

A Study on Penguins: A Minimal Reproducible Example

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Author roles were classified using the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT; <https://credit.niso.org/>) as follows: Josephine Zerna: conceptualization, writing; Christoph Scheffel: project administration, methodology

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Abstract

This document is a minimal, reproducible manuscript using the penguins data set as an example.

Keywords: penguins, reproducibility, minimal, example

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Introduction

Penguins are fascinating creatures that inhabit various regions of the Southern Hemisphere, including Antarctica and surrounding islands. The study of penguins provides valuable insights into ecosystem dynamics, climate change impacts, and evolutionary biology (Jones, 2018; Smith, 2020).

This manuscript presents a minimal reproducible example utilizing the penguins dataset to demonstrate scientific workflows in R.

Methods

We conducted a two-sample t-test to compare the average bill lengths between male and female penguins. The null hypothesis (H_0) states that there is no difference in bill lengths between male and female penguins, while the alternative hypothesis (H_1) suggests a significant difference.

The t-test was performed using the `t.test()` function in R, with a significance level of 0.05.

Results

Descriptive statistics of the data set are displayed in Table 1.

The t-test revealed a significant difference in bill lengths between male and female penguins ($t(329.29) = -6.67, p < 0001$). Female penguins ($M = 42.1$ mm, $SD = 4.9$ mm) exhibited shorter bill lengths compared to male penguins ($M = 45.85$ mm, $SD = 5.37$ mm).

Discussion

The significant difference in bill lengths between male and female penguins suggests potential sexual dimorphism in this trait. This finding aligns with previous research indicating differential foraging strategies and resource partitioning between male and female penguins (Brown, 2015; Wilson, 2019).

Understanding the factors influencing bill morphology in penguins is crucial for conservation efforts and ecosystem management, particularly in the face of ongoing environmental challenges.

References

- Brown, E. F. (2015). Sexual dimorphism in bill lengths of penguins. *Journal of Ornithology*, 20, 67–79.
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- Smith, A. B. (2020). Penguin behavior: A comprehensive review. *Journal of Penguin Studies*, 15, 123–135.
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Table 1*Summary Statistics*

		Adelie (N=146)		Chinstrap (N=68)		Gentoo (N=119)	
		Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
bill_length_mm		38.8	2.7	48.8	3.3	47.6	3.1
bill_depth_mm		18.3	1.2	18.4	1.1	15.0	1.0
flipper_length_mm		190.1	6.5	195.8	7.1	217.2	6.6
body_mass_g		3706.2	458.6	3733.1	384.3	5092.4	501.5
year		2008.1	0.8	2008.0	0.9	2008.1	0.8
		N	Pct.	N	Pct.	N	Pct.
island	Biscoe	44	30.1	0	0.0	119	100.0
	Dream	55	37.7	68	100.0	0	0.0
	Torgersen	47	32.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
sex	female	73	50.0	34	50.0	58	48.7
	male	73	50.0	34	50.0	61	51.3

Figure 1

Scatter Plot of Bill Lengths by Sex With Violin Plot Showing Quartiles

