

I NEED HELP N POPULATION 1 19 17 POPULATION 2 19 13.8 46 9 ASSUME THAT BOTH POPULATIONS ARE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED

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UNDERSTANDING THE STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF TWO POPULATIONS IS FUNDAMENTAL IN MANY FIELDS, FROM HEALTHCARE TO SOCIAL SCIENCES, ECONOMICS, AND ENGINEERING. WHEN ANALYZING TWO DATA POPULATIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE POPULATIONS ARE ASSUMED TO BE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED, VARIOUS STATISTICAL METHODS CAN BE EMPLOYED TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DIFFERENCES OBSERVED ARE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT OR DUE TO RANDOM VARIATION. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES HOW TO APPROACH SUCH PROBLEMS SYSTEMATICALLY, FOCUSING ON THE GIVEN DATA POINTS: POPULATION 1 WITH DATA POINTS 19 AND 17, AND POPULATION 2 WITH DATA POINTS 19, 13.8, 46, AND 9. WE WILL REVIEW KEY CONCEPTS, PERFORM RELEVANT CALCULATIONS, AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON INTERPRETING RESULTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF NORMAL DISTRIBUTION ASSUMPTIONS.

UNDERSTANDING THE DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS

BEFORE DIVING INTO CALCULATIONS, IT'S CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE DATA, THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS.

DATA OVERVIEW

- **POPULATION 1:** DATA POINTS ARE 19 AND 17.
- **POPULATION 2:** DATA POINTS ARE 19, 13.8, 46, AND 9.

ASSUMPTION OF NORMALITY

ASSUMING BOTH POPULATIONS ARE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED MEANS WE ACCEPT THAT THEIR DATA FOLLOW A BELL-SHAPED CURVE CHARACTERIZED BY THEIR MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS. THIS ASSUMPTION ALLOWS US TO APPLY PARAMETRIC TESTS SUCH AS THE T-TEST TO COMPARE THE POPULATIONS EFFECTIVELY.

IMPLICATION OF SAMPLE SIZE

- SMALL SAMPLE SIZES (POPULATION 1 HAS ONLY 2 DATA POINTS) MAY LIMIT THE ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES OF POPULATION PARAMETERS.
- POPULATION 2, WITH 4 DATA POINTS, PROVIDES SLIGHTLY MORE INFORMATION BUT STILL REMAINS A SMALL SAMPLE SIZE.
- SMALL SAMPLES CAN AFFECT THE POWER OF HYPOTHESIS TESTS AND THE RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES.

CALCULATING DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR BOTH POPULATIONS

TO COMPARE THE POPULATIONS, WE NEED TO COMPUTE THEIR MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS BASED ON THE GIVEN DATA.

POPULATION 1: MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION

1. **MEAN (M_1):** $\left(\frac{19 + 17}{2} = \frac{36}{2} = 18\right)$

2. **STANDARD DEVIATION (S_1):**

- CALCULATE DEVIATIONS FROM THE MEAN:

- $(19 - 18 = 1)$

- $(17 - 18 = -1)$

- SQUARE DEVIATIONS:

- $(1^2 = 1)$

- $((-1)^2 = 1)$

- SUM OF SQUARED DEVIATIONS: $(1 + 1 = 2)$

- SAMPLE VARIANCE: $\left(\frac{2}{n-1} = \frac{2}{1} = 2\right)$

- STANDARD DEVIATION: $(S_1 = \sqrt{2} \approx 1.414)$

POPULATION 2: MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION

1. **MEAN (M_2):** $\left(\frac{19 + 13.8 + 46 + 9}{4} = \frac{87.8}{4} = 21.95\right)$

2. **STANDARD DEVIATION (S_2):**

- DEVIATIONS FROM THE MEAN:

- $(19 - 21.95 = -2.95)$

- $(13.8 - 21.95 = -8.15)$

- $(46 - 21.95 = 24.05)$

- $(9 - 21.95 = -12.95)$

- SQUARED DEVIATIONS:

- $((-2.95)^2 \approx 8.7025)$

- $((-8.15)^2 \approx 66.4225)$
- $((24.05)^2 \approx 578.4025)$
- $((-12.95)^2 \approx 167.7025)$
- SUM OF SQUARED DEVIATIONS: $(8.7025 + 66.4225 + 578.4025 + 167.7025 \approx 821.23)$
- SAMPLE VARIANCE: $(\frac{821.23}{4 - 1} \approx \frac{821.23}{3} \approx 273.74)$
- STANDARD DEVIATION: $(s_2 = \sqrt{273.74} \approx 16.54)$

CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL TEST

WITH THE DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS IN HAND, THE NEXT STEP IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE POPULATIONS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY. GIVEN THE SMALL SAMPLE SIZES AND NORMAL DISTRIBUTION ASSUMPTION, A TWO-SAMPLE T-TEST IS APPROPRIATE.

TWO-SAMPLE T-TEST OVERVIEW

THE TWO-SAMPLE T-TEST COMPARES THE MEANS OF TWO INDEPENDENT SAMPLES TO SEE IF THEY ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER.

TEST ASSUMPTIONS

- THE TWO POPULATIONS ARE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED.
- THE SAMPLES ARE INDEPENDENT.
- THE VARIANCES ARE EQUAL (HOMOSCEDASTICITY) OR UNEQUAL (HETEROSCEDASTICITY). WE WILL TEST FOR EQUALITY OF VARIANCES.

CALCULATING THE TEST STATISTIC

1. CALCULATE THE POOLED STANDARD DEVIATION IF VARIANCES ARE ASSUMED EQUAL, OR USE WELCH'S T-TEST FORMULA IF VARIANCES ARE UNEQUAL.
2. THE FORMULA FOR THE T-STATISTIC WITH UNEQUAL VARIANCES (WELCH'S TEST):

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

WHERE:

- $(\bar{X}_1, \bar{X}_2)$ ARE SAMPLE MEANS,
- (s_1^2, s_2^2) ARE SAMPLE VARIANCES,
- (n_1, n_2) ARE SAMPLE SIZES.

APPLYING THE FORMULA:

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \frac{18 - 21.95}{\sqrt{\frac{1.414^2}{2} + \frac{16.54^2}{4}}} = \frac{-3.95}{\sqrt{\frac{2}{2} + \frac{273.74}{4}}} = \frac{-3.95}{\sqrt{1 + 68.44}} = \frac{-3.95}{\sqrt{69.44}} \approx \\ &\frac{-3.95}{8.33} \approx -0.474 \end{aligned}$$

DEGREES OF FREEDOM AND P-VALUE CALCULATION

THE DEGREES OF FREEDOM (DF) FOR WELCH'S T-TEST ARE CALCULATED USING THE WELCH-SATTERTHWAITE EQUATION:

$$DF = \frac{\left(\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{\frac{\left(\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} \right)^2}{n_1 - 1} + \frac{\left(\frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{n_2 - 1}}$$

PLUGGING IN THE VALUES:

$$\begin{aligned} DF &= \frac{\left(\frac{2}{2} + \frac{273.74}{4} \right)^2}{\frac{\left(\frac{2}{2} \right)^2}{1} + \frac{\left(\frac{273.74}{4} \right)^2}{3}} = \frac{(1 + 68.44)^2}{\frac{1^2}{1} + \frac{(68.44)^2}{3}} = \frac{(69.44)^2}{1 + \frac{4684.36}{3}} \approx \frac{4826.49}{1 + 1561.45} \\ &\approx \frac{4826.49}{1562.45} \approx 3.09 \end{aligned}$$

SINCE DEGREES OF FREEDOM ARE APPROXIMATELY 3, WE INTERPRET THE P-VALUE ASSOCIATED WITH THE T-STATISTIC OF -0.474 AND $DF \approx 3$.

USING A T-DISTRIBUTION TABLE OR STATISTICAL SOFTWARE, THE TWO-TAILED P-VALUE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.66, INDICATING THAT THE DIFFERENCE IN MEANS IS NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT AT TYPICAL SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE POPULATION PARAMETERS GIVEN FOR POPULATION 1 AND POPULATION 2?

POPULATION 1 HAS A MEAN OF 19 AND A STANDARD DEVIATION OF 17, WHILE POPULATION 2 HAS A MEAN OF 19, A STANDARD DEVIATION OF 13.8, AND A SAMPLE SIZE OF 46.

ARE THE POPULATIONS NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED?

YES, BOTH POPULATIONS ARE ASSUMED TO BE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO THE PROBLEM STATEMENT.

How can I compare the means of these two populations statistically?

You can perform a two-sample z-test or t-test (depending on sample sizes and known variances) to compare the population means.

What is the significance of the sample size 46 in Population 2?

The sample size of 46 affects the standard error and the degrees of freedom in hypothesis testing, impacting the statistical significance of the results.

How do I calculate the standard error for the difference between these two populations?

The standard error of the difference between means is calculated as $\sqrt{\frac{\sigma_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{\sigma_2^2}{n_2}}$, where σ_1 and σ_2 are the standard deviations, and n_1 and n_2 are the sample sizes.

Can I assume equal variances for these populations?

Since the standard deviations differ (17 vs. 13.8), testing for equality of variances is advisable before choosing the appropriate test (pooled vs. unpooled).

What hypothesis tests are suitable for comparing these populations?

A two-sample z-test or t-test for means is suitable, depending on whether population variances are known and assumptions met.

How do I interpret the p-value obtained from the test?

The p-value indicates the probability of observing the data if the null hypothesis (no difference in means) is true. A small p-value suggests significant difference.

What assumptions must be met to validly perform these statistical tests?

Both populations should be normally distributed, and the samples should be independent. The choice of test depends on whether variances are equal and known or unknown.

Additional Resources

I Need Help N Population 1 19 17 Population 2 19 13.8 46 9: An In-Depth Statistical Analysis

The phrase "I Need Help N Population 1 19 17 Population 2 19 13.8 46 9" appears as a cryptic notation but, upon closer examination, it seems to reference a statistical comparison between two populations. These populations are described with specific data points—presumably sample sizes, means, and standard deviations—indicating an intent to analyze whether the two groups differ significantly in some characteristic. This article aims to interpret this data, clarify the underlying statistical concepts, and explore the analytical procedures involved in comparing these two normally distributed populations.

Understanding the Data: Deciphering the Notation

BEFORE DELVING INTO THE ANALYSIS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO INTERPRET WHAT THE GIVEN DATA REPRESENTS. THE NOTATION APPEARS TO BE A SHORTHAND FOR POPULATION PARAMETERS AND SAMPLE STATISTICS, POSSIBLY FORMATTED AS:

- POPULATION 1: SAMPLE SIZE (N) = 19, MEAN = 17 (ASSUMED UNITS)
- POPULATION 2: SAMPLE SIZE (N) = 19, MEAN = 13.8, STANDARD DEVIATION (s) = 46, STANDARD ERROR OR VARIANCE COMPONENT = 9

HOWEVER, THERE ARE AMBIGUITIES, PARTICULARLY THE SEQUENCE "46 9," WHICH COULD REFER TO STANDARD DEVIATIONS, VARIANCES, OR STANDARD ERRORS. TO PROCEED, LET'S ASSUME THE FOLLOWING PLAUSIBLE INTERPRETATION:

- POPULATION 1:
 - SAMPLE SIZE (n_1) = 19
 - SAMPLE MEAN ($\bar{x}_1$) = 17
 - STANDARD DEVIATION (s_1) = NOT EXPLICITLY GIVEN; PERHAPS THE NUMBER 17 IS THE MEAN ONLY.
- POPULATION 2:
 - SAMPLE SIZE (n_2) = 19
 - SAMPLE MEAN ($\bar{x}_2$) = 13.8
 - STANDARD DEVIATION (s_2) = 46
 - ADDITIONAL PARAMETER (POSSIBLY STANDARD ERROR OR VARIANCE COMPONENT) = 9

ALTERNATIVELY, THE NUMBERS COULD BE READ AS:

- POPULATION 1: $N=19$, $MEAN=17$
- POPULATION 2: $N=19$, $MEAN=13.8$
- ADDITIONAL DATA POINTS: 46 AND 9, POSSIBLY STANDARD DEVIATION AND VARIANCE.

GIVEN THE AMBIGUITY, THE MOST REASONABLE ASSUMPTION IS THAT:

- POPULATION 1:
 - $n_1 = 19$
 - MEAN $\bar{x}_1 = 17$
- POPULATION 2:
 - $n_2 = 19$
 - MEAN $\bar{x}_2 = 13.8$
 - STANDARD DEVIATION $s_2 = 46$
- THE NUMBER 9 COULD REPRESENT THE STANDARD ERROR OR A VARIANCE COMPONENT, BUT WITHOUT CLEARER CONTEXT, WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE PRIMARY FOCUS IS COMPARING THESE TWO POPULATIONS WITH THE PROVIDED MEANS, SAMPLE SIZES, AND THE STANDARD DEVIATION FOR POPULATION 2.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS: COMPARING TWO MEANS

STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF TWO POPULATIONS GENERALLY INVOLVES HYPOTHESIS TESTING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEIR MEANS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFER. WHEN BOTH POPULATIONS ARE ASSUMED TO BE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED, AND THE VARIANCES ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, SPECIFIC TESTS ARE USED:

1. INDEPENDENT SAMPLES T-TEST

THE MOST COMMON METHOD FOR COMPARING THE MEANS OF TWO INDEPENDENT, NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED POPULATIONS IS THE INDEPENDENT SAMPLES T-TEST. THIS TEST EVALUATES WHETHER THE OBSERVED DIFFERENCE IN SAMPLE MEANS IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT, CONSIDERING SAMPLE VARIABILITY.

2. ASSUMPTIONS OF THE T-TEST

- BOTH SAMPLES ARE RANDOMLY DRAWN FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE POPULATIONS.
- EACH POPULATION IS NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED.
- THE VARIANCES ARE EITHER EQUAL (HOMOSCEDASTICITY) OR UNEQUAL (HETEROSCEDASTICITY). THE CHOICE AFFECTS WHICH VERSION OF THE T-TEST IS USED.

3. TYPES OF T-TESTS

- EQUAL VARIANCE (POOLED) T-TEST: ASSUMES VARIANCES ARE EQUAL.
- UNEQUAL VARIANCE (WELCH'S) T-TEST: DOES NOT ASSUME EQUAL VARIANCES AND IS MORE ROBUST.

ANALYZING THE DATA: STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

GIVEN THE DATA, THE GOAL IS TO DETERMINE IF THE DIFFERENCE IN MEANS (17 vs. 13.8) IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT. THE STEPS INVOLVE CALCULATING THE TEST STATISTIC, DEGREES OF FREEDOM, AND P-VALUE.

STEP 1: DETERMINE THE STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND STANDARD ERRORS

- FOR POPULATION 1:
- SAMPLE SIZE, $n_1 = 19$
- MEAN, $\bar{x}_1 = 17$
- FOR POPULATION 2:
- SAMPLE SIZE, $n_2 = 19$
- MEAN, $\bar{x}_2 = 13.8$
- STANDARD DEVIATION, $s_2 = 46$

NOTE: THE STANDARD DEVIATION FOR POPULATION 1 IS NOT SPECIFIED; IF UNKNOWN, ASSUMPTIONS MUST BE MADE OR ESTIMATED.

STEP 2: CALCULATE THE STANDARD ERROR OF THE DIFFERENCE

THE STANDARD ERROR (SE) OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEANS IS CALCULATED AS:

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}$$

IF s_1 IS UNKNOWN, IT MIGHT BE ESTIMATED FROM THE DATA OR ASSUMED TO BE SIMILAR TO s_2 . FOR THE PURPOSES OF ILLUSTRATION, LET'S ASSUME s_1 IS APPROXIMATELY 46 AS WELL, GIVEN THE LACK OF DATA.

THUS:

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{46^2}{19} + \frac{46^2}{19}} = \sqrt{2 \times \frac{2116}{19}} = \sqrt{2 \times 111.37} = \sqrt{222.74} \approx 14.93$$

STEP 3: CALCULATE THE T-STATISTIC

THE T-STATISTIC MEASURES HOW MANY STANDARD ERRORS THE OBSERVED DIFFERENCE IN MEANS IS AWAY FROM ZERO:

$$T = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{SE} = \frac{17 - 13.8}{14.93} \approx \frac{3.2}{14.93} \approx 0.214$$

STEP 4: DETERMINE DEGREES OF FREEDOM

USING WELCH'S APPROXIMATION FOR UNEQUAL VARIANCES:

$$DF = \frac{\left(\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{\frac{\left(\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} \right)^2}{n_1 - 1} + \frac{\left(\frac{s_2^2}{n_2} \right)^2}{n_2 - 1}}$$

PLUGGING IN VALUES:

$$DF = \frac{(111.37 + 111.37)^2}{\frac{(111.37)^2}{18} + \frac{(111.37)^2}{18}} = \frac{(222.74)^2}{2 \times \frac{(111.37)^2}{18}} = \frac{49686.4}{2 \times 689.7} \approx \frac{49686.4}{1379.4} \approx 36$$

THUS, THE DEGREES OF FREEDOM ARE APPROXIMATELY 36.

STEP 5: P-VALUE AND INTERPRETATION

USING A T-DISTRIBUTION TABLE OR SOFTWARE:

- WITH $t \approx 0.214$ AND $DF \approx 36$, THE P-VALUE IS QUITE HIGH, INDICATING NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE.

CONCLUSION: THE OBSERVED DIFFERENCE IN MEANS IS NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT AT COMMON SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS (E.G., 0.05). THEREFORE, BASED ON THIS DATA, WE CANNOT REJECT THE NULL HYPOTHESIS THAT THE TWO POPULATION MEANS ARE EQUAL.

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE DATA AND ASSUMPTIONS

WHILE THE ABOVE ANALYSIS PROVIDES A STRUCTURED APPROACH, CERTAIN CAVEATS AND CONSIDERATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:

1. RELIABILITY OF STANDARD DEVIATIONS AND VARIANCES

- THE ASSUMPTION THAT BOTH POPULATIONS HAVE SIMILAR STANDARD DEVIATIONS ($s \approx 46$) MAY BE FLAWED. THE ACTUAL DATA FOR POPULATION 1'S VARIABILITY IS MISSING.
- LARGE STANDARD DEVIATIONS RELATIVE TO THE MEAN DIFFERENCES SUGGEST HIGH VARIABILITY, WHICH DIMINISHES THE LIKELIHOOD OF DETECTING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES.

2. SAMPLE SIZE AND POWER

- BOTH SAMPLES ARE RELATIVELY SMALL ($n=19$), WHICH LIMITS THE STATISTICAL POWER.
- SMALL SAMPLES INCREASE THE RISK OF TYPE II ERRORS—FAILING TO DETECT A DIFFERENCE WHEN ONE EXISTS.

3. NORMALITY ASSUMPTION

- THE ASSUMPTION THAT BOTH POPULATIONS ARE NORMALLY DISTRIBUTED IS CRITICAL FOR THE VALIDITY OF THE T-TEST.
- IF THE DATA DEViate SIGNIFICANTLY FROM NORMALITY, ALTERNATIVE NON-PARAMETRIC TESTS (E.G., MANN-WHITNEY U TEST) MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

4. DATA QUALITY AND CONTEXT

- WITHOUT CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION—SUCH AS WHAT THE POPULATIONS REPRESENT, THE MEASUREMENT UNITS, AND THE PURPOSE OF COMPARISON—INTERPRETATION REMAINS LIMITED.

- THE HIGH STANDARD DEVIATION IN POPULATION 2 COULD INDICATE A MISMEASUREMENT OR A HIGHLY HETEROGENEOUS POPULATION.

IMPLICATIONS AND BROADER PERSPECTIVES

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POPULATIONS IS FUNDAMENTAL IN MANY FIELDS—MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY, ECONOMICS, AND MORE. THE STATISTICAL TOOLS APPLIED HERE ARE CRITICAL FOR EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING.

- IN RESEARCH: RECOGNIZING WHETHER OBSERVED DIFFERENCES ARE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT GUIDES CONCLUSIONS ABOUT EFFECTS OR RELATIONSHIPS.
- IN POLICY AND PRACTICE: DECISIONS BASED ON STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE HELP ALLOCATE RESOURCES, IMPLEMENT INTERVENTIONS, OR REVISE THEORIES.

THE EXAMPLE UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION, APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL TESTING, AND CAUTIOUS INTERPRETATION. IT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS HOW LARGE VARIABILITY CAN OBSCURE REAL DIFFERENCES

I Need Help N Population 1 19 17 Population 2 19 13 8 46 9 Assume That Both Populations Are Normaly Distributed

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