

Lecture 17: Inference using the t Distribution

- One-sample means with the t-distribution
- Paired data
- Difference of two means

Introduction

- In last lecture, we introduced that a hypothesis test (significance test) is a way to decide whether the data strongly support one point of view or another.

There are many kinds of significance tests, but all involve:

- a null and alternative hypothesis
 - a test statistic
 - a significance probability (P -value).
- We will also study the duality between confidence intervals and hypotheses testing in the context of t distribution

Let's first pick up two examples we left last time.

Examples

Example 1a: You can purchase automobile tires from Firestone or Dunlop. You want to decide whether there is any difference in the way their tires wear. You get 100 tires from Firestone and 100 tyres from Dunlop. You install them on your firm's vehicles, and after six months, measure their tread wear. You find that the sample average wear for Firestone is 4.75 mm, with a sample standard deviation of 1 mm, and the average lifespan of the Dunlop tyres is 5 mm, with a standard deviation of 2 mm.

What are your null and alternative hypotheses?

$$H_0 : \mu_F - \mu_D = 0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_A : \mu_F - \mu_D \neq 0$$

This is case I.1 among the hypotheses.

Examples

Your test statistic is from II.f:

$$ts = \frac{\bar{X}_F - \bar{X}_D - 0}{\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\sigma}_F^2}{n_F} + \frac{\hat{\sigma}_D^2}{n_D}}} = \frac{4.75 - 5}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{100} + \frac{4}{100}}} = -1.118.$$

To find the P -value, you go to a z -table. Since the hypotheses are case I.1, we use the significance probability from case III.1 to find

$$\mathbb{P}[Z \leq -1.118] + \mathbb{P}[Z \geq 1.118] = 0.267.$$

Since the significance probability is larger than the conventional values for α (0.05, or even 0.01) we fail to reject the null hypothesis. We do not have sufficient evidence to decide that tires wear differently from tyres.

Examples

Example 1b: You can purchase automobile tires from Firestone or Dunlop. You want to decide whether there is any difference in the way their tires wear.

You get 100 tires from Firestone and 100 tyres from Dunlop. **You install one of each on 100 cars, randomly assigning one to the left front wheel and one to the right front wheel. This controls for differences in use among cars in the fleet.**

You find that the average difference in wear between Firestone and Dunlop is 0.25 mm, with a sample standard deviation of 0.1 mm.

What are your null and alternative hypotheses?

$$H_0 : \mu_F - \mu_D = 0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_0 : \mu_F - \mu_D \neq 0$$

This is case I.1 among the hypotheses.

Examples

Your test statistic is

$$ts = \frac{\bar{X}_F - \bar{X}_D - 0}{\frac{\hat{\sigma}_d}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{-0.25}{\frac{0.1}{\sqrt{100}}} = -25.$$

To find the P -value, you go to a z -table. Since the hypotheses are case I.**1**, we use the significance probability from case III.**1** to find

$$\mathbb{P}[Z \leq -25] + \mathbb{P}[Z \geq 25] \approx 0.$$

Here we reject the null hypothesis. There is strong evidence that there is a difference in average wear. The pairing of the tires on the cars increased the power of the test.

Friday the 13th

Between 1990 - 1992 researchers in the UK collected data on traffic flow, accidents, and hospital admissions on Friday 13th and the previous Friday, Friday 6th. Below is an excerpt from this data set on traffic flow. We can assume that traffic flow on given day at locations 1 and 2 are independent.

	type	date	6 th	13 th	diff	location
1	traffic	1990, July	139246	138548	698	loc 1
2	traffic	1990, July	134012	132908	1104	loc 2
3	traffic	1991, September	137055	136018	1037	loc 1
4	traffic	1991, September	133732	131843	1889	loc 2
5	traffic	1991, December	123552	121641	1911	loc 1
6	traffic	1991, December	121139	118723	2416	loc 2
7	traffic	1992, March	128293	125532	2761	loc 1
8	traffic	1992, March	124631	120249	4382	loc 2
9	traffic	1992, November	124609	122770	1839	loc 1
10	traffic	1992, November	117584	117263	321	loc 2

Scanlon, T.J., Luben, R.N., Scanlon, F.L., Singleton, N. (1993), "Is Friday the 13th Bad For Your Health?," BMJ, 307, 1584-1586.

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Each case in the data set represents traffic flow recorded at the same location in the same month of the same year: one count from Friday 6th and the other Friday 13th. Are these two counts independent?

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Hypotheses

What are the hypotheses for testing for a difference between the average traffic flow between Friday 6th and 13th?

(a) $H_0 : \mu_{6th} = \mu_{13th}$

$$H_A : \mu_{6th} \neq \mu_{13th}$$

(b) $H_0 : p_{6th} = p_{13th}$

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(c) $H_0 : \mu_{diff} = 0$

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(d) $H_0 : \bar{x}_{diff} = 0$

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Conditions

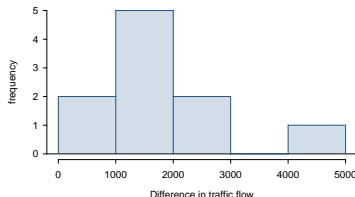
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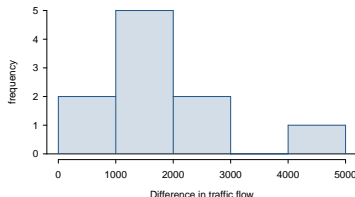
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 - ▶ The sample distribution does not appear to be extremely skewed, but it's very difficult to assess with such a small sample size. We might want to think about whether we would expect the population distribution to be skewed or not – probably not, it should be equally likely to have days with lower than average traffic and higher than average traffic.
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So what do we do when the sample size is small?

Review: what purpose does a large sample serve?

As long as observations are independent, and the population distribution is not extremely skewed, a large sample would ensure that...

- the sampling distribution of the mean is nearly normal
- the estimate of the standard error, as $\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$, is reliable

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- A special case of the CLT ensures the distribution of sample means will be nearly normal, regardless of sample size, when the data come from a nearly normal distribution.
- While this is a helpful special case, it's inherently difficult to verify normality in small data sets.
- We should exercise caution when verifying the normality condition for small samples. It is important to not only examine the data but also think about where the data come from.
 - ▶ For example, ask: would I expect this distribution to be symmetric, and am I confident that outliers are rare?
- When the population standard deviation is unknown (almost always), the uncertainty of the standard error estimate is addressed by the *t distribution*.

Back to Friday the 13th

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$$\bar{x}_{diff} = 1836$$

$$s_{diff} = 1176$$

$$n = 10$$

Finding the test statistic

Test statistic for inference on a small sample mean

The test statistic for inference on a small sample ($n < 50$) mean is the T statistic with $df = n - 1$.

$$T_{df} = \frac{\text{point estimate} - \text{null value}}{SE}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{point estimate} &= \bar{x}_{diff} = 1836 \\ SE &= \frac{s_{diff}}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{1176}{\sqrt{10}} = 372 \end{aligned}$$

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Note: Null value is 0 because in the null hypothesis we set $\mu_{diff} = 0$.

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- Or when these aren't available, we can use a t -table.

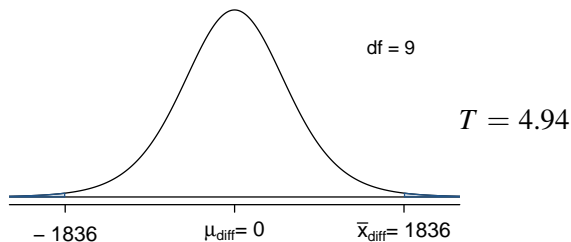
Finding the p-value

Locate the calculated T statistic on the appropriate df row, obtain the p-value from the corresponding column heading (one or two tail, depending on the alternative hypothesis).

one tail		0.100	0.050	0.025	0.010	0.005
two tails		0.200	0.100	0.050	0.020	0.010
df	1	3.08	6.31	12.71	31.82	63.66
	2	1.89	2.92	4.30	6.96	9.92
	3	1.64	2.35	3.18	4.54	5.84
	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	
	17	1.33	1.74	2.11	2.57	2.90
	18	1.33	1.73	2.10	2.55	2.88
	19	1.33	1.73	2.09	2.54	2.86
	20	1.33	1.72	2.09	2.53	2.85
	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	
	400	1.28	1.65	1.97	2.34	2.59
	500	1.28	1.65	1.96	2.33	2.59
	∞	1.28	1.64	1.96	2.33	2.58

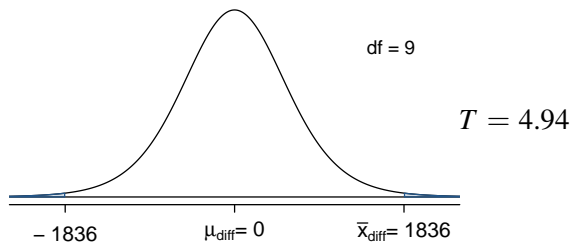
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df 6	1.44	1.94	2.45	3.14	3.71
7	1.41	1.89	2.36	3.00	3.50
8	1.40	1.86	2.31	2.90	3.36
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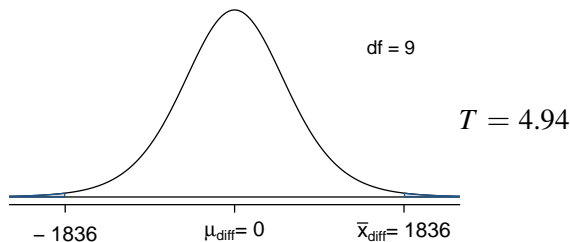
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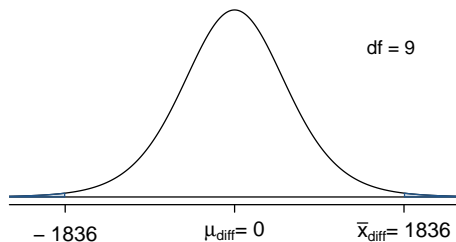
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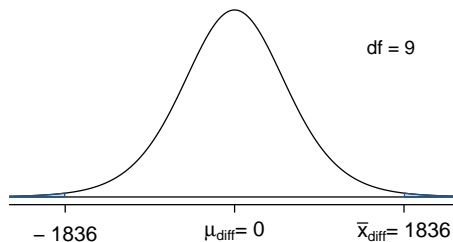


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$$T = 4.94$$

What is the conclusion of the hypothesis test?

The data provide convincing evidence of a difference between traffic flow on Friday 6th and 13th.

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- We can use a confidence interval to estimate this difference.

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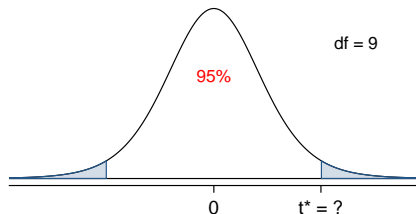
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- ME is always calculated as the product of a critical value and SE.
- Since small sample means follow a t distribution (and not a z distribution), the critical value is a t^\star (as opposed to a z^\star).

$$\text{point estimate} \pm t^\star \times SE$$

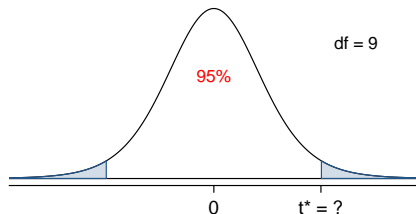
Finding the critical t (t^*)



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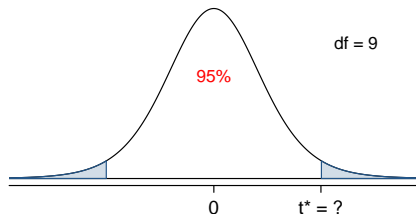
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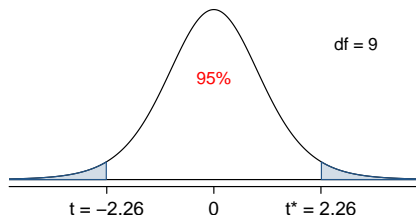
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Constructing a CI for a small sample mean

To calculate a 95% confidence interval for the difference between the traffic flow between Friday 6th and 13th

$$\bar{x}_{diff} = 1836 \quad s_{diff} = 1176 \quad n = 10 \quad SE = 372$$

$$1836 \pm 2.26 \times 372 \rightarrow (995, 2677)$$

Interpreting the CI

Which of the following is the *best* interpretation for the confidence interval we just calculated?

$$\mu_{diff:6th-13th} = (995, 2677)$$

We are 95% confident that ...

- (a) the difference between the average number of cars on the road on Friday 6th and 13th is between 995 and 2,677.
- (b) on Friday 6th there are 995 to 2,677 fewer cars on the road than on the Friday 13th, on average.
- (c) on Friday 6th there are 995 fewer to 2,677 more cars on the road than on the Friday 13th, on average.
- (d) on Friday 13th there are 995 to 2,677 fewer cars on the road than on the Friday 6th, on average.

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- (d) *on Friday 13th there are 995 to 2,677 fewer cars on the road than on the Friday 6th, on average.*

Synthesis

Does the conclusion from the hypothesis test agree with the findings of the confidence interval?

Do you think the findings of this study suggests that people believe Friday 13th is a day of bad luck?

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Yes, the hypothesis test found a significant difference, and the CI does not contain the null value of 0.

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Synthesis

Does the conclusion from the hypothesis test agree with the findings of the confidence interval?

Yes, the hypothesis test found a significant difference, and the CI does not contain the null value of 0.

Do you think the findings of this study suggests that people believe Friday 13th is a day of bad luck?

No, this is an observational study. We have just observed a significant difference between the number of cars on the road on these two days. We have not tested for people's beliefs.

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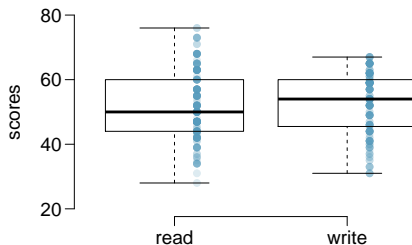
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Note: The example we used was for paired means (difference between dependent groups). We took the difference between the observations and used only these differences (one sample) in our analysis, therefore the mechanics are the same as when we are working with just one sample.

200 observations were randomly sampled from the High School and Beyond survey. The same students took a reading and writing test and their scores are shown below. At a first glance, does there appear to be a difference between the average reading and writing test score?



The same students took a reading and writing test and their scores are shown below. Are the reading and writing scores of each student independent of each other?

	id	read	write
1	70	57	52
2	86	44	33
3	141	63	44
4	172	47	52
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
200	137	63	65

(a) Yes

(b) No

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(a) Yes

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- When two sets of observations have this special correspondence (not independent), they are said to be *paired*.

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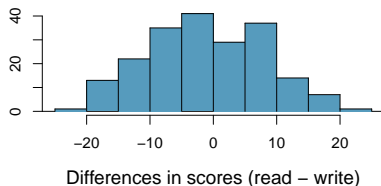
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$$\text{diff} = \text{read} - \text{write}$$

- It is important that we always subtract using a consistent order.

	id	read	write	diff
1	70	57	52	5
2	86	44	33	11
3	141	63	44	19
4	172	47	52	-5
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
200	137	63	65	-2



Parameter and point estimate

- *Parameter of interest:* Average difference between the reading and writing scores of *all* high school students.

$$\mu_{diff}$$

Parameter and point estimate

- *Parameter of interest:* Average difference between the reading and writing scores of *all* high school students.

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$$\bar{x}_{diff}$$

Setting the hypotheses

If in fact there was no difference between the scores on the reading and writing exams, what would you expect the average difference to be?

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What are the hypotheses for testing if there is a difference between the average reading and writing scores?

H_0 : There is no difference between the average reading and writing score.

$$\mu_{diff} = 0$$

H_A : There is a difference between the average reading and writing score.

$$\mu_{diff} \neq 0$$

Nothing new here

- The analysis is no different than what we have done before.
- We have data from *one* sample: differences.
- We are testing to see if the average difference is different than 0.

Checking assumptions & conditions

Which of the following is true?

- (a) Since students are sampled randomly and are less than 10% of all high school students, we can assume that the difference between the reading and writing scores of one student in the sample is independent of another.
- (b) The distribution of differences is bimodal, therefore we cannot continue with the hypothesis test.
- (c) In order for differences to be random we should have sampled with replacement.
- (d) Since students are sampled randomly and are less than 10% all students, we can assume that the sampling distribution of the average difference will be nearly normal.

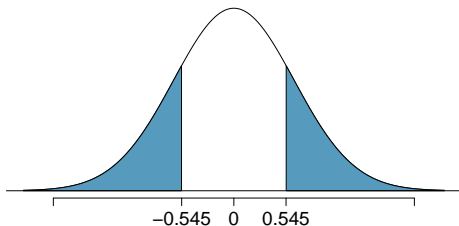
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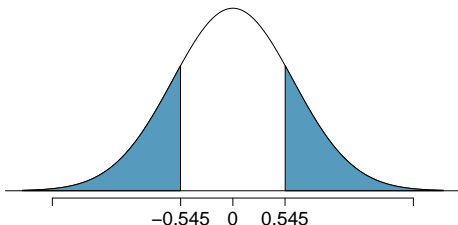
Calculating the test-statistic and the p-value

The observed average difference between the two scores is -0.545 points and the standard deviation of the difference is 8.887 points. Do these data provide convincing evidence of a difference between the average scores on the two exams? Use $\alpha = 0.05$.



Calculating the test-statistic and the p-value

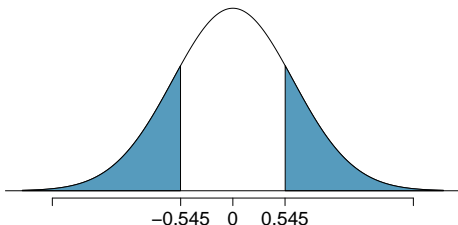
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$$\begin{aligned} T &= \frac{-0.545 - 0}{\frac{8.887}{\sqrt{200}}} \\ &= \frac{-0.545}{0.628} = -0.87 \\ df &= 200 - 1 = 199 \end{aligned}$$

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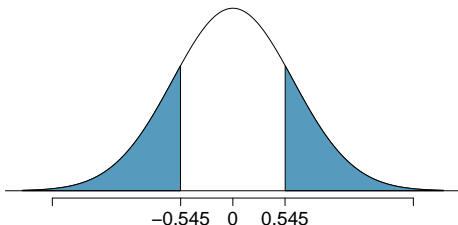
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$$df = 200 - 1 = 199$$

$$p\text{-value} = 0.1927 \times 2 = 0.3854$$

Since $p\text{-value} > 0.05$, fail to reject, the data do not provide convincing evidence of a difference between the average reading and writing scores.

Interpretation of p-value

Which of the following is the correct interpretation of the p-value?

- (a) Probability that the average scores on the reading and writing exams are equal.
- (b) Probability that the average scores on the reading and writing exams are different.
- (c) Probability of obtaining a random sample of 200 students where the average difference between the reading and writing scores is at least 0.545 (in either direction), if in fact the true average difference between the scores is 0.
- (d) Probability of incorrectly rejecting the null hypothesis if in fact the null hypothesis is true.

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HT \leftrightarrow CI

Suppose we were to construct a 95% confidence interval for the average difference between the reading and writing scores. Would you expect this interval to include 0?

- (a) yes
- (b) no
- (c) cannot tell from the information given

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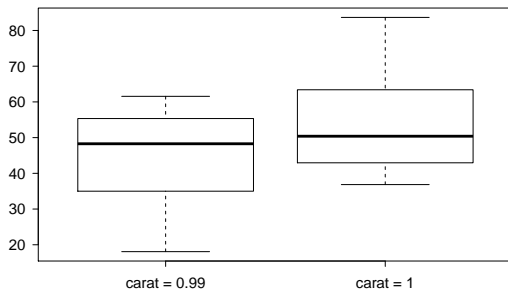
$$\begin{aligned} -0.545 \pm 1.97 \frac{8.887}{\sqrt{200}} &= -0.545 \pm 1.97 \times 0.628 \\ &= -0.545 \pm 1.24 \\ &= (-1.785, 0.695) \end{aligned}$$

Diamonds

- Weights of diamonds are measured in carats.
- 1 carat = 100 points, 0.99 carats = 99 points, etc.
- The difference between the size of a 0.99 carat diamond and a 1 carat diamond is undetectable to the naked human eye, but does the price of a 1 carat diamond tend to be higher than the price of a 0.99 diamond?
- We are going to test to see if there is a difference between the average prices of 0.99 and 1 carat diamonds.
- In order to be able to compare equivalent units, we divide the prices of 0.99 carat diamonds by 99 and 1 carat diamonds by 100, and compare the average point prices.



Data



	<i>0.99 carat</i>	<i>1 carat</i>
	pt99	pt100
\bar{x}	44.50	53.43
s	13.32	12.22
n	23	30

These data are a random sample from the diamonds data set in ggplot2 R package.

Parameter and point estimate

- *Parameter of interest:* Average difference between the point prices of *all* 0.99 carat and 1 carat diamonds.

$$\mu_{pt99} - \mu_{pt100}$$

Parameter and point estimate

- *Parameter of interest:* Average difference between the point prices of *all* 0.99 carat and 1 carat diamonds.

$$\mu_{pt99} - \mu_{pt100}$$

- *Point estimate:* Average difference between the point prices of *sampled* 0.99 carat and 1 carat diamonds.

$$\bar{x}_{pt99} - \bar{x}_{pt100}$$

Hypotheses

Which of the following is the correct set of hypotheses for testing if the average point price of 1 carat diamonds (μ_{pt100}) is higher than the average point price of 0.99 carat diamonds (μ_{pt99})?

(a) $H_0 : \mu_{pt99} = \mu_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \mu_{pt99} \neq \mu_{pt100}$$

(b) $H_0 : \mu_{pt99} = \mu_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \mu_{pt99} > \mu_{pt100}$$

(c) $H_0 : \mu_{pt99} = \mu_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \mu_{pt99} < \mu_{pt100}$$

(d) $H_0 : \bar{x}_{pt99} = \bar{x}_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \bar{x}_{pt99} < \bar{x}_{pt100}$$

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$$H_A : \mu_{pt99} > \mu_{pt100}$$

(c) $H_0 : \mu_{pt99} = \mu_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \mu_{pt99} < \mu_{pt100}$$

(d) $H_0 : \bar{x}_{pt99} = \bar{x}_{pt100}$

$$H_A : \bar{x}_{pt99} < \bar{x}_{pt100}$$

Conditions

Which of the following does not need to be satisfied in order to conduct this hypothesis test using theoretical methods?

- (a) Point price of one 0.99 carat diamond in the sample should be independent of another, and the point price of one 1 carat diamond should be independent of another as well.
- (b) Point prices of 0.99 carat and 1 carat diamonds in the sample should be independent.
- (c) Distributions of point prices of 0.99 and 1 carat diamonds should not be extremely skewed.
- (d) Both sample sizes should be at least 30.

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- (d) *Both sample sizes should be at least 30.*

Test statistic

Test statistic for inference on the difference of two small sample means

The test statistic for inference on the difference of two means where σ_1 and σ_2 are unknown is the T statistic.

$$T_{df} = \frac{\text{point estimate} - \text{null value}}{SE}$$

where

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}} \quad \text{and} \quad df = \min(n_1 - 1, n_2 - 1)$$

***Note:** The calculation of the df is actually much more complicated. For simplicity we'll use the above formula to estimate the true df when conducting the analysis by hand.*

Test statistic (cont.)

	<i>0.99 carat</i> pt99	<i>1 carat</i> pt100
\bar{x}	44.50	53.43
s	13.32	12.22
n	23	30

in context...

Test statistic (cont.)

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$$T = \frac{\text{point estimate} - \text{null value}}{SE}$$

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\bar{x}	44.50	53.43
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n	23	30

in context...

$$\begin{aligned}
 T &= \frac{\text{point estimate} - \text{null value}}{SE} \\
 &= \frac{(44.50 - 53.43) - 0}{\sqrt{\frac{13.32^2}{23} + \frac{12.22^2}{30}}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Test statistic (cont.)

	<i>0.99 carat</i> pt99	<i>1 carat</i> pt100
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 T &= \frac{\text{point estimate} - \text{null value}}{SE} \\
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 &= \frac{-8.93}{3.56} \\
 &= -2.508
 \end{aligned}$$

Test statistic (cont.)

Which of the following is the correct df for this hypothesis test?

- (a) 22
- (b) 23
- (c) 30
- (d) 29
- (e) 52

Test statistic (cont.)

Which of the following is the correct df for this hypothesis test?

- (a) 22 $\rightarrow df = \min(n_{pt99} - 1, n_{pt100} - 1)$
- (b) 23 $= \min(23 - 1, 30 - 1)$
- (c) 30 $= \min(22, 29) = 22$
- (d) 29
- (e) 52

p-value

Which of the following is the correct p-value for this hypothesis test?

$$T = -2.508 \quad df = 22$$

- (a) between 0.005 and 0.01
- (b) between 0.01 and 0.025
- (c) between 0.02 and 0.05
- (d) between 0.01 and 0.02

one tail		0.100	0.050	0.025	0.010
two tails		0.200	0.100	0.050	0.020
df	21	1.32	1.72	2.08	2.52
	22	1.32	1.72	2.07	2.51
	23	1.32	1.71	2.07	2.50
	24	1.32	1.71	2.06	2.49
	25	1.32	1.71	2.06	2.49

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Synthesis

What is the conclusion of the hypothesis test? How (if at all) would this conclusion change your behavior if you went diamond shopping?

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What is the conclusion of the hypothesis test? How (if at all) would this conclusion change your behavior if you went diamond shopping?

- *p-value is small so reject H_0 . The data provide convincing evidence to suggest that the point price of 0.99 carat diamonds is lower than the point price of 1 carat diamonds.*
- *Maybe buy a 0.99 carat diamond? It looks like a 1 carat, but is significantly cheaper.*

Equivalent confidence level

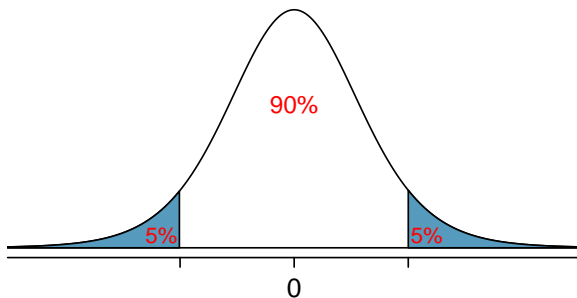
What is the equivalent confidence level for a one-sided hypothesis test at $\alpha = 0.05$?

- (a) 90%
- (b) 92.5%
- (c) 95%
- (d) 97.5%

Equivalent confidence level

What is the equivalent confidence level for a one-sided hypothesis test at $\alpha = 0.05$?

- (a) 90%
- (b) 92.5%
- (c) 95%
- (d) 97.5%



Critical value

What is the appropriate t^* for a confidence interval for the average difference between the point prices of 0.99 and 1 carat diamonds?

- (a) 1.32
- (b) 1.72
- (c) 2.07
- (d) 2.82

one tail		0.100	0.050	0.025	0.010	0.005
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$$(\bar{x}_{pt99} - \bar{x}_{pt1}) \pm t_{df}^{\star} \times SE = (44.50 - 53.43) \pm 1.72 \times 3.56$$

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$$\begin{aligned}(\bar{x}_{pt99} - \bar{x}_{pt1}) \pm t_{df}^{\star} \times SE &= (44.50 - 53.43) \pm 1.72 \times 3.56 \\ &= -8.93 \pm 6.12\end{aligned}$$

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We are 90% confident that the average point price of a 0.99 carat diamond is \$ 15.05 to \$ 2.81 lower than the average point price of a 1 carat diamond.

Summary: Inference using difference of two small sample means

- If σ_1 or σ_2 is unknown, difference between the sample means follow a t -distribution with $SE = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_1}}$.

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Recap

Today we learned about inference with t distribution.

One mean:

$$df = n - 1$$

HT:

$$H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$$

$$T_{df} = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

CI:

$$\bar{x} \pm t_{df}^* \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Paired means:

$$df = n_{diff} - 1$$

HT:

$$H_0 : \mu_{diff} = 0$$

$$T_{df} = \frac{\bar{x}_{diff} - 0}{\frac{s_{diff}}{\sqrt{n_{diff}}}}$$

CI:

$$\bar{x}_{diff} \pm t_{df}^* \frac{s_{diff}}{\sqrt{n_{diff}}}$$

Independent means:

$$df = \min(n_1 - 1, n_2 - 1)$$

HT:

$$H_0 : \mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0$$

$$T_{df} = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

CI:

$$\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2 \pm t_{df}^* \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}$$

Suggested reading:

- D.S. Sec. 9.5, 9.6
- OpenIntro3: Sec. 5.1, 5.2, 5.3