

Math 122  
Introduction to Statistics  
MATCHED PAIRS

PAIRED DATA

Data frequently comes naturally matched in pairs that can be compared to each other. Some examples are:

- High school GPA, College GPA
- Height of husband, Height of wife
- Test score before treatment, Test score after treatment
- Off season max, In season max

We can consider claims about match pairs such as, “The first number is (on average) greater than the second,” or, “The two numbers are (on average) equal.” To consider these claims, we consider differences. Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be random variables whose values are naturally paired. Claims such as these can be considered claims about the random variable  $(x_1 - x_2)$ . To test claims about matched pairs, we subtract the pairs and then perform a  $t$  test on the differences.

**Difference Between Matched Pairs and Independent Means:** For tests about independent means, we considered differences between sample averages  $\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2$ . For matched pairs, we consider means of differences of the random variables  $- \overline{x_1 - x_2}$ .

**Statement of Claims:** Even though our claims will be about averages of differences  $x_1 - x_2$ , we will state our claims in terms of the mean  $\mu_1$  of  $x_1$  and the mean  $\mu_2$  of  $x_2$  rather than in terms of the mean difference. We will consider claims of these forms:

$$\mu_1 = \mu_2 \text{ or } \mu_1 \leq \mu_2 \text{ or } \mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \text{ or } \mu_1 \neq \mu_2 \text{ or } \mu_1 < \mu_2 \text{ or } \mu_1 > \mu_2.$$

As with the Two Mean T-Test, the Null Hypothesis  $H_0$  and the Alternative Hypothesis  $H_1$  will always be one of these

$H_0$	$H_1$
$\mu_1 \leq \mu_2$	$\mu_1 > \mu_2$
$\mu_1 = \mu_2$	$\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$
$\mu_1 \geq \mu_2$	$\mu_1 < \mu_2$

TESTING CLAIMS ABOUT MATCHED PAIRS OF DATA

*Example:* Participants in a study were asked their heights. After they reported their heights, the actual heights were measured with these results:

Reported	68	71	63	70	71
Measured	67.9	69.9	64.9	68.3	70.3

Treat this sample as a simple random sample and test the claim that there is no difference (on average) between reported and measured heights.

1. **Parameters:** Define these symbols:

- $n = 5$
- $x_1$  is the reported height of a random person.
- $\mu_1$  is the mean of  $x_1$  (average reported height).
- $x_2$  is the measured height of a random person.
- $\mu_2$  is the mean of  $x_2$  (average measured height).

2. **Symbolic Claim:** The claim is  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ .

3. **Opposite:** The opposite of the claim is  $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ .

4.  $H_0$  and  $H_1$ :  $H_0$  is  $\mu_1 = \mu_2$  and  $H_1$  is  $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ .

5. **Significance Level:** We will default to a significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ .

6. **Distribution and Test Statistic:** Our test statistic is a  $t$ -score associated to the differences (reported-measured). Technology gives us a  $t$ -score of 0.5504.

7.  **$P$ -value:** Technology gives  $P = 0.6113$

8. **Formal Conclusion:** Since  $P > \alpha$ , we fail to reject  $H_0$ .

9. **Final Conclusion:** Since our claim is the same as  $H_0$ , we fail to reject our claim our claim. Our conclusion is:

There is not enough sample evidence to reject the claim that reported heights are on average the same as measured heights.

**Interpretation:** People seem to report their actual heights.