STAT 2593 Lecture 033 - Further Aspects of Hypothesis Testing

Dylan Spicker

Further Aspects of Hypothesis Testing

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the difference between statistical and practical significance.

2. Understand the equivalence between hypothesis testing and confidence intervals.

3. Describe shortcomings with NHST and how it is implemented in practice.



Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.
 - An effect which is statistically significant may not be practically significant.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.
 - An effect which is statistically significant may not be practically significant.
 - Important to ask: "Even if this were true, would we care?"

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.
 - An effect which is statistically significant may not be practically significant.
 - Important to ask: "Even if this were true, would we care?"

▶ Note: the p-value is **not** a measure of effect size, generally.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.
 - An effect which is statistically significant may not be practically significant.
 - Important to ask: "Even if this were true, would we care?"
- ▶ Note: the p-value is **not** a measure of effect size, generally.
 - ▶ With a large sample, even very small differences will be detected.

- Our hypothesis tests indicate whether these is evidence against the null hypothesis.
- The hypothesis test does not indicate whether observed differences actually matter.
 - Often we will differentiate practical significance with statistical significance.
 - An effect which is statistically significant may not be practically significant.
 - Important to ask: "Even if this were true, would we care?"
- Note: the p-value is **not** a measure of effect size, generally.
 - ▶ With a large sample, even very small differences will be detected.
 - In a small sample, even very large differences may not be detected.

Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.

- Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.
- If you have a 100(1 − α)% confidence interval, this gives you a α level hypothesis test.

- Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.
- If you have a 100(1 − α)% confidence interval, this gives you a α level hypothesis test.
 - Consider $H_0: \theta = \theta_0$.

- Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.
- If you have a 100(1 − α)% confidence interval, this gives you a α level hypothesis test.
 - Consider $H_0: \theta = \theta_0$.
 - ▶ If θ_0 is in the CI, then you **fail to reject** the null hypothesis.

- Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.
- If you have a 100(1 α)% confidence interval, this gives you a α level hypothesis test.
 - Consider $H_0: \theta = \theta_0$.
 - ▶ If θ_0 is in the CI, then you **fail to reject** the null hypothesis.
 - Otherwise, you can reject the null (at α significance).

- Every confidence interval can be viewed as a corresponding hypothesis test based on critical values.
- If you have a 100(1 − α)% confidence interval, this gives you a α level hypothesis test.
 - Consider $H_0: \theta = \theta_0$.
 - ▶ If θ_0 is in the CI, then you **fail to reject** the null hypothesis.
 - Otherwise, you can reject the null (at α significance).
- The mathematics is equivalent, it is simply two ways of expressing the same idea.

While NHST can be a powerful tool, there are many individuals who are critical of its use.

- While NHST can be a powerful tool, there are many individuals who are critical of its use.
 - It will almost never be the case in the real world that effects are *exactly* equal to zero.

- While NHST can be a powerful tool, there are many individuals who are critical of its use.
 - It will almost never be the case in the real world that effects are *exactly* equal to zero.
 - ► The NHST framework prioritizes p-values above all else.

- While NHST can be a powerful tool, there are many individuals who are critical of its use.
 - It will almost never be the case in the real world that effects are *exactly* equal to zero.
 - ► The NHST framework prioritizes p-values above all else.
 - ► The null hypothesis is often a *strawman*.

- While NHST can be a powerful tool, there are many individuals who are critical of its use.
 - It will almost never be the case in the real world that effects are *exactly* equal to zero.
 - ► The NHST framework prioritizes p-values above all else.
 - The null hypothesis is often a *strawman*.
 - ► The framework itself is ripe for abuse.



- Practical significance should be considered in conjunction with statistical significance.
- Confidence intervals present a rephrased version of hypothesis tests.
- There are many prominent statisticians who think that the NHST framework should be abandoned; it is always worth considering alternatives.