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## statistical pedagogical upport for long-lasting learning

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In the US, a criminal trial makes two contradictory (mutually exclusive) claims about the defendant, either "not guilty" or "guilty". Despite these claims, the following happens

1. The defendant is truly either "innocent" or "guilty." [but is assumed we never know the truth in most cases].
2. The defendant is then presumed "innocent until proven guilty."
3. The defendant is found guilty only if there is strong evidence that the defendan is guilty. The phrase "beyond a reasonable doubt" is often used as a guideline for determining a cut off for when enough evidence exists to find the defendant guilty. 4. The defendant is found to be either "not guilty" or "guilty" in the ultimate verdict. $\qquad$
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## Back to toads

Remember that we assume the null hypothesis to be true to build the sampling
$\qquad$ distribution under the null hypothesis ( $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ). As such, all values in the sampling distribution of the theoretical populations (including the one of your sample) are also possible. So when using an alpha to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$, we can make a mistake $\qquad$ because those values below alpha are possible even when $H_{0}$ is true.

Sampling distribution of the test
statistic (here number of right-handed toads) assuming $H_{0}$ as true

$\operatorname{Pr}[14$ or more right-handed toads $]=$ $\operatorname{Pr}[14]+\mathrm{P}[15]+\mathrm{P}[16]+\mathrm{P}[17]+\mathrm{P}[18]=$ Number of right-handed toads (out of $\mathbf{1 8}$ toads) $0.0155 \times 2$ (symmetric distribution) $=0.031$

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## Back to toads

Remember that we assume the null hypothesis to be true to build the sampling distribution under the null hypothesis $\left(\mathrm{H}_{0}\right)$. As such, all values in the sampling distribution of the theoretical populations (including the one of your sample) are also possible. So when using an alpha to reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$, we can make a mistake $\qquad$ because those values below alpha are possible even when $H_{0}$ is true.


Any value for the test statistic in the null
distribution that is equal or more extrem bigger or smaller) amounts to evidence against the null hypothesis.
have evidence against or for the statistical null hypothesis.
As such any value of the test statistic that is equal or more extreme than the observed value amounts to that probability (i.e, improbable as my own observed value).
$\operatorname{Pr}[14$ or more right-handed toads] $=$ Number of right-handed toads (out of $\mathbf{1 8}$ toads) $\quad \begin{aligned} & P(14)+P(155 \times 2(\text { symmetric distribution })=0.031 \\ & 0.010\end{aligned}$ $\qquad$

| Statistical errors - two types of errors in statistical <br> testing (using the criminal trial analogy) |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Reality (unknown) |  |
| Conclusion <br> based on sample (evidence) | $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ true <br> (innocent) | $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ false <br> (guilty) |
| Reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ("guilty") | Type I error | Correct |
| Do not reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ("not guilty") | Correct | Type II error |

Type I error = FALSE POSITIVE
(its probability represent the probability of rejecting $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ when is false, i.e., alpha).

Type II error = FALSE NEGATIVE
(its probability represents the probability of rejecting $H_{A}$ when is true)
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Remember that we assume the null hypothesis to be true to build the sampling distribution for a statistical hypothesis testing.

As such, all values in the sampling distribution from the theoretical populations (including the one in your sample) are possible under sampling.

If your sample value differs a lot from the null distribution (sampling distribution), then you have grounds to state that your sample value in improbable under the null hypothesis; and you reject it.

But you could be wrong! Either rejecting OR not rejecting it.

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Remember that we assume the null hypothesis to be true to build the sampling distribution for a statistical hypothesis testing.

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If your sample value differs a lot from the null distribution (sampling distribution), then you have grounds to state that your sample value in improbable under the null hypothesis; and you reject it.

But you could be wrong! Either rejecting OR not rejecting it.
The protection we have against rejecting when is true (type I error) is the alpha level (significance level).

The protection we have against not rejecting when is false (type II error) is often based on increasing sample size (greater sample sizes lead to smaller $p$-values, hence smaller type II errors).
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Critical definitions
Type I error is rejecting a true null hypothesis (i.e., reject the null hypothesis when you should not have). Its probability is the significance level \(\alpha\) set by us. This probability does not change with sample size n .
Type II error is failing to reject a false null hypothesis (i.e., do not reject the null hypothesis when you should not have). Its probability is \(\beta\) and is more complex to estimate (advanced stats). This probability decreases as sample size increases.
The power of a test ( \(1-\beta\) ) is the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when is truly false. This probability increases as sample size increases.
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Hypothesis testing involving a continuous variable; the toad problem involved a categorial variable

Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\left(37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$. But how well is this supported by data?

Let's understand this problem under a statistical hypothesis testing framework

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Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ But how well is this supported by data? Researchers obtained body-temperature measurements on randomly chosen healthy people (Schoemaker 1996). The data for the 25 people are as follows:

| 98.4 | 98.6 | 97.8 | 98.8 | 97.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 99.0 | 98.2 | 98.8 | 98.8 | 99.0 |
| 98.0 | 99.2 | 99.5 | 99.4 | 98.4 |
| 99.1 | 98.4 | 97.6 | 97.4 | 97.5 |
| 97.5 | 98.8 | 98.6 | 100.0 | 98.4 |

The data look relatively symmetric so for now we have a good indication that these data are normally distributed. We'll see later in the course how to test this assumption in a more rigorous way.


Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. But how well is this supported by data?

Let's understand this problem under a statistical hypothesis testing framework
$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ (null hypothesis): the mean human body temperature is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.
$\mathrm{H}_{A}$ (alternative hypothesis): the true population is different from $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.
The Probability (or P-value), or estimated probability, is the probability of finding the observed, or more extreme, assuming that the null hypothesis ( $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ) of a study question ( $\mu=98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ) is true.

Ho can be stated as "any observed
$Y=98.524$ difference between the sample mean $\left(98.524^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right)$ and the theoretical population value $\left(98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right)$ is due to chance alone.

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The data look relatively symmetric so for now we have a good indication that these data
are normally distributed. We'll see later in the course how to test this assumption in a are normally distributed. We'll see later in the course how to test this assumption in a more rigorous way.

Remember that we assumed a normally distributed population to generate (either via simulation or infinite sampling calculus) the $t$ distribution. If the original population is not normal, then the standardized sampling distribution of means may not be normal! And the standard error may not be unbiased (as we saw previously).

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The use of probability distribution functions for continuous variables

Unlike discrete values (e.g., handedness in toads), the t-distribution is mostly used for continuous variables (e.g., temperature) and, as such, it needs to be described as a probability density function (pdf). Instead of probabilities of a $\qquad$ particular value, which is zero for a pdf, we calculate the probability that a particular value is within a range defined by any two values in the pdf.

Wikipedia has a great intuitive explanation about a pdf:
"Suppose a species of bacteria typically lives 4 to 6 hours. What is the probability that a bacterium lives exactly 5 hours? The answer is $0 \%$. A lot of bacteria live for approximately 5 hours, but there is no chance that any given bacterium dies at exactly 5.0000000000 ... hours. Instead, we might ask: What is the probability that the bacterium dies between 5 hours and 5.01 hours? Let's say the answer is 0.02 (i.e., $2 \%$ )." The same applies for human temperatures and any other continuous variable (impossible to precise itc value).

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## One sample t-test

Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ But how well is this supported by data? Researchers obtained body-temperature measurements on randomly chosen healthy people (Schoemaker 1996). The data for the 25 people are as follows:

| 98.4 | 98.6 | 97.8 | 98.8 | 97.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 99.0 | 98.2 | 98.8 | 98.8 | 99.0 |
| 98.0 | 99.2 | 99.5 | 99.4 | 98.4 |
| 99.1 | 98.4 | 97.6 | 97.4 | 97.5 |
| 97.5 | 98.8 | 98.6 | 100.0 | 98.4 |

$$
Y=98.524 \quad s=0.678 \quad \mathrm{SE}_{Y} \frac{0.678}{\sqrt{25}}=0.136
$$

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Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. But how well is this supported by data?
Let's "transform" this question into a probabilistic statement:

$$
t_{i}=\frac{Y_{i}-98.6}{\frac{s_{i}}{\sqrt{\pi}}}
$$

What is the probability of obtaining a sampling mean as extreme or more extreme than $98.524^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ given that the theoretical population mean (assumed under $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ) is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ?

$$
t=\frac{98.524-98.6}{0.136}=-0.56 \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { The sample mean is }-0.56 \\
& \text { standard deviations away from } \\
& \text { the eman of the theoretical } \\
& \text { population (assumed under }
\end{aligned}
$$

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$\mathrm{H}_{0}$ (null hypothesis): the mean human body temperature is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$
$\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{A}}$ (alternative hypothesis): the true population is different from $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$
Should we reject or not reject the $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ ?

$$
t=\frac{98.524-98.6}{0.136}=-0.56 \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { The sample mean is }-0.56 \text { standard } \\
& \text { deviations away from the mean of } \\
& \text { the theoretical population (assumed } \\
& \text { under } H_{0} \text { )! }
\end{aligned}
$$

The answer lies in the probability of finding a sample value smaller or equal to -0.56 in the sampling distribution of the theoretical population assumed under $\mathrm{H}_{0}(\mu=0)$ ?

We started with: Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. But how well is this supported by data?
Then "translated" the above question into: What is the probability of obtaining a sampling mean as extreme or more extreme (i.e., smaller) than $98.524^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ given that the population mean is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ?
$t=\frac{98.524-98.6}{0.136}=-0.56 \quad \begin{aligned} & \text { The sample mean is }-0.56 \text { standard } \\ & \text { deviations away from the mean of the } \\ & \text { theoretical population (assumed under }\end{aligned}$ theoretical population (assumed under $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ )!

In probabilistic terms, the question then becomes: What is the probability of finding a sample $t$ value equal or smaller than -0.56 in the sampling distribution of the theoretical population (i.e., the $t$-distribution where $\mu=0$ )?

$\operatorname{Pr}[t<-0.56]=0.29$

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We started with: Normal human body temperature, as kids are taught in North America, is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. But how well is this supported by data?
Then "translated" the above question into: What is the probability of obtaining a sampling mean as extreme or more extreme (i.e., smaller) than $98.524^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ given that the population mean is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ?

Need to consider here:

1) In principle, we are not interested in knowing if the sample mean we obtained would be smaller or greater than the theoretical population mean assumed under the null hypothesis ( $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ).

We are interested here in stating whether we have evidence to say that the sample mean we obtained is consistent (i.e., a common sample mean among the potential samples from the theoretical population, i.e., $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ) or inconsistent with the theoretical population assumed true under $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ (inconsistent $=$ an uncommon sample mean among the potential samples from the theoretical population).

SO, WE NEED TO CONSIDER BOTH SIDES OF THE t DISTRIBUTION.

What is the probability of finding a sample $t$ value equal or smaller than -0.56 AND finding a sample $t$ value equal or greater than +0.56 in the sampling distribution of the theoretical population (i.e., the t-distribution; where $\mu=0$ )? Pvalue $=0.58$

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This probability 0.58 is quite large for an alpha $=0.05$ (significance level), As such, we lack evidence to suggest that the observed mean does not
$\qquad$ belong to a population that has a mean $(\mu)=98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.

In other words, we DO NOT reject the HO (null hypothesis) that the mean
$\qquad$ human body temperature is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.

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As such, the p -value is the evidence against the null hypothesis. The p-value is relatively large ( 0.58 ), and, as such, the evidence against $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ is weak.

By not rejecting $\mathrm{H}_{0}$, we cannot state that the true population value is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$; all we can state is that we have no evidence to state that it is not (i.e., to the contrary)!


## The process for the one sample mean test

1) Establish the theoretical population mean value of interest under $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{o}}$. This is the parameter that is used to standardize the sample mean value to generate the standardized value (called t score, t statistic or t deviate).
2) Take one sample from the population of interest and assume (or verify) that the sample is normally distributed.
3) Standardize the sample mean in relation to the population mean value of interest estabished in 1 using the t standardization, i.e., calculate the t score.
4) Determine the probability of finding the observed (sample-based) t score (step 3) in the distribution that is extreme or more extreme (small and large) than the observed. Remember - the $t$ distribution is the standardized sampling distribution of the population of interest (step 1).
5) Based on the probability calculate in step 4 and the established significance value (alpha), reject or do not reject the null hypothesis.

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## Let's think from another angle:

if the sample had a mean of $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, then $\mathrm{t}=0$

$$
t=\frac{98.6-98.6}{0.136}=0 \quad \operatorname{Pr}[t<0]+\operatorname{Pr}[t>0]=1
$$

What is the probability of obtaining a sampling mean as extreme or more extreme than $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ given that the population mean is $98.6^{\circ}$ F? 1.00 (100\%).

Even here, by not rejecting $\mathrm{H}_{0}$, we cannot state that the true population value is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$; all we can say is that we have no evidence to state that it does not!


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## SUMMARY

We started with: Is the normal human body temperature of $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, as kids are taught in North America, supported by data?
Then "translated" the above question into: What is the probability of obtaining a sampling mean as extreme or more than a sample mean of $98.524^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ given tha the population mean is $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ ?

1) In principle, we were not interested in knowing if the sample mean we obtained would be smaller or greater than the true population mean
2) As such, all we are interested is to state whether we have evidence to say that the sample mean we obtained is consistent with $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ or inconsistent with $\mathrm{H}_{0}$.
3) If consistent (large $P$-value), then we can state that we have no evidence to state that the human temperature is different from $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.
4) If inconsistent (small P-value), then we would have stated that we have evidence that the Normal human body temperature is not $98.6^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.
