

Lecture 24 Hypothesis Testing Terms

BIO210 Biostatistics

Xi Chen

Fall, 2025

School of Life Sciences

Southern University of Science and Technology



南方科技大学生命科学学院
SUSTech · SCHOOL OF
LIFE SCIENCES

Hypothesis Testing

Logic:

Some info./questions/claims:

- parameters of interest
- compare various groups

- 9% of people have blood type AB
- 25% of MCQs with B as the correct answer
- normal body temperature is 37 °C
- Compare mean test scores of two groups of students

Hypothesis

- Design experiments and collect data, you come up with some hypotheses:
- The proportion of people with blood type AB is not 9%
 - The proportion of MCQs whose correct answers are Bs is $> 25\%$
 - The normal body temp. is not 37 °C
 - The Mean test score in group A is higher than that in group B

Tests:

If the opposite were true, the probability of observing ... is ...

Is the probability small or large?

The Null Hypothesis And The Alternative Hypothesis

- In inferential statistics, the **null hypothesis** is a general statement or default position that there is no relationship/difference/association between measured phenomena/groups.
- The **alternative hypothesis** is the opposite to the null hypothesis. They are collectively exhaustive and mutually exclusive.

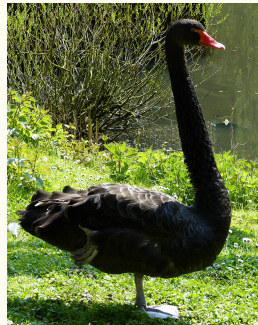
The Null Hypothesis And The Alternative Hypothesis

H_0	H_1 or H_a
The proportion of blood type AB in the COVID-19 patients is 0.09. $(H_0 : \pi = 0.09)$	The proportion of blood type AB in the COVID-19 patients is not 0.09. $(H_0 : \pi \neq 0.09)$
The proportion of MCQs whose correct answers are Bs is equal to or less than 0.25. $(H_0 : \pi \leq 0.25)$	The proportion of MCQs whose correct answers are Bs is higher than 0.25. $(H_1 : \pi > 0.25)$
The mean body temperature of normal people is 37 °C. $(H_0 : \mu = 37)$	The mean body temperature of normal people is not 37 °C. $(H_1 : \mu \neq 37)$

Null Hypothesis Significance Testing (NHST)

- H_0 vs H_1 : H_1 is the negation of H_0 , and vice versa.
- Why test the **null hypothesis** ?
 - Scientific methods: can be falsified/disproved.
 - Introduce less bias, such as **confirmation bias**.
 - Practically easier.

All swans are white.



Fisher vs Neyman-Pearson

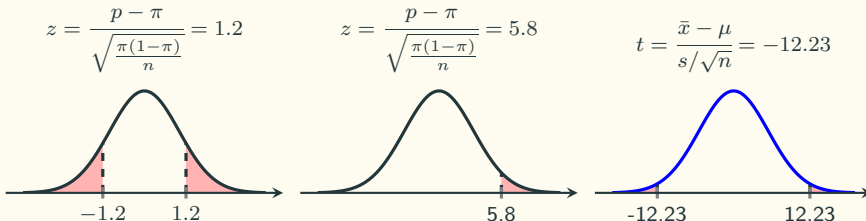
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistical_hypothesis_testing

The p-value And The Test Statistics

- Given that the null hypothesis is true, the probability of obtaining a measurement as extreme as or more extreme than the observed sample is called the **p-value**.

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{data or more extreme} \mid H_0 \text{ is true})$$

- How do we perform the calculation ?
- ✓ By Calculating **the test statistic** and use the properties of the sampling distributions.
- How do we interpret “**more extreme**” ?
- ✓ Surprised or surprising.



Significance Test

- If the p-value is **is small**, we **reject** the **null hypothesis**.
- How small ?
 - Ronald Fisher. **Statistical Methods for Research Workers (1925)**.

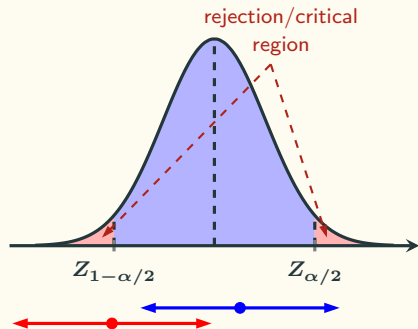
DISTRIBUTIONS

45

only once in 370 trials, while Table II. shows that to exceed the standard deviation sixfold would need nearly a thousand million trials. The value for which $P = .05$, or 1 in 20, is 1.96 or nearly 2 ; it is convenient to take this point as a limit in judging whether a deviation is to be considered significant or not. Deviations exceeding twice the standard deviation are thus formally regarded as significant. Using this criterion, we should be led to follow up a false indication only once in 22 trials, even if the statistics were the only guide available. Small effects will still escape notice *if the data are insufficiently numerous to bring them out*, but no lowering of the standard of significance would meet this difficulty.

Significance Test And Confidence Interval

- Common p-value cutoffs: 0.01, 0.05, 0.10.
- In 1933, Jerzy Neyman and Egon Pearson called those cutoffs as **significance levels**, denoted by α . A significance level must be decided ahead of time.
 $Z_\alpha, Z_{1-\alpha}, Z_{\alpha/2}, Z_{1-\alpha/2}$, are called **critical values**.
- When the p-value is smaller than α , we reject the null hypothesis, and we say the result is **statistically significant**.

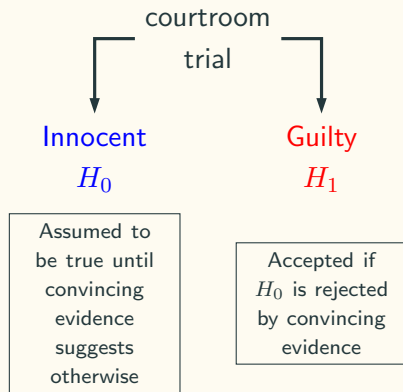


$p \geq \alpha \Leftrightarrow$ the test statistic falls into the middle zone $\Leftrightarrow (1 - \alpha) \times 100\%$ covers π_0 or μ_0

$p < \alpha \Leftrightarrow$ the test statistic falls into the rejection/critical region $\Leftrightarrow (1 - \alpha) \times 100\%$ does NOT cover π_0 or μ_0

Interpret The Result

- p-value $< \alpha$, reject H_0 , **accept** H_1 ;
- p-value $\geq \alpha$, do not reject H_0 .
- Meanings and warnings:
 1. failing to reject H_0 **does NOT** mean that the null hypothesis is true. The same goes to H_1 .
 2. The test is about **the data**, **NOT** your theory or hypothesis! Remember the p-value is $\mathbb{P}(\text{data or more extreme} \mid H_0 \text{ is true})$.
 3. **Accept**: act/behave as if ...



Rationale of Significance Test

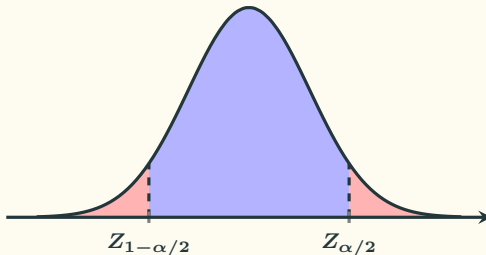
We assume that the **POPULATION** parameter of interest takes a certain value π_0 or μ_0



A random sample is collected



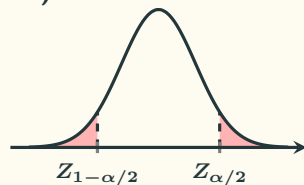
We use the properties of the sampling distribution of the sample proportion/mean to analyse the sample statistic: **High chance**; **Low chance**



Steps For Hypothesis Testing

1. Specify what you are comparing
2. Formulate hypotheses
3. Check assumptions
4. Determine significance level α
5. Compute the test statistic
6. Check significance
7. Make a decision about whether to reject H_0
8. Interpret findings

6a)



6b) Calculate the p-value

6c) Construct $(1 - \alpha) \times 100\%$ confidence interval to see if it covers the H_0 value.