

Ex: *A Jury Trial*: If you are on a jury in the U.S. judicial system, you must presume that the defendant is innocent unless there is enough evidence to conclude that he or she is guilty. Therefore the two hypotheses are as follows:

Null hypothesis: The defendant is innocent.

Alternative hypothesis: The defendant is guilty.

The prosecution collects evidence in much the way that researchers collect data, in the hope that the jurors will be convinced that such evidence would be extremely unlikely if the assumption of innocence were true. Consistent with our thinking in hypothesis testing, in many cases, we would not accept the hypothesis that the defendant is innocent. We would simply conclude that the evidence was not strong enough to rule out the possibility of innocence. In fact, in the United States, the two conclusions juries are instructed to choose from are “guilty” and “not guilty.” A jury would never conclude that “the defendant is innocent.”

From *Mind on Statistics, 3rd Ed* by Utts Heckard.

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