

Unit 10: Tests of Significance (Chapter 26)

Marius Ionescu

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- If your theory says 70% of students have blue hair and a simulation shows 80% have blue hair, is the simulation wrong?
- When is a difference **significant**?

Another example

Example

A die is rolled 100 times. The total number of spots is 367 instead of the expected 350. Is the die loaded?

Null hypothesis and alternate hypothesis

Fact

We test a hypothesis:

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- *Null hypothesis: just chance variation*

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We test a hypothesis:

- Null hypothesis: just chance variation
- Alternate hypothesis: there is a real difference between the two answers.

Method

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- ③ Select a burden of proof to show that Null is wrong!

The *Z*-statistics:

$$z = \frac{\text{Actual} - EV}{SE}.$$

Fact

- *To use a test of significance, the null hypothesis should be stated in terms of a box model.*
- *The Z-test is used for large samples.*

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$$z = \frac{367 - 350}{\sqrt{17}} = 1$$

- What is the chance that $z \geq 1$? (this is the z -test; it is used for large samples)

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- What is the chance that $z \geq 1$? (this is the z -test; it is used for large samples)
- We say that the **significance level** is 16%.
- Is 16% small enough to reject the null hypothesis?

Burden of proof

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- *5% is statistically significant.*
- *1% is highly significant.*

Example

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The registrar at a big University says that 67% of the 25,000 students are male. 100 students are chosen at random. 53 of them are men and 47 are women. Is this a simple random sample?

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- *The P -value of a test is the chance of getting a big test statistic – assuming that the null hypothesis to be right.*
- *P is not the chance of the null hypothesis being right.*
- *The smaller the chance is, the stronger the evidence against the null.*

Example

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100 draws are made at random with replacement from a box. The average of the draws is 102.7 and their SD is 10. Someone claims that the average of the box is 100.

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- Is this plausible?
- What if the average of the box was 101.1?

Example

Example (ESP (Extrasensory perception))

Suppose that you are tested for ESP. The computer picks at random one of the 10 options and you pick what you think it will be. In 1000 trials you get 173 correct answers. Do you have ESP?

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- Formulate the Null and alternative hypothesis in terms of a box model.
- Compute z and P .
- What do you conclude?

True or False?

Example

If P -value is 1%, there is 1 chance in 100 that the Null hypothesis is correct?

t-test

Fact (t-test)

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t-test

Fact (*t*-test)

- For small samples the SD of the sample is not a very good estimate of the SD_{box} .
- The statistics

$$\frac{\text{observed} - \text{expected}}{SE}$$

is not normally distributed.

Procedure for the t -test

Fact (t-test, (small sample size))

Procedure for the *t*-test

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① Calculate the sample *SD* and correct for the small sample size:

$$SD^+ = \sqrt{\frac{\# \text{ of measurements}}{\# \text{ of measurements} - 1}} \cdot SD_{\text{sample}}.$$

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- *degree of freedom*=*number of measurements* -1.

Example

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You fly Useless Air six times one year and the arrival times seem to always be late. The times were 30, 10, 40, 10, 40, and 50 minutes late. Is this due to the chance?

Example

Example

Suppose that a thermometer us being checked for a calibration. The temperature in the room is held at 70°F . Six measurements are taken: 72, 79, 65, 84, 67, 77. Is the thermometer calibrated?