

Lecture 2

HYPOTHESIS TESTS

Introduction

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- If a confidence interval for μ **captures** a ‘target value’, then we can be ‘confident’ that the population mean might be equal to this value.

An alternative approach to statistical inference is through

hypothesis testing

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and we want to try to “prove” / “disprove” the null hypothesis.

- If we “prove” the null hypothesis to be correct, then the alternative is discarded.
- Conversely, if we “disprove” the null hypothesis, we have an alternative to go with!

An illustrative example

Suppose you are going on holiday to Sicily in March. Before you leave, a friend tells you that Sicily has an average of **10** hours sunshine a day during March.

On the first three days of your holiday there are **7**, **8** and **9** hours of sunshine respectively. You consider that this is evidence that your friend is wrong.

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However, this sample of three days could be a fluke result – you might have chosen the most miserable period in March for years for your holiday.

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Or if you're asked to find out if two population means are equal, you'd write

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if you think it might be higher. These are known as **one-tailed** alternatives.

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We use the data to calculate this. It usually has a similar nature to the population value in the null hypothesis.

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You'll see how to obtain this value shortly, and we'll discuss what we mean by a “small” p -value.

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Write a sentence or two that's in the context of the question!

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For this test, the test statistic is

$$z = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}}.$$

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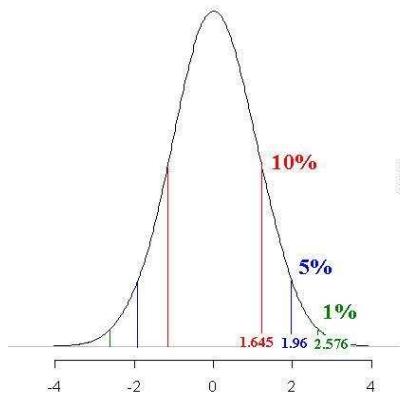
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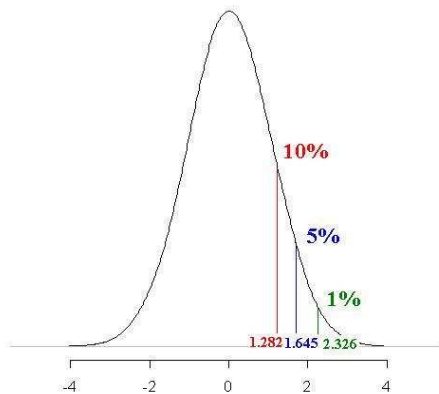
Similarly, for a one-tailed test we have:

Significance level	10%	5%	1%
Critical value	1.282	1.645	2.326

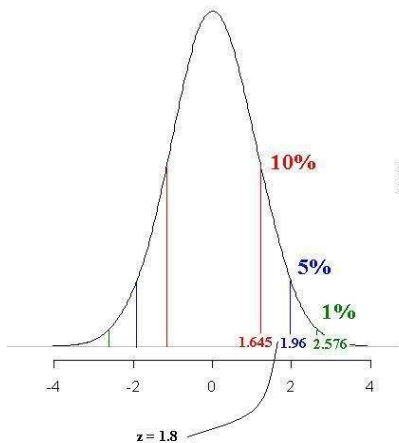
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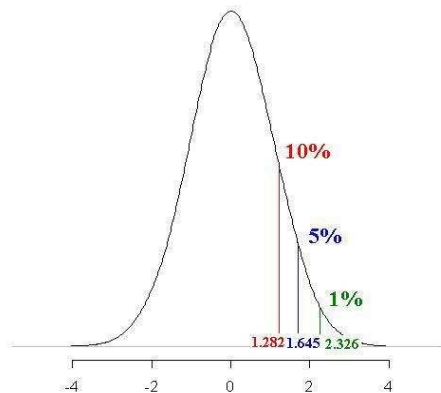
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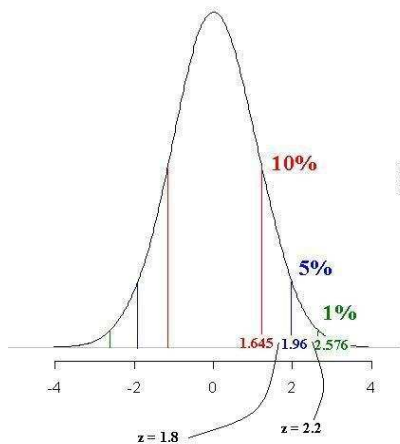
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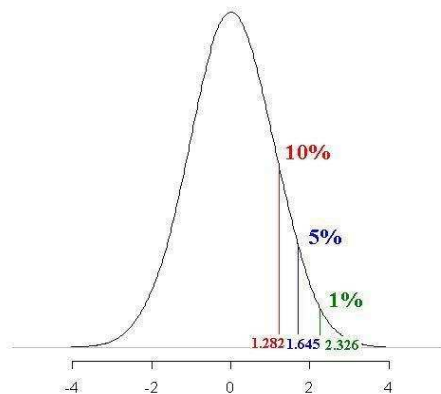
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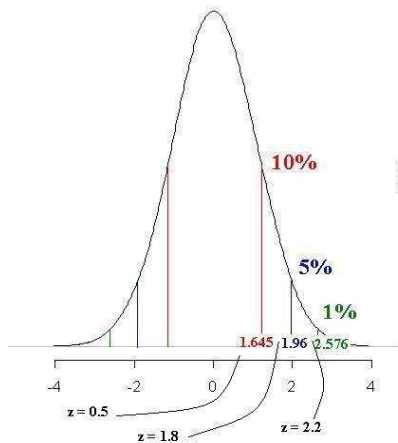
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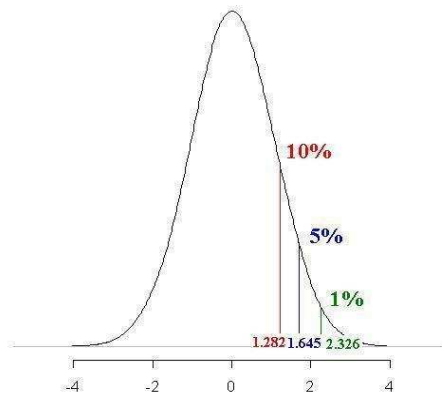
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5. Form a conclusion

Use table 2.1 in the notes to go with the null hypothesis or the alternative hypothesis!

Don't forget to write a sentence or two in the context of the question!

Example 2.4.1 (page 18)

A chain of shops believes that the average size of transactions is £130, and the variance is known to be £900.

The takings of one branch were analysed and it was found that the mean transaction size was £123 over the 100 transactions in one day. Based on this sample, test the null hypothesis that the true mean is equal to £130.

Since σ^2 is **known** (we are given that $\sigma^2 = 900$), we use the approach just discussed.

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We could test against a general (**two-tailed**) alternative, i.e.

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Example 2.4.1 (page 18)

Step 3 (*calculating the test statistic*)

Since σ^2 is known, the test statistic is

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Step 4 (*finding the p -value*)

Since σ^2 is known, we use normal distribution tables (table 2.2) to obtain a range for our p -value. Our alternative hypothesis is two-tailed (i.e. $\neq$ rather than $<$ or $>$), and so our values are:

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Our test statistic $z = 2.33$ lies between the critical values of 1.96 and 2.576, and so our p -value lies between 1% and 5%.

Step 5 (*conclusion*)

Using table 2.1 to interpret our p -value, we see that there is moderate evidence against H_0 .

Thus, we should reject H_0 in favour of the alternative hypothesis H_1 ; it appears that the population mean transaction size *is not equal to* £130.

Example 2.4.1 (page 18)

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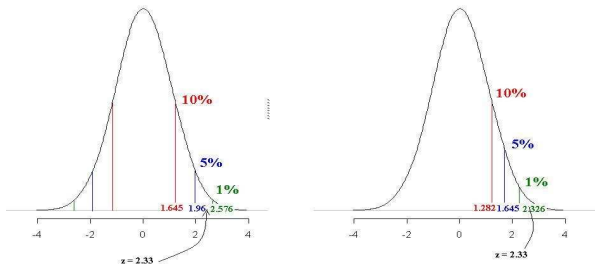
Thus, our p -value is now smaller than 1%, and so, using table 2.1, we see that in this more specific test there is *strong* evidence against H_0 .

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Again, this can be seen more clearly with a diagram:

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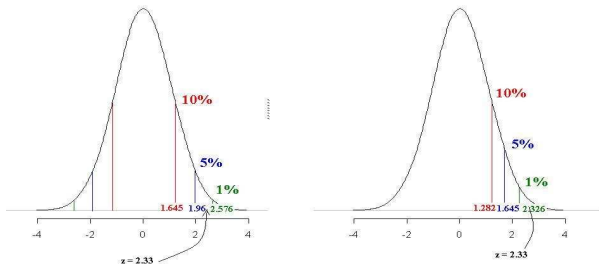
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Notice that this one-tailed test is **more specific** than the two-tailed test previously carried out.

If you're not sure whether you should perform a one-tailed test or a two-tailed test, it's usually safer to test against the more general two-tailed alternative.

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For example, if our sample size was 12, then $\nu = 12 - 1 = 11$, and so, for a two-tailed test, we'd get:

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As before, we locate our test statistic in the above table to find a range for our p -value.

5. Form a conclusion

Exactly the same as before – use table 2.1 to help you!

Example 2.4.2 (page 20)

The batteries for a fire alarm system are required to last for 20000 hours before they need replacing.

16 batteries were tested; they were found to have an average life of 19500 hours and a standard deviation of 1200 hours.

Perform a hypothesis test to see if the batteries do, on average, last for 20000 hours.

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- “ $\sigma = \dots$ ”

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- “the population variance is ...”
- “the population standard deviation is ...”
- “ $\sigma = \dots$ ”
- the process variance is ...”

Step 3 (*calculating the test statistic*)

The population variance σ^2 is now unknown – the question does **not** say

- “the population variance is ...”
- “the population standard deviation is ...”
- “ $\sigma = \dots$ ”
- the process variance is ...”

However, the *sample* standard deviation is given, based on a sample of size 16, and so we can use the t distribution.

Thus, the test statistic is given by

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$$t = \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\sqrt{s^2/n}}$$

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Thus, the test statistic is given by

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \frac{|\bar{x} - \mu|}{\sqrt{s^2/n}} \\ &= \frac{|19500 - 20000|}{\sqrt{1200^2/16}} \\ &= \frac{500}{\sqrt{1440000/16}} \\ &= 1.667. \end{aligned}$$

Step 4 (*finding the p -value*)

Since σ^2 is unknown, we use t -distribution tables (table 2.3) to obtain a range for our p -value.

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Example 2.4.2 (page 20)

Step 4 (*finding the p -value*)

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Significance level	10%	5%	1%
Critical value	1.341	1.753	2.602

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The degrees of freedom, $\nu = n - 1 = 16 - 1 = 15$, and under a one-tailed test this gives the following critical values:

Significance level	10%	5%	1%
Critical value	1.341	1.753	2.602

Our test statistic of $t = 1.667$ lies between the critical values of 1.341 and 1.753, and so the corresponding p -value lies between 5% and 10%.

Step 5 (*conclusion*)

Using table 2.1 to interpret our p -value, we see that there is only *slight* evidence against the null hypothesis and certainly not enough grounds to reject it, so we retain H_0 .

It appears that, on average, the batteries *do* last for 20000 hours.