

Analysis of Quantitative data Introduction

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Outline of this section

- Assumptions for parametric data
- Comparing two means: **Student's** *t*-test
- Comparing more than 2 means
 - One factor: **One-way ANOVA**
 - Two factors: **Two-way ANOVA**
- Relationship between 2 continuous variables: **Correlation**

Introduction

- Key concepts to always keep in mind
 - Null hypothesis and error types
 - Statistics inference
 - Signal-to-noise ratio

The null hypothesis and the error types

- The null hypothesis (H₀): H₀ = no effect
 - e.g. no difference between 2 genotypes
- The aim of a statistical test is to reject or not H_{0.}

Statistical decision	True state of H _o	
	H _o True (no effect)	H ₀ False (effect)
Reject H _o	Type I error αFalse Positive	Correct True Positive
Do not reject H ₀	Correct True Negative	Type II error βFalse Negative

- Traditionally, a test or a difference is said to be "significant" if the probability of type I error is: α =< 0.05
- High specificity = low False Positives = low Type I error
- High sensitivity = low False Negatives = low Type II error



Signal-to-noise ratio

• Stats are all about understanding and controlling variation.



- signal If the noise is low then the signal is detectable ...
- noise = statistical significance
- <u>signal</u> ... but if the noise (i.e. interindividual variation) is large
 then the same signal will not be detected
 = no statistical significance
- In a statistical test, the ratio of signal to noise determines the significance.

Analysis of Quantitative Data

- Choose the correct statistical test to answer your question:
 - They are 2 types of statistical tests:
 - **Parametric tests** with 4 assumptions to be met by the data,
 - <u>Non-parametric tests</u> with no or few assumptions (e.g. Mann-Whitney test) and/or for qualitative data (e.g. Fisher's exact and χ^2 tests).

Assumptions of Parametric Data

• All parametric tests have 4 basic assumptions that must be met for the test to be accurate.

First assumption: Normally distributed data

- Normal shape, bell shape, Gaussian shape



• Transformations can be made to make data suitable for parametric analysis.

Assumptions of Parametric Data

- Frequent departures from normality:
 - <u>Skewness</u>: lack of symmetry of a distribution



- <u>Kurtosis</u>: measure of the degree of 'peakedness' in the distribution
 - The two distributions below have the same variance approximately the same skew, but differ markedly in kurtosis.



More peaked distribution: kurtosis > 0

Flatter distribution: kurtosis < 0



(e) Platykurtic and leptokurtic

Assumptions of Parametric Data

Second assumption: Homoscedasticity (Homogeneity in variance)

• The variance should not change systematically throughout the data

Third assumption: Interval data (linearity)

• The distance between points of the scale should be equal at all parts along the scale.

Fourth assumption: Independence

- Data from different subjects are independent
 - Values corresponding to one subject do not influence the values corresponding to another subject.
 - Important in repeated measures experiments

Analysis of Quantitative Data

- Is there a difference between my groups regarding the variable I am measuring?
 - e.g. are the mice in the group A heavier than those in group B?
 - Tests with 2 groups:
 - Parametric: Student's t-test
 - Non parametric: Mann-Whitney/Wilcoxon rank sum test
 - Tests with more than 2 groups:
 - Parametric: Analysis of variance (one-way and two-way ANOVA)
 - Non parametric: Kruskal Wallis (one-way ANOVA equivalent)
- Is there a relationship between my 2 (continuous) variables?
 - e.g. is there a relationship between the daily intake in calories and an increase in body weight?
 - Test: **Correlation** (parametric or non-parametric)