Bentley University GB213 in R

Content extracted from the How to Data Website

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Contents

GB213 is an undergraduate Business Statistics course at Bentley University. The description from the course catalog can be found here. Topics included in the course are listed as tasks (on website) below.

Mathematical topics include random variables, discrete and continuous probability distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, single-variable linear models, and optionally ANOVA and/or χ^2 tests, time permitting.

Basics

- How to do basic mathematical computations
- How to quickly load some sample data
- How to compute summary statistics

Random variables and probability distributions

- How to generate random values from a distribution
- How to compute probabilities from a distribution
- How to plot continuous probability distributions
- How to plot discrete probability distributions

Confidence intervals and hypothesis testing

- How to find critical values and p-values from the t-distribution
- How to find critical values and p-values from the normal distribution
- How to compute a confidence interval for a population mean
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for a sample mean
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for two sample means

Linear modeling, time permitting

- How to fit a linear model to two columns of data
- How to compute R-squared for a simple linear model

Content last modified on 07 December 2021.

How to do basic mathematical computations

Description

How do we write the most common mathematical operations in a given piece of software? For example, how do we write multiplication, or exponentiation, or logarithms, in Python vs. R vs. Excel, and so on?

Solution in R

For those expressions that need the Python math package, use the code import math beforehand to ensure that package is loaded. Alternatively, you can write from math import * and thus drop the math prefixes in the table below.

Mathematical notation	R code
$\overline{x+y}$	х+у
x - y	x-y
xy	x*y
$\frac{x}{y}$	x/y
x^y	x^y
x	abs(x)
$\ln x$	log(x)
$\log_a b$	log(b,a)
$e^{x^{-u}}$	exp(x)
π	рi
$\sin x$	sin(x)
$\sin^{-1} x$	asin(x)
\sqrt{x}	sqrt(x)

Other trigonometric functions are also available besides just sin, including cos, tan, etc.

R naturally applies these functions across vectors. For example, you can square all the entries in a vector as in the example below.

```
example.vector <- c( -3, 2, 0.5, -1, 10, 9.2, -3.3 )
example.vector ^ 2
```

```
[1] 9.00 4.00 0.25 1.00 100.00 84.64 10.89
```

Content last modified on 23 November 2021.

How to quickly load some sample data

Description

Sometimes you just need to try out a new piece of code, whether it be data manipulation, statistical computation, plotting, or whatever. And it's handy to be able to quickly load some example data to work with. There is a lot of freely available sample data out there. What's the easiest way to load it?

Solution in R

R comes with many datasets in its datasets package. Ensure that you have it installed as follows.

```
library(datasets)
```

Then you can load any one of them with the data function, as follows.

```
data(iris) # Load the famous Fisher's irises dataset.
head(iris) # It has been placed in a variable of the same name.
```

	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
1	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2	setosa
2	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2	setosa
3	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2	setosa
4	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2	setosa
5	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2	setosa
6	5.4	3.9	1.7	0.4	setosa

To page through a list of all available datasets, just call data() with no arguments.

Content last modified on 26 July 2021.

How to compute summary statistics

Description

The phrase "summary statistics" usually refers to a common set of simple computations that can be done about any dataset, including mean, median, variance, and some of the others shown below.

Related tasks:

- How to summarize a column (on website)
- How to summarize and compare data by groups (on website)

Solution in R

We first load a famous dataset, Fisher's irises, just to have some example data to use in the code that follows. (See how to quickly load some sample data.)

```
library(datasets)
data(iris)
```

How big is the dataset? The output shows number of rows then number of columns.

```
dim(iris) # Short for "dimensions."
```

```
[1] 150 5
```

What are the columns and their data types? Can I see a sample of each column?

```
str(iris) # Short for "structure."
```

```
'data.frame': 150 obs. of 5 variables:

$ Sepal.Length: num 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...

$ Sepal.Width : num 3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...

$ Petal.Length: num 1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...

$ Petal.Width : num 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...

$ Species : Factor w/ 3 levels "setosa", "versicolor", ..: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
```

What do the first few rows look like?

```
head(iris) # Gives 5 rows by default. You can do head(iris,10), etc.
```

```
Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
1 5.1
               3.5
                            1.4
                                          0.2
                                                      setosa
2 4.9
               3.0
                            1.4
                                          0.2
                                                       setosa
3 4.7
               3.2
                            1.3
                                          0.2
                                                      setosa
4 4.6
               3.1
                            1.5
                                          0.2
                                                      setosa
5 5.0
               3.6
                            1.4
                                          0.2
                                                       setosa
6 5.4
               3.9
                            1.7
                                          0.4
                                                       setosa
```

The easiest way to get summary statistics for an R data.frame is with the summary function.

```
summary(iris)
```

```
Sepal.Length
                Sepal.Width
                               Petal.Length
                                              Petal.Width
Min. :4.300
               Min.
                     :2.000
                              Min.
                                     :1.000
                                             Min.
                                                    :0.100
1st Qu.:5.100
               1st Qu.:2.800
                              1st Qu.:1.600
                                             1st Qu.:0.300
Median :5.800
               Median :3.000
                              Median :4.350
                                           Median :1.300
Mean
     :5.843
               Mean :3.057
                              Mean :3.758
                                             Mean :1.199
3rd Qu.:6.400
               3rd Qu.:3.300
                              3rd Qu.:5.100
                                             3rd Qu.:1.800
Max.
     :7.900
              Max. :4.400
                              Max.
                                     :6.900
                                             Max. :2.500
     Species
         :50
setosa
versicolor:50
virginica:50
```

The columns from the original dataset are the column headings in the summary output, and the statistics computed for each are listed below those headings.

We can also compute these statistics (and others) one at a time for any given set of data points. Here, we let xs be one column from the above data.frame but you could use any vector or list.

Content last modified on 26 July 2021.

How to generate random values from a distribution

Description

There are many famous continuous probability distributions, such as the normal and exponential distributions. How can we get access to them in software, to generate random values from a chosen distribution?

Related tasks:

- How to compute probabilities from a distribution
- How to plot continuous probability distributions
- How to plot discrete probability distributions

Solution in R

Because R is designed for use in statistics, it comes with many probability distributions built in. A list of them is online here.

Regardless of whether the distribution is discrete or continuous, prefix the name of the distribution with r, which stands for "random values." Here are two examples.

Using a normal distribution:

```
# 20 random values from the normal distribution with \mu{=}10 and \sigma{=}5 rnorm( 20, mean=10, sd=5 )
```

```
[1] 10.900996 11.976357 10.050084 12.659541 9.213338 10.347917 7.532614
[8] 11.563255 15.942300 13.378527 8.029759 5.707103 16.132197 -1.686346
[15] 5.930778 5.099380 8.945254 13.480151 18.683996 1.714144
```

Using a uniform distribution:

```
# 20 random values from the uniform distribution on the interval [50,60]
runif( 20, min=50, max=60 )
```

```
[1] 57.95825 50.30892 59.89443 58.67946 59.24075 58.61541 52.79747 51.46903 [9] 54.59619 52.78599 54.41834 55.62009 51.94706 54.79693 55.33611 59.67543 [17] 56.80342 50.73818 59.68497 58.63296
```

Content last modified on 27 May 2021.

How to compute probabilities from a distribution

Description

There are many famous continuous probability distributions, such as the normal and exponential distributions. How can we get access to them in software, to compute the probability of a value/values occurring?

Related tasks:

- How to generate random values from a distribution
- How to plot continuous probability distributions
- How to plot discrete probability distributions

Solution in R

Because R is designed for use in statistics, it comes with many probability distributions built in. A list of them is online here.

To compute a probability from a **discrete** distribution, prefix the name of the distribution with **d** (for "density") and call it as a function on the value whose probability you want to know, plus any parameters the distribution needs.

```
# For a binomial random variable with 10 trials
# and probability 0.5 of success on each trial,
# what is the probability of exactly 3 successes?
dbinom( 3, size=10, prob=0.5 )
```

```
[1] 0.1171875
```

If you change the prefix to p, then R will compute the probability $up\ to$ the parameter you specify, as in the following example.

```
# For a binomial random variable with 10 trials
# and probability 0.5 of success on each trial,
# what is the probability of up to (and including) 3 successes?
pbinom( 3, size=10, prob=0.5 )
```

```
[1] 0.171875
```

To compute a probability from a **continuous** distribution, prefix the name with d, just as in the example above. But you can compute only the probability that a random value will fall in an interval [a, b], not the probability that it will equal a specific value.

```
# For a normal random variable with mean \mu=10 and standard deviation \sigma=5, # what is the probability of the value lying in the interval [12,13]? pnorm( 13, mean=10, sd=5 ) - pnorm( 12, mean=10, sd=5 )
```

```
[1] 0.07032514
```

Consequently, we can also compute:

```
pnorm( 13, mean=10, sd=5 )  # the probability of a value < 13
1 - pnorm( 13, mean=10, sd=5 ) # the probability of a value > 13
```

```
[1] 0.7257469
[1] 0.2742531
```

Content last modified on 14 September 2021.

How to plot continuous probability distributions

Description

There are many famous continuous probability distributions, such as the normal and exponential distributions. How can we get access to them in software, to plot the distribution as a curve?

Related tasks:

- How to generate random values from a distribution
- How to compute probabilities from a distribution
- How to plot discrete probability distributions

Solution in R

Because R is designed for use in statistics, it comes with many probability distributions built in. A list of them is online here.

The challenge with plotting a random variable is knowing the appropriate sample space, because some random variables have sample spaces of infinite width, which cannot be plotted.

But we can just ask R to show us the central 99.98% of a continuous distribution, which is almost always indistinguishable to the human eye from the entire distribution.

We will use a normal distribution with $\mu = 10$ and $\sigma = 5$, but if you wanted to use a different distribution, you could replace qnorm and dnorm with, for example, qchisq and dchisq (for the χ^2 distribution), adjusting the named parameters as appropriate. (For a list of supported distributions, see the link above.)

We style the plot below so that it is clear the sample space is continuous.

```
xmin <- qnorm( 0.0001, mean=10, sd=5 ) # compute min x as the 0.0001 quantile
xmax <- qnorm( 0.9999, mean=10, sd=5 ) # compute max x as the 0.9999 quantile
xs <- seq( xmin, xmax, length.out=100 ) # create 100 values in that range
ys <- dnorm( xs, mean=10, sd=5 ) # compute the shape of the distribution
plot( xs, ys, type='l' ) # plot that shape as a smooth line</pre>
```

Content last modified on 28 May 2021.

How to plot discrete probability distributions

Description

There are many famous discrete probability distributions, such as the binomial and geometric distributions. How can we get access to them in software, to plot the distribution as a series of points?

Related tasks:

- How to generate random values from a distribution
- How to compute probabilities from a distribution
- How to plot continuous probability distributions

Solution in R

Because R is designed for use in statistics, it comes with many probability distributions built in. A list of them is online here.

The challenge with plotting a random variable is knowing the appropriate sample space, because some random variables have sample spaces of infinite width, which cannot be plotted.

The example below uses a geometric distribution (with p = 0.5), whose sample space is $\{0, 1, 2, 3, ...\}$. We specify that we just want to use x values in the set $\{0, 1, 2, ..., 10\}$. (In some software, the geometric distribution's sample space begins at 1, but not in R.)

If you wanted to use a different distribution, you could replace dgeom with, for example, dbinom, adjusting the named parameters as appropriate.

We style the plot below so that it is clear the sample space is discrete.

Content last modified on 28 May 2021.

How to find critical values and p-values from the t-distribution

Description

If we have a test statistic and need to find the corresponding p-value from the t-distribution, how do we do that? If we need to find a p-value from the t distribution, given that we know the significance level and degrees of freedom, how do we do that?

Related tasks:

• How to find critical values and p-values from the normal distribution

Solution in R

If we choose a value $0 \le \alpha \le 1$ as our Type 1 error rate, and we know the sample size of our data, then we can find the *critical value* from the *t*-distribution using R's qt() function. The code below shows how to do this for left-tailed, right-tailed, and two-tailed hypothesis tests.

```
[1] -1.667916
[1] 1.667916
[1] 1.996008
```

We can also compute p-values from the t-distribution to compare to a test statistic. As an example, we'll use a test statistic of 2.67, but you can substitute your test statistic's value instead.

We can find the p-value for this test statistic using R's pt() function. We will use the same example sample size as above. Again, we show code for left-tailed, right-tailed, and two-tailed tests.

```
[1] 0.9952455

[1] 0.004754548

[1] 0.009509096
```

Content last modified on 05 October 2021.

How to find critical values and p-values from the normal distribution

Description

Some statistical techniques require computing critical values or p-values from the normal distribution. For example, we need to do this when constructing a confidence interval or conducting a hypothesis test. How do we compute such values?

Related tasks:

• How to find critical values and p-values from the t-distribution

Solution in R

If we choose a value $0 \le \alpha \le 1$ as our Type 1 error rate, then we can find the critical value from the normal distribution using R's qnorm() function. The code below shows how to do this for left-tailed, right-tailed, and two-tailed hypothesis tests.

```
alpha <- 0.05  # Replace with your alpha value
qnorm(p = alpha, lower.tail = TRUE)  # Critical value for a left-tailed test
qnorm(p = alpha, lower.tail = FALSE)  # Critical value for a right-tailed test
qnorm(p = alpha/2, lower.tail = FALSE)  # Critical value for a two-tailed test</pre>
```

```
[1] -1.644854
[1] 1.644854
[1] 1.959964
```

We can also compute p-values from the normal distribution to compare to a test statistic. As an example, we'll use a test statistic of 2.67, but you can substitute your test statistic's value instead.

We can find the p-value for this test statistic using R's pnorm() function. Again, we show code for left-tailed, right-tailed, and two-tailed tests.

```
[1] 0.9962074

[1] 0.003792562

[1] 0.007585125
```

Content last modified on 05 October 2021.

How to compute a confidence interval for a population mean

Description

If we have a set of data that seems normally distributed, how can we compute a confidence interval for the mean? Assume we have some confidence level already chosen, such as $\alpha = 0.05$.

We will use the t-distribution because we have not assumed that we know the population standard deviation, and we have not assumed anything about our sample size. If you know the population standard deviation or have a large sample size (typically at least 30), then you can use z-scores instead; see how to compute a confidence interval for a population mean using z-scores (on website).

Related tasks:

- How to compute a confidence interval for a population mean using z-scores (on website)
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for a sample mean
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for two sample means
- How to compute a confidence interval for a mean difference (matched pairs) (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for a regression coefficient (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for a single population variance (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the difference between two means when both population variances are known (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the difference between two means when population variances are unknown (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the difference between two proportions (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the expected value of a response variable (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the population proportion (on website)
- How to compute a confidence interval for the ratio of two population variances (on website)

Solution in R

When applying this technique, you would have a series of data values for which you needed to compute a confidence interval for the mean. But in order to provide code that runs independently, we create some fake data below. When using this code, replace our fake data with your real data.

```
alpha <- 0.05  # replace with your chosen alpha (here, a 95% confidence level)
data <- c( 435,542,435,4,54,43,5,43,543,5,432,43,36,7,876,65,5 ) # fake

# If you need the two values stored in variables for later use, do:
answer <- t.test( data, conf.level=1-alpha )
lower_bound <- answer$conf.int[1]
upper_bound <- answer$conf.int[2]

# If you just need to see the results in a report, do this alone:
t.test( data, conf.level=1-alpha )</pre>
```

```
One Sample t-test

data: data
t = 3.1853, df = 16, p-value = 0.005753
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
70.29848 350.05446
sample estimates:
mean of x
210.1765
```

Note: The solution above assumes that the population is normally distributed, which is a common assumption in introductory statistics courses, but we have not verified that assumption here.

Content last modified on 30 November 2021.

How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for a sample mean

Description

Say we have a population whose mean μ is known. We take a sample x_1, \dots, x_n and compute its mean, \bar{x} . We then ask whether this sample is significantly different from the population at large, that is, is $\mu = \bar{x}$?

Related tasks:

- How to compute a confidence interval for a population mean
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for two sample means
- How to do a one-sided hypothesis test for two sample means (on website)
- How to do a hypothesis test for a mean difference (matched pairs) (on website)
- How to do a hypothesis test for a population proportion (on website)

Solution in R

This is a two-sided test with the null hypothesis $H_0: \mu = \bar{x}$. We choose a value $0 \le \alpha \le 1$ as the probability of a Type I error (false positive, finding we should reject H_0 when it's actually true).

```
# Replace these first three lines with the values from your situation.
alpha <- 0.05
pop.mean <- 10
sample <- c( 9, 12, 14, 8, 13 )

# Run a one-sample t-test and print out alpha, the p value,
# and whether the comparison says to reject the null hypothesis.
t.test( sample, mu=pop.mean, conf.level=1-alpha )</pre>
```

```
One Sample t-test

data: sample
t = 1.0366, df = 4, p-value = 0.3585
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 10
95 percent confidence interval:
7.986032 14.413968
sample estimates:
mean of x
11.2
```

Although we can deduce the answer to our question from the above output, by comparing the p value with α manually, we can also ask R to do it.

```
# Is there enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis?
result <- t.test( sample, mu=pop.mean, conf.level=1-alpha )
result$p.value < alpha</pre>
```

```
[1] FALSE
```

In this case, the sample does not give us enough information to reject the null hypothesis. We would continue to assume that the sample is like the population, $\mu = \bar{x}$.

Content last modified on 05 October 2021.

How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for two sample means

Description

If we have two samples, $x_1, ..., x_n$ and $x'_1, ..., x'_m$, and we compute the mean of each one, we might want to ask whether the two means seem approximately equal. Or more precisely, is their difference statistically significant at a given level?

Related tasks:

- How to compute a confidence interval for a population mean
- How to do a two-sided hypothesis test for a sample mean
- How to do a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) (on website)
- How to do a one-sided hypothesis test for two sample means (on website)
- How to do a hypothesis test for a mean difference (matched pairs) (on website)
- How to do a hypothesis test for a population proportion (on website)

Solution in R

If we call the mean of the first sample \bar{x}_1 and the mean of the second sample \bar{x}_2 , then this is a two-sided test with the null hypothesis $H_0: \bar{x}_1 = \bar{x}_2$. We choose a value $0 \le \alpha \le 1$ as the probability of a Type I error (false positive, finding we should reject H_0 when it's actually true).

```
# Replace these first three lines with the values from your situation.
alpha <- 0.10
sample1 <- c( 6, 9, 7, 10, 10, 9 )
sample2 <- c( 12, 14, 10, 17, 9 )

# Run a one-sample t-test and print out alpha, the p value,
# and whether the comparison says to reject the null hypothesis.
t.test( sample1, sample2, conf.level=1-alpha )</pre>
```

```
Welch Two Sample t-test

data: sample1 and sample2
t = -2.4617, df = 5.7201, p-value = 0.05097
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
90 percent confidence interval:
    -7.0057683   -0.7942317
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
    8.5    12.4
```

Although we can deduce the answer to our question from the above output, by comparing the p value with α manually, we can also ask R to do it.

```
# Is there enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis?
result <- t.test( sample1, sample2, conf.level=1-alpha )
result$p.value < alpha</pre>
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

In this case, the samples give us enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis at the $\alpha=0.10$ level. The data suggest that $\bar{x}_1 \neq \bar{x}_2$.

Here we did not assume that the two samples had equal variance. If in your case they do, you can pass the parameter <code>var.equal=TRUE</code> to <code>t.test</code>.

Content last modified on $28~\mathrm{May}~2021.$

How to fit a linear model to two columns of data

Description

Let's say we have two columns of data, one for a single independent variable x and the other for a single dependent variable y. How can I find the best fit linear model that predicts y based on x?

In other words, what are the model coefficients β_0 and β_1 that give me the best linear model $\hat{y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x$ based on my data?

Related tasks:

- How to compute R-squared for a simple linear model
- How to fit a multivariate linear model (on website)
- How to predict the response variable in a linear model (on website)

Solution in R

This solution uses fake example data. When using this code, replace our fake data with your real data.

```
# Here is the fake data you should replace with your real data.
xs <- c( 393, 453, 553, 679, 729, 748, 817 )
ys <- c( 24, 25, 27, 36, 55, 68, 84 )

# If you need the model coefficients stored in variables for later use, do:
model <- lm( ys ~ xs )
beta0 = model$coefficients[1]
beta1 = model$coefficients[2]

# If you just need to see the coefficients, do this alone:
lm( ys ~ xs )</pre>
```

```
Call:
lm(formula = ys ~ xs)

Coefficients:
(Intercept) xs
-37.3214 0.1327
```

The linear model in this example is approximately y = 0.133x - 37.32.

Content last modified on 28 May 2021.

How to compute R-squared for a simple linear model

Description

Let's say we have fit a linear model to two columns of data, one for a single independent variable x and the other for a single dependent variable y. How can we compute R^2 for that model, to measure its goodness of fit?

Related tasks:

- How to fit a linear model to two columns of data
- How to compute adjusted R-squared (on website)

Solution in R

We assume you have already fit a linear model to the data, as in the code below, which is explained fully in a separate task, how to fit a linear model to two columns of data.

```
xs <- c( 393, 453, 553, 679, 729, 748, 817 )
ys <- c( 24, 25, 27, 36, 55, 68, 84 )
model <- lm( ys ~ xs )
```

You can get a lot of information about your model from its summary.

```
summary( model )
```

```
Call:
lm(formula = ys \sim xs)
Residuals:
                     3
                           4
                                    5
  9.163 2.199 -9.072 -16.795 -4.431
                                        6.047 12.890
Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) -37.32142 18.99544 -1.965 0.10664
             0.13272
                        0.02959
                                 4.485 0.00649 **
XS
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Residual standard error: 11.62 on 5 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.8009, Adjusted R-squared:
F-statistic: 20.12 on 1 and 5 DF, p-value: 0.006486
```

In particular, it contains the R^2 value.

```
summary( model )$r.squared
```

```
[1] 0.8009488
```

Content last modified on 01 June 2021.