DATA606_LAB7_RJM

RJM

2019-12-29

North Carolina births

In 2004, the state of North Carolina released a large data set containing information on births recorded in this state. This data set is useful to researchers studying the relation between habits and practices of expectant mothers and the birth of their children. We will work with a random sample of observations from this data set.

Exploratory analysis

Load the `nc` data set into our workspace.

```
download.file("http://www.openintro.org/stat/data/nc.RData", destfile = "nc.RData")
load("nc.RData")
```

We have observations on 13 different variables, some categorical and some numerical. The meaning of each variable is as follows.

variable	description
`fage`	father's age in years.
`mage`	mother's age in years.
`mature`	maturity status of mother.
`weeks`	length of pregnancy in weeks.
`premie`	whether the birth was classified as premature (premie) or full-term.
`visits`	number of hospital visits during pregnancy.
`marital`	whether mother is `married` or `not married` at birth.
`gained`	weight gained by mother during pregnancy in pounds.
`weight`	weight of the baby at birth in pounds.
`lowbirthweight`	whether baby was classified as low birthweight (`low`) or not (`not low`).
`gender`	gender of the baby, `female` or `male`.
`habit`	status of the mother as a `nonsmoker` or a `smoker`.
`whitemom`	whether mom is `white` or `not white`.

1. What are the cases in this data set? How many cases are there in our sample?

There are 1,000 birth records in NC to help researchers with studying the relation between habits and practices of expectant mothers and the birth of their children.

As a first step in the analysis, we should consider summaries of the data. This can be done using the `summary` command:

```
summary(nc)
```

```
##       fage            mage            mature        weeks             premie
##  Min.   :14.00   Min.   :13   mature mom :133   Min.   :20.00   full term:846
##  1st Qu.:25.00   1st Qu.:22   younger mom:867   1st Qu.:37.00   premie   :152
##  Median :30.00   Median :27                     Median :39.00   NA's     :  2
##  Mean   :30.26   Mean   :27                     Mean   :38.33
##  3rd Qu.:35.00   3rd Qu.:32                     3rd Qu.:40.00
##  Max.   :55.00   Max.   :50                     Max.   :45.00
##  NA's   :171                                    NA's   :2
##      visits            marital        gained          weight
##  Min.   : 0.0   married    :386   Min.   : 0.00   Min.   : 1.000
##  1st Qu.:10.0   not married:613   1st Qu.:20.00   1st Qu.: 6.380
##  Median :12.0   NA's       :  1   Median :30.00   Median : 7.310
##  Mean   :12.1                     Mean   :30.33   Mean   : 7.101
##  3rd Qu.:15.0                     3rd Qu.:38.00   3rd Qu.: 8.060
##  Max.   :30.0                     Max.   :85.00   Max.   :11.750
##  NA's   :9                        NA's   :27
##  lowbirthweight    gender          habit          whitemom
##  low    :111    female:503   nonsmoker:873   not white:284
##  not low:889    male  :497   smoker   :126   white    :714
##                              NA's     :  1   NA's     :  2
##
##
##
##
```

```
nrow(nc)
```

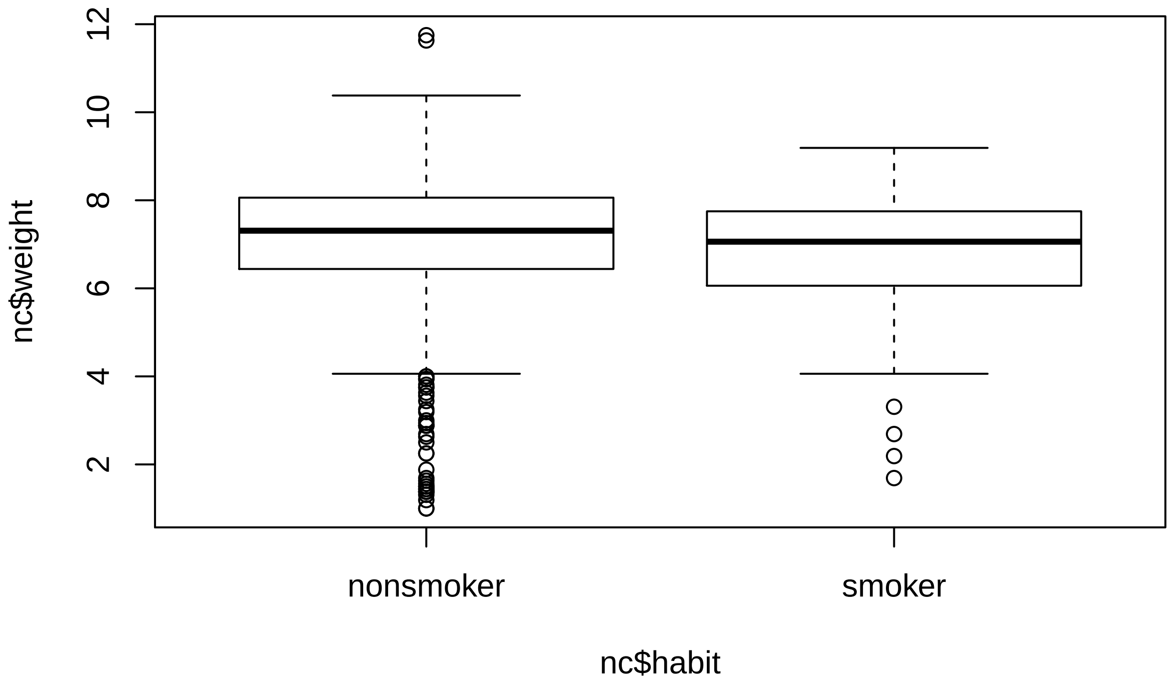
```
## [1] 1000
```

As you review the variable summaries, consider which variables are categorical and which are numerical. For numerical variables, are there outliers? If you aren't sure or want to take a closer look at the data, make a graph.

Consider the possible relationship between a mother's smoking habit and the weight of her baby. Plotting the data is a useful first step because it helps us quickly visualize trends, identify strong associations, and develop research questions.

2. Make a side-by-side boxplot of `habit` and `weight`. What does the plot highlight about the relationship between these two variables?

```
boxplot(nc$weight ~ nc$habit)
```



The above boxplots show that the babies born to nonsmokers have a wider range of weights, but the medians for both smoking and nonsmoking mothers are close with nonsmoking mothers having a slightly higher median.

The box plots show how the medians of the two distributions compare, but we can also compare the means of the distributions using the following function to split the `weight` variable into the `habit` groups, then take the mean of each using the `mean` function.

```
by(nc$weight, nc$habit, mean)
```

```
## nc$habit: nonsmoker
## [1] 7.144273
## ------------------------------------------------------------
## nc$habit: smoker
## [1] 6.82873
```

There is an observed difference, but is this difference statistically significant? In order to answer this question we will conduct a hypothesis test .

Inference

3. Check if the conditions necessary for inference are satisfied. Note that you will need to obtain sample sizes to check the conditions. You can compute the group size using the same `by` command above but replacing `mean` with `length`.

```
by(nc$weight, nc$habit, length)
```

```
## nc$habit: nonsmoker
## [1] 873
## ------------------------------------------------------------
## nc$habit: smoker
## [1] 126
```

We have a sample size of 1,000 which is far less than the 10% of the population, but is large enough to satisfy independence, randomness and normal distribution.

4. Write the hypotheses for testing if the average weights of babies born to smoking and non-smoking mothers are different.

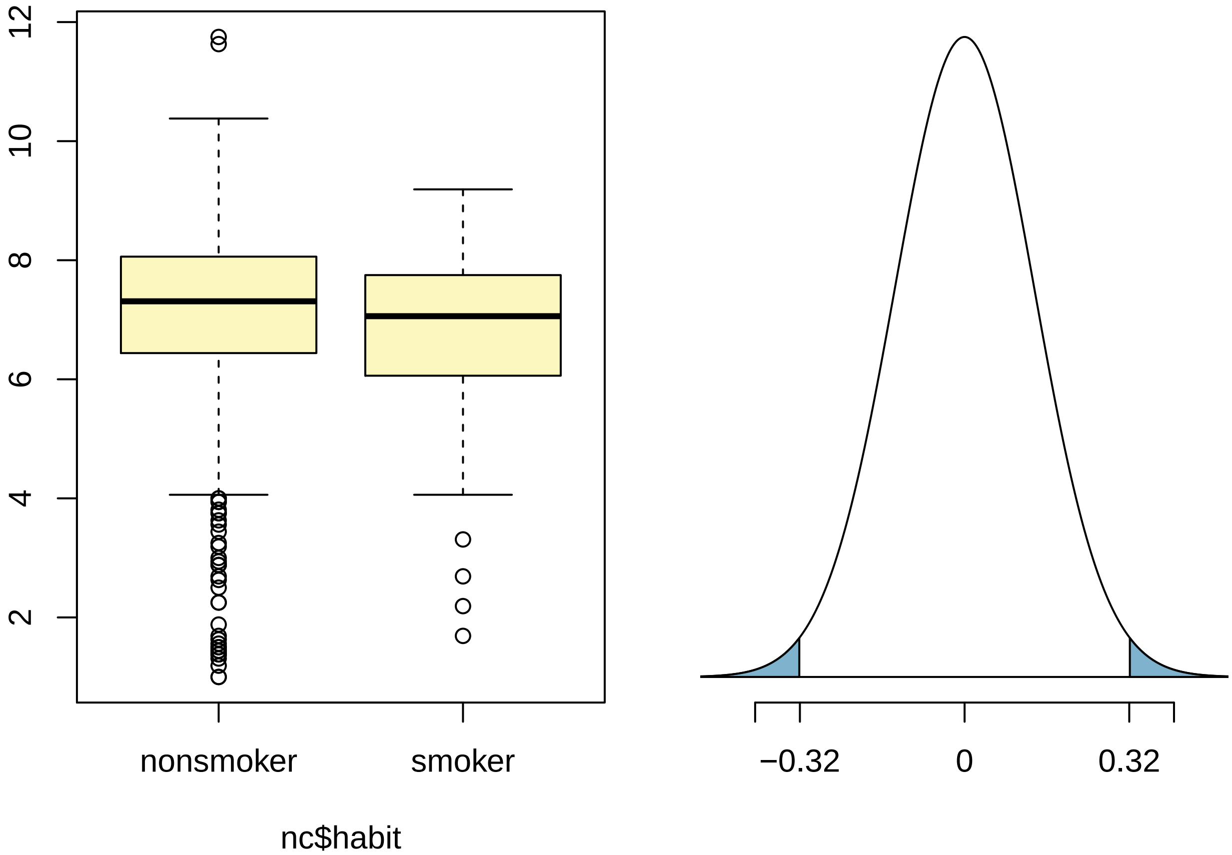
H_0: The average weights born to smoking and non-smoking mothers are not different. H_A: The average weightsborn to smoking and non-smoking mothers are different.

Next, we introduce a new function, `inference`, that we will use for conducting hypothesis tests and constructing confidence intervals.

```
inference(y = nc$weight, x = nc$habit, est = "mean", type = "ht", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical")
```

```
## Response variable: numerical, Explanatory variable: categorical
## Difference between two means
## Summary statistics:
## n_nonsmoker = 873, mean_nonsmoker = 7.1443, sd_nonsmoker = 1.5187
## n_smoker = 126, mean_smoker = 6.8287, sd_smoker = 1.3862

## Observed difference between means (nonsmoker-smoker) = 0.3155
##
## H0: mu_nonsmoker - mu_smoker = 0
## HA: mu_nonsmoker - mu_smoker != 0
## Standard error = 0.134
## Test statistic: Z =  2.359
## p-value =  0.0184
```



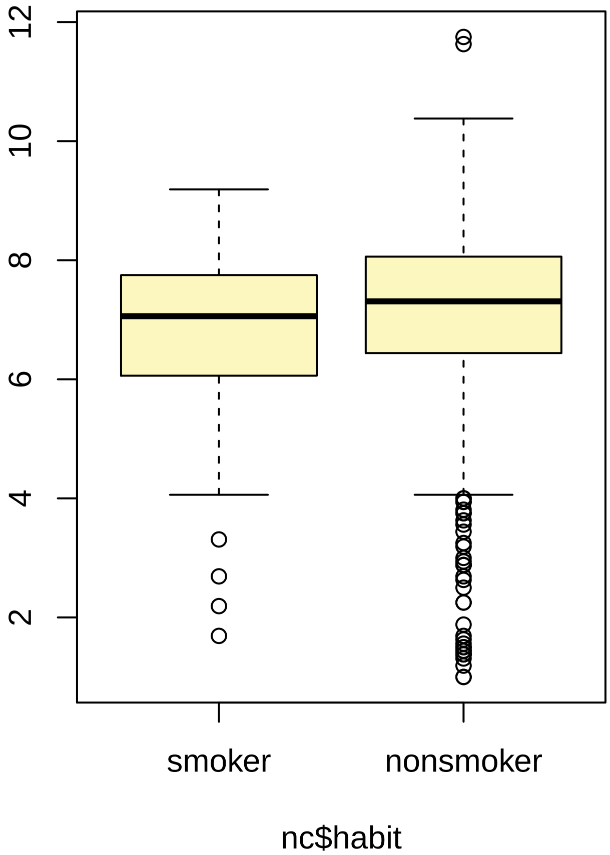
Let's pause for a moment to go through the arguments of this custom function. The first argument is `y`, which is the response variable that we are interested in: `nc$weight`. The second argument is the explanatory variable, `x`, which is the variable that splits the data into two groups, smokers and non-smokers: `nc$habit`. The third argument, `est`, is the parameter we're interested in: `"mean"` (other options are `"median"`, or `"proportion"`.) Next we decide on the `type` of inference we want: a hypothesis test (`"ht"`) or a confidence interval (`"ci"`). When performing a hypothesis test, we also need to supply the `null` value, which in this case is `0`, since the null hypothesis sets the two population means equal to each other. The `alternative` hypothesis can be `"less"`, `"greater"`, or `"twosided"`. Lastly, the `method` of inference can be `"theoretical"` or `"simulation"` based.

5. Change the `type` argument to `"ci"` to construct and record a confidence interval for the difference between the weights of babies born to smoking and non-smoking mothers.

By default the function reports an interval for $(\mu_{nonsmoker} - \mu_{smoker})$. We can easily change this order by using the `order` argument:

```
inference(y = nc$weight, x = nc$habit, est = "mean", type = "ci", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical",
          order = c("smoker","nonsmoker"))
```

```
## Response variable: numerical, Explanatory variable: categorical
## Difference between two means
## Summary statistics:
## n_smoker = 126, mean_smoker = 6.8287, sd_smoker = 1.3862
## n_nonsmoker = 873, mean_nonsmoker = 7.1443, sd_nonsmoker = 1.5187
```



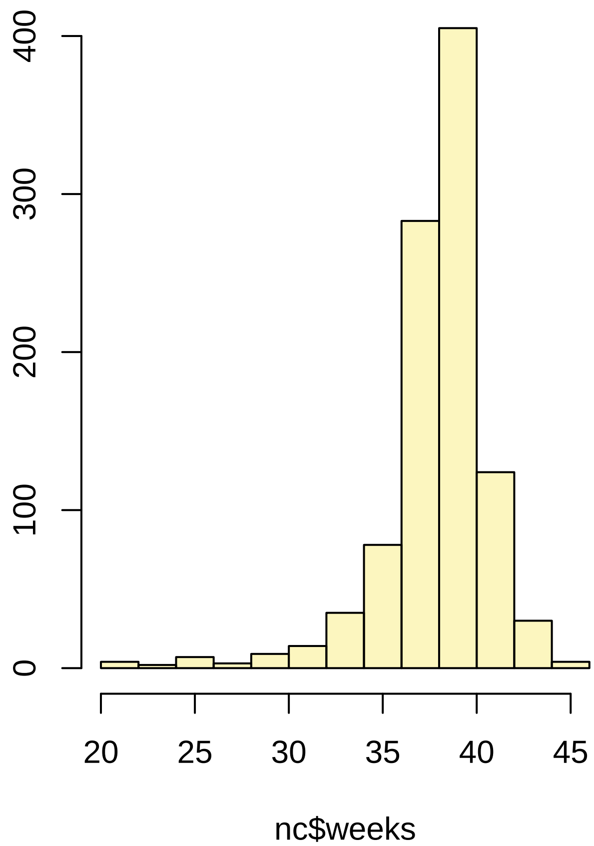

```
## Observed difference between means (smoker-nonsmoker) = -0.3155
##
## Standard error = 0.1338
## 95 % Confidence interval = ( -0.5777 , -0.0534 )
```

On your own

- Calculate a 95% confidence interval for the average length of pregnancies (`weeks`) and interpret it in context. Note that since you're doing inference on a single population parameter, there is no explanatory variable, so you can omit the `x` variable from the function.

```
inference(y = nc$weeks, est = "mean", type = "ci", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical", conflevel = .95)
```

```
## Single mean
## Summary statistics:
```



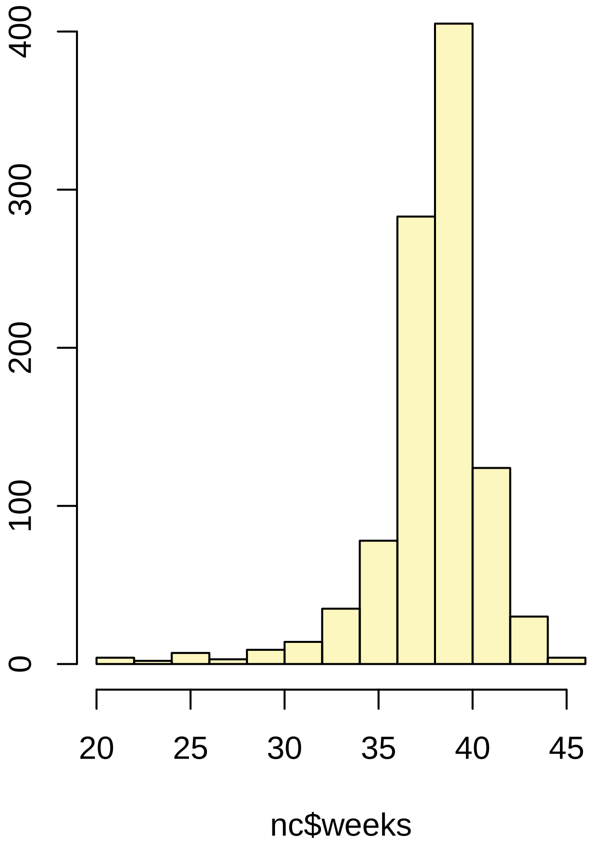

```
## mean = 38.3347 ;  sd = 2.9316 ;  n = 998
## Standard error = 0.0928
## 95 % Confidence interval = ( 38.1528 , 38.5165 )
```

The above results predict that 95% of pregnancies in NC will have a duration interval of 38.1528 - 38.5165 while an average pregnancy will be 38.3347 weeks long which is within the CI.

- Calculate a new confidence interval for the same parameter at the 90% confidence level. You can change the confidence level by adding a new argument to the function: `conflevel = 0.90`.

```
inference(y = nc$weeks, est = "mean", type = "ci", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical", conflevel = .90)
```

```
## Single mean
## Summary statistics:
```




```
## mean = 38.3347 ;  sd = 2.9316 ;  n = 998
## Standard error = 0.0928
## 90 % Confidence interval = ( 38.182 , 38.4873 )
```

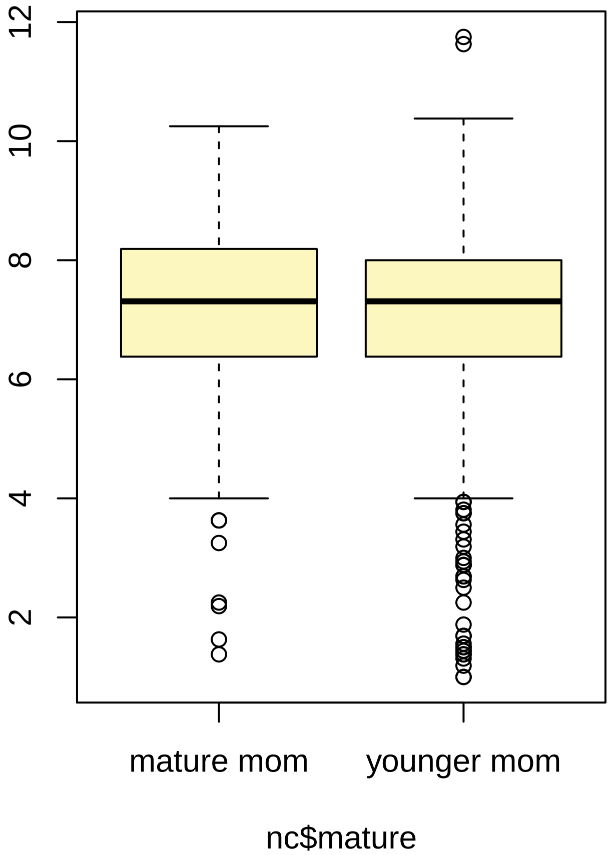
The above results predict that 95% of pregnancies in NC will have a duration interval of 38.182 - 38.4873 while an average pregnancy will be 38.3347 weeks long which is within the CI. The range is narrower and closer to the mean.

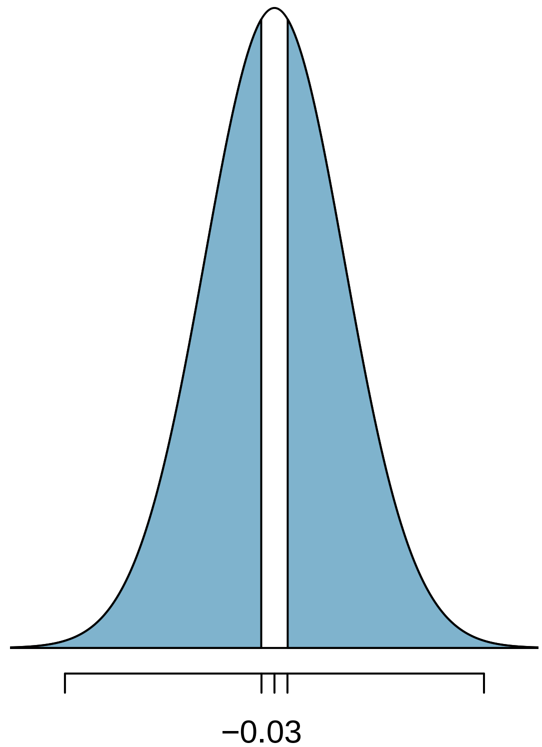
- Conduct a hypothesis test evaluating whether the average weight gained by younger mothers is different than the average weight gained by mature mothers.

```
inference(y = nc$weight, x = nc$mature, est = "mean", type = "ht", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical")
```

```
## Response variable: numerical, Explanatory variable: categorical
## Difference between two means
## Summary statistics:
## n_mature mom = 133, mean_mature mom = 7.1256, sd_mature mom = 1.6591
## n_younger mom = 867, mean_younger mom = 7.0972, sd_younger mom = 1.4855

## Observed difference between means (mature mom-younger mom) = 0.0283
##
## H0: mu_mature mom - mu_younger mom = 0
## HA: mu_mature mom - mu_younger mom != 0
## Standard error = 0.152
## Test statistic: Z =  0.186
## p-value =  0.8526
```





H_0: There is no difference between the avg weight gained by younger mothers and avg weight gained by mature mothers.

H_A: There is a difference between the avg weight gained by younger mothers and avg weight gained by mature mothers.

Since p-value is greater than 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothese and say that there is no significant evidence to indicate that the avg weight gained by younger mothers is different from avg weight gained by mature mothers.

- Now, a non-inference task: Determine the age cutoff for younger and mature mothers. Use a method of your choice, and explain how your method works.

```
by(nc$mage, nc$mature, length)
```

```
## nc$mature: mature mom
## [1] 133
## ------------------------------------------------------------
## nc$mature: younger mom
## [1] 867
```

```
# we can see that there are 133 mothers in mature category.

# we have to find an age that this fits the test of 133/1000.

summary(nc$mage)
```

```
##    Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
##      13      22      27      27      32      50
```

```
# the cutoff for 75% is age 32
# we have to get to 86.7% (100-13.3)

mature_age1 <- nc$mage >= 34
table(mature_age1)
```

```
## mature_age1
## FALSE  TRUE
##   822   178
```

```
mature_age2 <- nc$mage >= 35
table(mature_age2)
```

```
## mature_age2
## FALSE  TRUE
##   867   133
```

```
# So, 35 is the cutoff age for mature women.
```

- Pick a pair of numerical and categorical variables and come up with a research question evaluating the relationship between these variables. Formulate the question in a way that it can be answered using a hypothesis test and/or a confidence interval. Answer your question using the `inference` function, report the statistical results, and also provide an explanation in plain language.

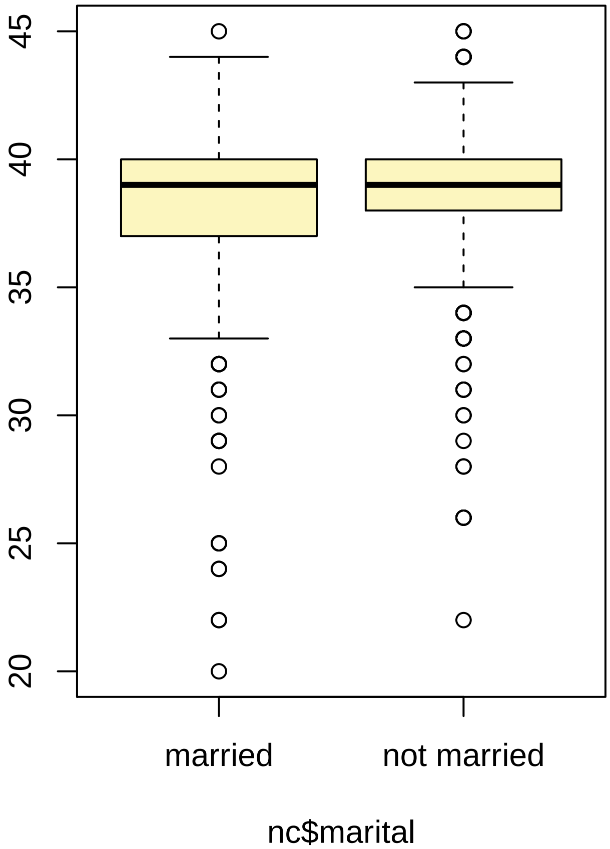
The research question is whether marital status has any role to play on the duration of pregrnancy.

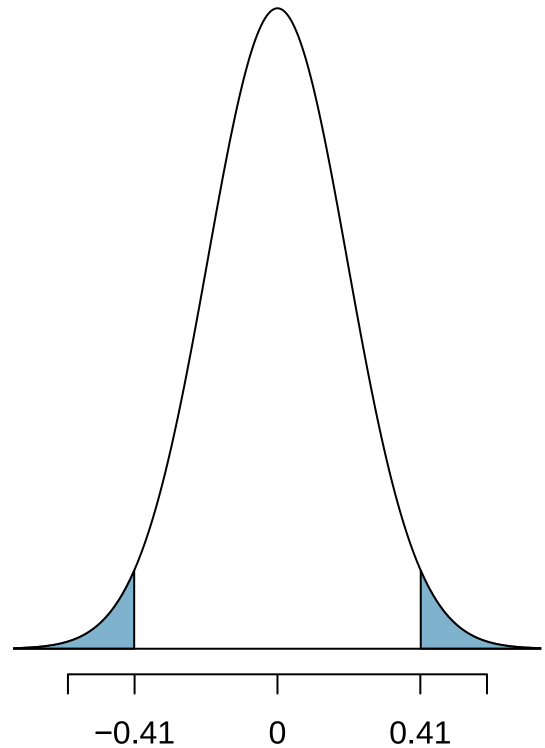
H_0: Marital status has no effect on the duration of pregnanc. H_A: Marital status has an effect on the duration of pregnanc.

```
inference(y = nc$weeks, x = nc$marital, est = "mean", type = "ht", null = 0,
          alternative = "twosided", method = "theoretical")
```

```
## Response variable: numerical, Explanatory variable: categorical
## Difference between two means
## Summary statistics:
## n_married = 386, mean_married = 38.0803, sd_married = 3.4243
## n_not married = 612, mean_not married = 38.4951, sd_not married = 2.5628

## Observed difference between means (married-not married) = -0.4148
##
## H0: mu_married - mu_not married = 0
## HA: mu_married - mu_not married != 0
## Standard error = 0.203
## Test statistic: Z =  -2.046
## p-value =  0.0408
```





Since the p-value is less than our significance level of 0.05, we will reject the null hypothesis and say that there is a significance evidence to believe that the marital status has an impact on the duration of pregnancy. The durations seem to be longer for the mothers who are not married compared to the ones that are married.