoto for his mentorship and support, without which this work would not be possible.

Tidy-TS is also only possible due to numerous open source projects. Beyond the pioneering work by the tidyverse teams, the author would like to specifically acknowledge and give thanks for the excellent work by the University of Washington Interactive Data Lab for their inspirational work with Vega-Lite, Vega, and the arquero javascript library.

Bunge, B. (2019). *Adopting TypeScript at scale*. JSConf Hawaii 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-J9Eg7hJwE&feature=youtu.be&t=702>

Gao, Z., Bird, C., & Barr, E. T. (2017). To type or not to type: Quantifying detectable bugs in JavaScript. *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Software Engineering*, 758–769.

Khan, S., Uddin, G., & Niazi, M. (2021). A systematic literature review on the empirical evidence for the effectiveness of type systems. *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, 47(12), 2670–2691. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TSE.2019.2961751>

Satyanarayan, A., Moritz, D., Wongsuphasawat, K., & Heer, J. (2017). Vega-lite: A grammar of interactive graphics. *IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics*, 23(1),

- 104 341–350. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2016.2599030>
- 105 Satyanarayan, A., Russell, R., Hoffswell, J., & Heer, J. (2016). Reactive vega: A streaming
106 dataflow architecture for declarative interactive visualization. *IEEE Transactions on Visual-*
107 *ization and Computer Graphics*, 22(1), 659–668. [https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2015.](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2015.2467091)
108 [2467091](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2015.2467091)
- 109 Wickham, H., Averick, M., Bryan, J., Chang, W., McGowan, L. D., François, R., Grolemond,
110 G., Hayes, A., Henry, L., Hester, J., Kuhn, M., Lin Pedersen, T., Miller, E., Milton
111 Bache, S., Müller, K., Ooms, J., Robinson, D., Seidel, D. P., Spinu, V., ... Yutani, H.
112 (2019). Welcome to the tidyverse. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 4(43), 1686.
113 <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01686>

DRAFT