

Lecture 7

Hypothesis testing for a single population mean

Prof. Dr Saad Abed Madhi

1. Setup

Test hypotheses about a single population mean μ :

- Two-sided: $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq \mu_0$.
- Right one-sided: $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$ vs $H_a : \mu > \mu_0$.
- Left one-sided: $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$ vs $H_a : \mu < \mu_0$.

Choose significance level α (common: 0.10, 0.05, 0.01).

2. Test statistics

Case Z (σ known):

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}, \quad Z \sim N(0, 1) \text{ under } H_0.$$

Case T (σ unknown):

$$T = \frac{\bar{X} - \mu_0}{s/\sqrt{n}}, \quad T \sim t_{df=n-1} \text{ under } H_0.$$

3. Critical-value decision rules

Let the observed statistic be z (or t).

Two-sided ($H_a : \mu \neq \mu_0$):

Reject H_0 if $|\text{statistic}| > \text{critical}_{1-\alpha/2}$.

- For z : $\text{critical} = z_{1-\alpha/2}$ (e.g. $\alpha = 0.05 \Rightarrow z_{0.975} = 1.96$).
- For t : $\text{critical} = t_{1-\alpha/2, df}$ from t -tables.

Right one-sided ($H_a : \mu > \mu_0$):

Reject H_0 if $\text{statistic} > \text{critical}_{1-\alpha}$.

- z : $\text{critical} = z_{1-\alpha}$ (e.g. $\alpha = 0.05 \Rightarrow z_{0.95} = 1.645$).
- t : $\text{critical} = t_{1-\alpha, df}$.

Left one-sided ($H_a : \mu < \mu_0$):

Reject H_0 if $\text{statistic} < -\text{critical}_{1-\alpha}$ (equivalently compare to negative critical).

4. Assumptions

1. Random sample (or approximate randomness).
2. Independence of observations.
3. For z : population normal or large n . For t : population approximately normal (t is robust for moderate departures when n not tiny).

Example 1 — z test, two-sided

Data: $n = 50$, $\bar{x} = 102$, $\sigma = 8$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 100$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq 100$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $\sigma/\sqrt{n} = 8/\sqrt{50} \approx 8/7.0711 \approx 1.1314$.

Statistic: $Z = (102 - 100)/1.1314 = 2/1.1314 \approx 1.7678$.

Critical (two-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $z_{0.975} = 1.96$.

Compare: $|Z| = 1.7678 < 1.96 \Rightarrow$ Do not reject H_0 .

Conclusion: At the 5% level there is insufficient evidence that μ differs from 100.

Example 2 — z test, right one-sided

Data: $n = 36$, $\bar{x} = 52$, $\sigma = 10$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 50$ vs $H_a : \mu > 50$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $10/\sqrt{36} = 10/6 = 1.666666\dots$

Statistic: $Z = (52 - 50)/1.6666\dots = 2/1.6666\dots = 1.2$.

Critical (right one-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $z_{0.95} = 1.645$.

Compare: $Z = 1.2 < 1.645 \Rightarrow$ **Do not reject H_0 .**

Conclusion: Not enough evidence that $\mu > 50$ at 5%.

Example 3 — z test, left one-sided ($\alpha=0.01$)

Data: $n = 100$, $\bar{x} = 48$, $\sigma = 5$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 50$ vs $H_a : \mu < 50$, $\alpha = 0.01$.

SE: $5/\sqrt{100} = 5/10 = 0.5$.

Statistic: $Z = (48 - 50)/0.5 = -2/0.5 = -4.0$.

Critical (left one-sided, $\alpha = 0.01$): lower critical $-z_{0.99}$. $z_{0.99} \approx 2.33$ so reject if $Z < -2.33$.

Compare: $Z = -4.0 < -2.33 \Rightarrow \text{Reject } H_0$.

Conclusion: Strong evidence that $\mu < 50$ at 1% level.

Example 4 — t test, two-sided

Data: $n = 25$, $\bar{x} = 102$, $s = 6$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 100$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq 100$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $s/\sqrt{n} = 6/5 = 1.2$.

Statistic: $T = (102 - 100)/1.2 = 2/1.2 = 1.666666\dots (\approx 1.6667)$.

df = 24.

Critical (two-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $t_{0.975,24} \approx 2.064$.

Compare: $|T| = 1.6667 < 2.064 \Rightarrow$ **Do not reject H_0 .**

Conclusion: Insufficient evidence at 5% that $\mu \neq 100$.

Example 5 — t test, right one-sided (small n)

Data: $n = 16$, $\bar{x} = 7.1$, $s = 2.5$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 6.5$ vs $H_a : \mu > 6.5$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $2.5/\sqrt{16} = 2.5/4 = 0.625$.

Statistic: $T = (7.1 - 6.5)/0.625 = 0.6/0.625 = 0.96$.

df = 15.

Critical (right one-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $t_{0.95,15} \approx 1.753$.

Compare: $T = 0.96 < 1.753 \Rightarrow$ Do not reject H_0 .

Conclusion: Not enough evidence that $\mu > 6.5$.

Example 6 — t test, two-sided ($\alpha=0.01$)

Data: $n = 9$, $\bar{x} = 18$, $s = 4$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 15$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq 15$, $\alpha = 0.01$.

SE: $4/\sqrt{9} = 4/3 = 1.333333\dots$

Statistic: $T = (18 - 15)/1.3333\dots = 3/1.3333\dots = 2.25$.

df = 8.

Critical (two-sided, $\alpha = 0.01$): $t_{0.995,8} \approx 3.355$.

Compare: $|T| = 2.25 < 3.355 \Rightarrow$ Do not reject H_0 .

Conclusion: At 1% level, evidence is not sufficient to say $\mu \neq 15$.

Example 7 — z test, two-sided (large n)

Data: $n = 200$, $\bar{x} = 78$, $\sigma = 12$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 75$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq 75$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $12/\sqrt{200} \approx 12/14.1421 \approx 0.8485$.

Statistic: $Z = (78 - 75)/0.8485 = 3/0.8485 \approx 3.536$.

Critical (two-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $z_{0.975} = 1.96$.

Compare: $|Z| = 3.536 > 1.96 \Rightarrow \text{Reject } H_0$.

Conclusion: Strong evidence that $\mu \neq 75$ (sample mean 78 significantly different).

Example 8 — t test, right one-sided (moderate n, $\alpha=0.10$)

Data: $n = 40$, $\bar{x} = 20.5$, $s = 3.2$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 20$ vs $H_a : \mu > 20$, $\alpha = 0.10$.

SE: $3.2/\sqrt{40} \approx 3.2/6.3249 \approx 0.5057$.

Statistic: $T = (20.5 - 20)/0.5057 = 0.5/0.5057 \approx 0.989$.

df = 39.

Critical (right one-sided, $\alpha = 0.10$): $t_{0.90,39} \approx 1.303$.

Compare: $T = 0.989 < 1.303 \Rightarrow$ Do not reject H_0 .

Conclusion: Not enough evidence at 10% that $\mu > 20$.

Example 9 — t test, two-sided (borderline large effect)

Data: $n = 30$, $\bar{x} = 105$, $s = 5$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 100$ vs $H_a : \mu \neq 100$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $5/\sqrt{30} \approx 5/5.4772 \approx 0.9129$.

Statistic: $T = (105 - 100)/0.9129 \approx 5/0.9129 \approx 5.475$.

df = 29.

Critical (two-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $t_{0.975,29} \approx 2.045$.

Compare: $|T| = 5.475 > 2.045 \Rightarrow \text{Reject } H_0$.

Conclusion: Strong evidence that $\mu \neq 100$ (sample mean 105 is significantly higher).

Example 10 — z test, right one-sided (small effect)

Data: $n = 49$, $\bar{x} = 101$, $\sigma = 4$.

Test $H_0 : \mu = 100$ vs $H_a : \mu > 100$, $\alpha = 0.05$.

SE: $4/\sqrt{49} = 4/7 = 0.571428\dots$

Statistic: $Z = (101 - 100)/0.571428\dots = 1/0.571428\dots = 1.75$.

Critical (right one-sided, $\alpha = 0.05$): $z_{0.95} = 1.645$.

Compare: $Z = 1.75 > 1.645 \Rightarrow$ Reject H_0 .

Conclusion: At 5% level we conclude $\mu > 100$ (small but statistically significant effect).