

Literary Digest 1936 “survey”

Data description: numerical or graphical, no inference

D: What are we interested in?: location, spread, shape

Notation: Σ : sum, X_i : i'th observation

Graphical portrayals of the data:

dot plots, histograms, box plots

Numerical measures:

E: Location: mean: $\bar{X} = \Sigma X_i/n$, median: 1/2 above, 1/2 below

How choose?

traditional: do what your group has always done

better: does it matter? symmetric distributions: no. use mean: more precise

if does: what's the question? total \Rightarrow mean, typical individual \Rightarrow median.

F: Spread:

sample variance: $s^2 = \Sigma(X_i - \bar{X})^2/(n - 1)$

standard deviation: $s = \sqrt{\text{Variance}}$

coefficient of variation, cv: s/\bar{X} , measures relative variation.

G: Inference: two types: Confidence interval, hypothesis test

Can be based on how the data were collected (design-based inference)

Or on a probability model for the data (model-based inference)

Spoiler: multiple opinions and lots of controversy.

Lots of tricky epistemological and practical issues. I give the traditional approach

H: Hypothesis test:

Assume something (null hypothesis) and ask whether observations are unusual

p-value: probability of observing data or something more extreme given null hypothesis

Does not prove null hypothesis or show that alternative more probable than null.

Scale of evidence: Display 2.12

$p > 0.10$: no evidence against null, (not: "null is true", e.g., not: "X has no effect")

$0.05 < p < 0.10$: weak evidence for the alternative

$0.01 < p < 0.05$: (moderate) evidence for the alternative

$0.001 < p < 0.01$: strong evidence for the alternative

$p < 0.001$: (convincing) very strong evidence for the alternative

"All we know about the world teaches us that the effects of A and B are always different - in some decimal place - for any A and B. Thus asking "are the effects different?" is foolish" (John Tukey)

I: Randomization test: design-based inference

randomly reassign labels, compute S = statistic of interest (e.g., difference in means)

$p = P[\text{observed } S \text{ as or more extreme than random } S]$, e.g.,

Compare means of two populations, choose $S = |\bar{Y}_A - \bar{Y}_B|$

$p = P[\text{observed } |\bar{Y}_A - \bar{Y}_B| \geq \text{random } |\bar{Y}_A - \bar{Y}_B|]$