

# Lecture 9: Hypothesis testing part I

## Statistical Methods for Data Science

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# Today

## 1 Terminology

- Experiment and parameter of interest
- Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis
- Test statistic
- Null distribution  $f(s \mid H_0)$
- Significance level  $\alpha$ , power and  $p$ -value

# Learning outcome

- Be able to explain the following terminology
  - Null hypothesis  $H_0$  and alternative hypothesis  $H_A$
  - Test statistic  $s$
  - Null distribution  $f(s | H_0)$
  - Significance level  $\alpha$  and power
  - $p$ -value
- Be able to design and interpret the one-sample z-test
- Be able to explain the concept of  $p$ -hacking

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- What if company A tested drug D on 100 ducks and the average weight loss after one month is 2.3 kg?
- Now company B tested drug E on 30 ducks and the average weight loss after one month is 2.5 kg, while drug D results in 2.3 kg weight loss with the same setup, would you buy drug E instead of drug D?

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What would you do?

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- **Hypothesis testing in statistics:** we want to decide if it is likely that a random variable follows the proposed distribution
  - The test is based on sample statistics, which are computed from data
  - Hypothesis + data  $\rightarrow$  decision on rejecting or not rejecting the hypothesis

# Hypothesis testing: a list to go through

- A default statement
- Experiment
- Data  $x$ , random variable  $X$
- Parameter of interest  $\theta$
- Parameter estimate  $\hat{\theta}$
- Null hypothesis  $H_0$
- Alternative hypothesis  $H_A$
- Test statistic  $s$
- Null distribution  $f(s \mid H_0)$
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## Experiment and parameter of interest

# Experiment design

- Before formulating the statistical hypothesis, we need to propose a **default statement**: a “boring” and unsurprising claim that we would like to **test**, e.g.,
  - Drug D is **not more effective** than regular diet on average
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Then we test if  $\bar{x}$  is greater than diet control (2.1 kg)

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Then we test if  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are the same

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- We make our decision by observing data; if the evidence does not support the default statement, we **reject the statement**; otherwise, we **do not reject the statement**

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- Intuition: “If the statement is true, then the evidence should support the statement”, which is the same as (  $\Longleftrightarrow$  ) “if the evidence does not support the statement, the statement is considered false” , which is not the same as (  $\nRightarrow$  ) “if the evidence supports the statement, the statement must be true”



## Null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis

# Hypotheses $H_0$ and $H_A$

- **Statistical hypothesis**: a proposed **distribution**

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- **Statistical hypothesis**: a proposed **distribution** - a statement about the **parameter of interest**
- **Null hypothesis  $H_0$** : the default statement translated into a mathematical expression
  - Example 1: drug D is not more effective than regular diet on average

$$H_0 : \mu_D = 2.1$$

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- Question 2: Can  $H_0$  and  $H_A$  be ANYTHING I want? Like a magic mirror!?

Answer: No

Question 2.2: What are the choices for  $H_0$  and  $H_A$  then?



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- We have seen one-sample test and two-sample test in the Q-Q plot lecture
- In practice, you can narrow down your choice of hypotheses by looking at Q-Q plots

# Choices for $H_A$

## Given

$$H_0 : \theta = \beta$$

where  $\beta$  can be either a constant (one-sample test) or a parameter from another data distribution (two-sample test)

- **Alternative hypothesis  $H_A$ :**  $H_A$  can be **one-tailed** or **two-tailed**
  - **One-tailed:**

$$H_A : \theta > \beta$$

or

$$H_A : \theta < \beta$$

- **Two-tailed:**

$$H_A : \theta \neq \beta \iff \theta < \beta \text{ or } \theta > \beta$$



## Summary: choices for $H_0$ and $H_A$

Putting everything together,

	One-sample test	Two-sample test
Two-tailed	$H_0 : \theta = c, H_A : \theta \neq c$	$H_0 : \theta_1 = \theta_2, H_A : \theta_1 \neq \theta_2$
One-tailed	$H_0 : \theta = c, H_A : \theta > c$	$H_0 : \theta_1 = \theta_2, H_A : \theta_1 > \theta_2$
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Note: this is the answer to question 1.1 (cf. page 14): if you choose the one-tailed test, then you are making the assumption

$H_A : \mu_D > 2.1$ ; if you choose the two-tailed test, then you are not making this assumption

## Test statistic

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- **Test statistic  $s$**  (random variable  $S$ ): a (typically standardized) statistic computed from data
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Disclaimer: in this course, we only deal with null hypothesis where we are able to express the PDF/PMF  $f(s \mid H_0)$ , i.e.  $H_0$  with an equal sign in them

## Test statistic (cont.)

Example 1. one-sample test (is drug D more effective than diet control)

- **Data:**  $x_1, \dots, x_N$
- **Random variable:**  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  i.i.d. **Gaussian with known  $\sigma$**
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  - **Assuming the null hypothesis:** data are assumed to be generated from the distribution described by the null hypothesis

## Test statistic (cont.)

Example 1. one-sample test (is drug D more effective than diet control)

- **Data:**  $x_1, \dots, x_N$
- **Random variable:**  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  i.i.d. **Gaussian with known  $\sigma$**
- **Parameter of interest:**  $\mu_D$
- **Parameter estimate:**  $\bar{x}$
- **Null hypothesis:**  $H_0 : \mu_D = 2.1$
- **Test statistic:** **standardized  $\bar{x}$  assuming the null hypothesis**
  - Recall: what is **standardization**?
    - Random variable  $X$ :  $Y = \frac{X - \mu_X}{\sigma_X}$
    - Data  $x$ :  $y = \frac{x - \mu_X}{\sigma_X}$
  - What are we trying to do here? - To test if we can reject the null hypothesis by asking does data follow the **distribution described by the null hypothesis**?
  - Why are we standardizing the statistic  $\bar{x}$ ? We want to use standard tools for our analysis
  - What is the **distribution described by the null hypothesis**?
    - Gaussian distribution with standard deviation  $\sigma$  and mean  $\mu_D = 2.1$
  - **Assuming the null hypothesis:** data are assumed to be generated from the distribution described by the null hypothesis -  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(2.1, \sigma^2)$

## Test statistic (cont.)

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**Standardize  $\bar{x}$  (15 sec)**

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**Standardize  $\bar{x}$  (15 sec)**

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - 2.1}{\sigma / \sqrt{N}}$$

## Test statistic (cont.)

### Example 2. two-sample test

- **Data:**  $x_1, \dots, x_{N_D}$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_{N_E}$
- **Random variable:**  $X_1, \dots, X_{N_D}$  i.i.d. **Gaussian with known  $\sigma_D$** ;  $Y_1, \dots, Y_{N_E}$  i.i.d. **Gaussian with known  $\sigma_E$** ;  $X_i$  and  $Y_j$  independent
- **Parameter of interest:**  $\mu_D, \mu_E$
- **Parameter estimate:**  $\bar{x}, \bar{y}$
- **Null hypothesis:**  $H_0 : \mu_D = \mu_E \iff H_0 : \mu_D - \mu_E = 0$
- **Test statistic:** standardized  $\bar{x} - \bar{y}$  assuming the null hypothesis

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \bar{y}}{\sqrt{\sigma_D^2/N_D + \sigma_E^2/N_E}}$$

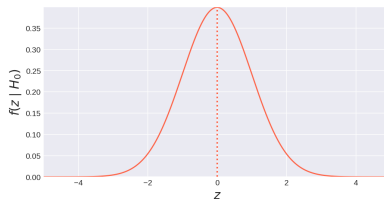
Null distribution  $f(s | H_0)$

# Null distribution

- **Null distribution  $f(s | H_0)$ :** the distribution of the test statistic given the null hypothesis
- **Example:**
  - **Data:**  $x_1, \dots, x_N$
  - **Random variable:**  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  i.i.d. Gaussian with known  $\sigma$
  - **Parameter of interest:**  $\mu$
  - **Parameter estimate:**  $\bar{x}$
  - **Null hypothesis:**  $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$
  - **Test statistic:**

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}$$

- **Null distribution:** standard Gaussian distribution



## Significance level $\alpha$ , power and $p$ -value