Analysing and presenting data: practical hints

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Course: Fenomeni di trasporto biologico Date: 06 Oct 2014



Statistics is the study of the collection, organization, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data. It deals with all aspects of this, including the planning of data collection in terms of the design of surveys and experiments. [*Wikipedia*]

>In general, the population is too large to be studied in its entirety \rightarrow a sample of *n* individuals is extracted from the same population as a representative to study its properties



The statistical process





POPULATION



Tables and frequency graphs Discrete domain: dice throw

Result	Frequency (n)	Relative frequency (n/N)
1	9	0.18
2	12	0.24
3	6	0.12
4	8	0.16
5	10	0.2
6	5	0.1
TOTAL	50	1





Tables and frequency graphs Continuous domain: human height



	Relative frequency	Frequency	Central value	Interval
	0.01	2	145	141.5-148.5
	0.035	7	152	148.5-155.5
	0.11	22	159	155.5-162.5
Need to group	0.065	13	166	162.5-169.5
dete defining	0.22	44	173	169.5-176.5
data defining	0.18	36	180	176.5-183.5
histogram bins	0.16	32	187	183.5-190.5
	0.065	13	194	190.5-197.5
	0.105	21	201	197.5-204.5
	0.05	10	208	204.5-211.5

There is no best/optimal number of bins and different bin sizes can reveal different features of the data

- ✓ Methods for determining optimal number of bins generally make strong assumptions about the shape of the distribution
- ✓ Appropriate bin widths should be experimentally determined depending on the actual data distribution and the goals of the analysis
- ✓ However there are various useful guidelines and rules of thumb



- **stem(X,Y)** discrete variables
- **bar(X,Y)** continuous variables
 - f=histc(X, edges) number of elements between edges







Position (or central tendency) mode, median and mean

- Mode: the value(s) that occurs most often
- Median: the middle value of a data set arranged in ascending order
- Arithmetic mean: sum of all of the data values divided by their number





Mean (*m*) calculation What we know?

Case A: values (x_i) of each of the *n* observations

$$m = \frac{1}{n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i$$

Case B: *x_i* are not known: *n* data grouped in *k* intervals

$$m \cong \frac{l}{n} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{k} f_i x_i = \sum_{i=1}^{k} x_i \left(\frac{f_i}{n}\right)$$

where f_i is the number of observation within the interval centred on the value x_i



Dispersion (or scatter) *variance* and *standard deviation*

- The measure of scatter should be
 - proportional to the scatter of the data (small when the data are clustered together, and large when the data are widely scattered)
 - **independent of the number of values in the data set** (otherwise, simply by taking more measurements the value would increase even if the scatter of the measurements was not increasing).
 - **independent of the mean** (since now we are only interested in the spread of the data, not its central tendency)
- Both the variance and the standard deviation meet these three criteria for normally-distributed data sets

$$s^{2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_{i} - m)^{2}$$

 $s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - m)^2}$

Variance

Standard deviation



MATLAB *Position and dispersion*

- mode(X)
- median(X)
- mean(X)
- var(X)
- std(X)
 - Note that std(X) = sqrt(var(X))





Basic probability theory

$$Pr\{A\} = P(A) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{n_A}{n}$$

 $Pr\{S\} = P(S) = \mathbf{1}$

$$p(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{Pr\{x \le \overline{x} \le x + \Delta x\}}{\Delta x}$$

Event A probability

Certain event probability

Probability density function (*pdf*) of x(\overline{x} is a random variable that assumes a given value x after the experiment)



For $n \rightarrow \infty$ the relative frequency density approximates the *pdf*



Expectation operator and normal distribution

• Mean (μ) and variance (σ^2) for a random variable (\bar{x}) with a given *pdf* (p(x)) can be calculated through the **expectation operator**

$$\mu = \int xp(x)dx = E(\overline{x})$$

$$\sigma^2 = \int (x - \mu)^2 p(x)dx = E\left\{(x - \mu)^2\right\} = Var(\overline{x})$$

• $ar{x}$ is **normal** with mean $oldsymbol{\mu}$ and variance $oldsymbol{\sigma}^2$ if its *pdf* is

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



Standard normal variable (μ =0, σ^2 =1) and variable standardisation

• Standardised normal probability density

$$p(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} \quad \text{Pr} \{-1.96 \le z \le 1.96\} = 0.95 = 95\%$$

• Generic normal variable standardisation $(\overline{x} \rightarrow \overline{z})$





- Population parameters (μ and σ^2) are constant but unknown
- Observed sample parameters (\overline{m} and $\overline{s^2}$) are random variables that may change with samples, according to a given *pdf*
- Population parameters can be inferred from observed samples knowing the pdf of the sample statistics
- \overline{m} is an **un-biased estimator** of μ (from probability theory)



$$\frac{\overline{m}-\mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} = \overline{z}$$

Standardised $ar{m}$



Confidence interval (CI) estimations

- In general $\mu \neq \overline{m}$, but $\mu = \overline{m} \pm \Delta$ and $\uparrow CI \rightarrow \uparrow \Delta$
- 95% CI means that the error Δ is such that

 $Pr\{\overline{m} - \varDelta \le \mu \le \overline{m} + \varDelta\} = 95\% \quad \longrightarrow \quad Pr\{\mu - \varDelta \le \overline{m} \le \mu + \varDelta\} = 95\%$





Case A: unknown μ , known σ^2 \bar{z} statistic

$$\frac{\overline{m} - \mu}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}} = \overline{z}$$

 $Pr\{-z_0 \le \overline{z} \le +z_0\} = 95\%$

From tables *z*_{0.05} = **1.96**, hence:



Thus **95% CI** is given by:

$$\mu = m \pm z_{0.05} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = m \pm 1.96 \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

95% of CI include actual µ (unknown)

Practical interpretation of 95% CI



Case B: unknown μ and σ^2 \bar{t} statistic (i.e. use \bar{s} instead of σ)







Hypothesis testing

- $H_0 = null$ hypothesis \rightarrow the sample belongs to a known population (with known μ and, eventually, σ^2)
- H_1 = alternative hypothesis \rightarrow the 2 treatments are different each other
- Hypothesis test evaluates the discrepancy between the sample and the H₀, establishing whether it is statistically i) significant or ii) not significant for a significance level α

i) H_0 is refused with a significance level α

ii) H_0 cannot be refused with a significance level α



Case A: unknown μ_0 , known σ_0 \bar{z} statistic (*z*-test)

- Mean survival time from the diagnosis of a given disease
 - Population = 38.3 ± 43.3 months ($\mu_0 \pm \sigma_0$)
 - 100 patients treated with a new technique = 46.9 months (m
- $H_0 \rightarrow \overline{m} = \mu_0$ and $\overline{s} = \sigma_0$ and $H_1 \rightarrow \overline{m} \neq \mu_0$



$$\overline{z} = \frac{\overline{m} - \mu_0}{\sigma_0 / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{46.9 - 38.3}{43.3 / \sqrt{100}} = \frac{8.6}{4.33} = 1.99$$

H₀ is refused with a significance level α if $\overline{z} < -z_{0.05}$ or $\overline{z} > z_{0.05}$



Since *z*_{0.05} = **1.96** and *z*_{0.01} = **2.58** what can we say?



Cl estimations and hypothesis testing are equivalent

95% Cl
$$m - 1.96 \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} < \mu < m + 1.96 \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$
 46.9±1.96.4.33= 38.4 ÷ 55.4.
 \overline{m} (38.3) $< \mu^{-} \rightarrow refuse H_{0}$
99% Cl $m \pm 2.58 \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 46.9 \pm 2.58.4.33 = 35.7 \pm 58.07$
 $\mu^{-} < \overline{m}$ (38.3) $< \mu^{+} \rightarrow H_{0}$ cannot be refused

A confidence interval can be considered as the set of acceptable hypotheses for a certain level of significance



Case b: unknown μ_0 , unknown σ_0 \bar{t} statistic (*t*-test)

- Rat uterine weight
 - **Population** = **24** mg (μ_0)
 - *n*=20 rats: [9, 14, 15, 15, 16, 18, 18, 19, 19, 20, 21, 22, 22, 24, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32]
 - v = n 1 = 19
- $H_0 \rightarrow \overline{m} = \mu_0$ and $\overline{s} = \sigma_0$

$$\bar{t} = \frac{\bar{m} - \mu_0}{\bar{s}/\sqrt{n}} = \frac{21 - 24}{1.3219} = -2.27$$



Since $t_{19, 0.05} = 2.093$ and $t_{19, 0.02} = 2.539$ what can we say?

• Equivalence between *t-test* and Cl estimations

$$m - t_{v,0.05} \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} < \mu < m + t_{v,0.05} \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

95% CI 21±2.093·(1.3219)= 18.23 ÷ 23.77

98% CI 21±2.539·(1.3219)= 17.64 ÷ 24.36

Sample and population are significantly different with a significance level comprised between 2 % and 5 % (0.02 < *p* < 0.05; calculated *p*-value for *t*_{19, p} = 2.27 is *p* = 0.035)



MATLAB z-test





>> X=[8.3 9.2 12.5 7.6 10.2 12.9 11.7 10.8 11.7 9.6]; >> sigma=2.1; >> mean=12; >> alpha=0.05; >> [H,P,CI,ZVAL]=ztest(X,mean,sigma,alpha)

H = 1

P = 0.0196

CI = 9.1484 11.7516

ZVAL = -2.3341



What happens using $\alpha = 0.01$?



MATLAB *t-test*





>> X=[22.3 25.1 27 23.4 24.7 26.5 25.7 24.1 23.9 22.8]; >> mean=23; >> alpha=0.05; >> [H,P,CI,STAT]=ttest(X,mean,alpha)

H = 1

P = 0.0114

CI = 23.4437 25.6563

STAT = tstat: 3.1694 df: 9 sd: 1.5465



What happens using $\alpha = 0.01$?



Interpreting the *p*-value



observed (or more extreme) result arising by chance

In conclusion, the smaller the *p*-value the more statistical evidence exists to support the alternative hypothesis (H₁)





Equal or different? The case of two samples





Independent two-sample t-test

Equal sample sizes (**n**), **equal** variances (**S**_{X1X2})

The *t* statistic to test whether the means of group 1 ($\overline{X_1}$) and group 2 ($\overline{X_2}$) are different can be calculated as follows:

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{S_{X_1 X_2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}} \qquad S_{X_1 X_2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(S_{X_1}^2 + S_{X_2}^2)} \quad \text{(pooled) standard} \\ \text{deviation}$$

t-test DoFs = 2n - 2

 H_0 is refused with a significance level α if $t < -t_{DoF, α}$ or $t > t_{DoF, α}$



Independent two-sample t-test

Unequal sample sizes $(n_1 \text{ and } n_2)$, equal variances $(S_{X_1X_2})$

The *t* statistic to test whether the means of group 1 ($\overline{X_1}$) and group 2 ($\overline{X_2}$) are different can be calculated as follows:

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{S_{X_1 X_2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}} \qquad S_{X_1 X_2} = \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)S_{X_1}^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_{X_2}^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}} \quad \text{(pooled) standard}$$

t-test
$$DoFs = n_1 + n_2 - 2$$

 H_0 is refused with a significance level α if $t < -t_{DoF, α}$ or $t > t_{DoF, α}$



Independent two-sample t-test

Unequal sample sizes (n_1 and n_2), **unequal** variances ($S_{X_1X_2}$)

The *t* statistic to test whether the means of group 1 ($\overline{X_1}$) and group 2 ($\overline{X_2}$) are different can be calculated as follows:

$$t = \frac{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2}{s_{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2}} \qquad \qquad s_{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2} = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}$$

«unpooled» standard deviation

$$t\text{-test DoFs} = \frac{(s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2)^2}{(s_1^2/n_1)^2/(n_1 - 1) + (s_2^2/n_2)^2/(n_2 - 1)}$$
Welch–Satterthwaite equation

 H_0 is refused with a significance level α if $t < -t_{DoF, α}$ or $t > t_{DoF, α}$



Mean

Independent two-sample t-test (unequal sample sizes and equal variances): an example

- Two groups of 10 Dapnia magna eggs, randomly extracted from the same clone, were reared in two different concentrations of hexavalent chromium
- After a month survived individuals were measured: 7 in group A and 8 in group B



MATLAB Independent two-sample t-test

H = 0, H₀ cannot be refused at α H = 1, refuse H₀ at α Data structure containing t-statistics significance value and number of DoF [H,P,CI,STATS] = TTEST2(X,Y,alpha,tail,vartype) samples

p-value (i.e. the probability of observing the given result, or one more extreme, by chance if the null hypothesis is true)

'both' \rightarrow "means are not equal" (two-tailed test) **'right'** \rightarrow " \overline{X} is greater than \overline{Y} " (right-tailed test) **'left'** \rightarrow " \overline{X} is less than \overline{Y} " (left-tailed test) '**equal'** or '**unequal**'



MATLAB

Ind. 2-sample t-test: an example

>> X=[2.7 2.8 2.9 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8]'; >> Y=[2.2 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.6]'; >> [H,P,CI,STATS] = ttest2(X,Y,0.05,'both','equal')

H = 1

P = 4.2957e-05

CI = 0.2977 0.6309

STATS =

tstat: 6.0211

df: 13

sd: 0.1490



Dependent two-sample t-test

one sample tested twice or two "paired" samples

$$t = \frac{\overline{X}_D - \mu_0}{s_D / \sqrt{n}}$$

- ✓ Calculate the differences between all n pairs (X_D), then substitute their average ($\overline{X_D}$) and standard deviation (s_D) in the equation above to test if the average of the differences is significantly different from μ_0 ($\mu_0 = 0$ under H_0 , DoFs = n 1)
- ✓ The "pairs" can be either one person's pre-test and post-test scores (repeated measures) or persons matched into meaningful groups (e.g. same age)

Example of repeated measures			
Number	Name	Test 1	Test 2
1	Mike	35%	67%
2	Melanie	50%	46%
3	Melissa	90%	86%
4	Mitchell	78%	91%

Exar	Example of matched pairs			
Pair	Name	Age	Test	
1	John	35	250	
1	Jane	36	340	
2	Jimmy	22	460	
2	Jessy	21	200	



Dependent two-sample *t-test*: an example

Student	Pre-module	Post-module	Difference
	score	score	
1	18	22	+4
2	21	25	+4
3	16	17	+1
4	22	24	+2
5	19	16	-3
6	24	29	+5
7	17	20	+3
8	21	23	+2
9	23	19	-4
10	18	20	+2
11	14	15	+1
12	16	15	-1
13	16	18	+2
14	19	26	+7
15	18	18	0
16	20	24	+4
17	12	18	+6
18	22	25	+3
19	15	19	+4
20	17	16	-1

$$t = \frac{2.05}{0.634} = 3.231 \qquad \text{on 19 df}$$



Since *t*_{19, 0.05} = 2.093 what can we say?



MATLAB Dependent two-sample t-test





MATLAB Dep. 2-sample t-test: an example

>> X=[22 25 17 24 16 29 20 23 19 20 15 15 18 26 18 24 18 25 19 16]'; >> Y=[18 21 16 22 19 24 17 21 23 18 14 16 16 19 18 20 12 22 15 17]'; >> [H,P,CI,STATS] = ttest(X,Y,0.05,'both')

H = 1

P = 0.0044

CI = 0.7221 3.3779

STATS =

tstat: 3.2313

df: 19

sd: 2.8373