Empirical Research Methods in Information Science

<u>IS 4800 / CS6350</u>

Lecture 11

Outline

- Reading assessment
- Homework I4 questions

and with a share the state

- Surveys
- Sampling
- Chi-square

- Design a new composite self-report measure (e.g. "homework procrastination") ... but your own idea
- Assume it only has one factor, but use at least five scale items
- Incorporate information from at least one literature reference

 Assess the face and content validity of your measure and work through a bivariate analysis of your items

 Implement questionnaire on surveymonkey.com or Google forms

 Decide on one method for assessing validity (besides face & content) for your measure that you can also assess in a self-report questionnaire. This should be an additional question (or an additional previously validated composite measure) on your survey and should provide a numeric measure

- Post your questionnaire on Piazza
- You are obligated to reply to any questionnaires posted within 48 h!
- Compute the reliability (internal consistency) of your measure using Python
- Compute descriptive statistics for your measure and any other items you may have included on the questionnaire

- Assess the validity of your measure (you can do this qualitatively, e.g., using scatterplots)
- Document and submit all of the above
- You may work individually or in teams of two
- Due 2/20

Developing a new measure

 Say you decide you need a new survey measure, "attitude towards large computer monitors" (ATLCM)

- I like big monitors.
- Big monitors make me nervous.
- I prefer small monitors, even if they cost more.
- 7-pt Likert scales

How would you validate this measure?

Overall process to de composite measure

- Identify factors
- Identify items

"Attitude towards large computer monitors" (ATLCM) -I like big monitors. -Big monitors make me nervous. -I prefer small monitors, even if they cost more.

-7-pt Likert scales

- Face and content validity for each item
- Check response variance for each item (Check floor/ceiling effects)
- Bi-variate analysis
- Test reliability
- Test validity



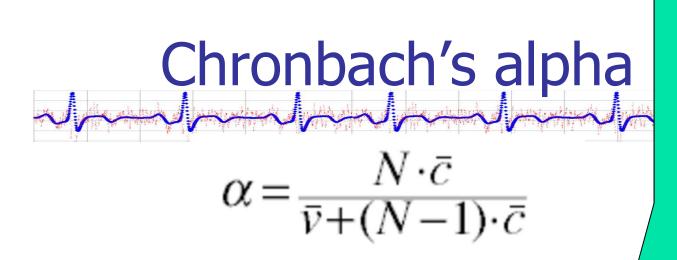
Chronbach's alpha

- Measure of internal consistency
 - Not homogeneity
 - Not unidimensionality (assumes all items measure single dimension ... test multidimensionality using factor analysis)
- Function of the number of test items and the average inter-correlation among the items
- Average of all possible split halves

Chronbach's alpha

 Be careful what you report! "Reliability of the subscale scores was..."
 (*Not* "Reliability of the subscale was...")

 May have been superseded by omega (available in R, looking for Python implementation)



- N = number of items
- c-bar is the average intection of covariance among the items
- v-bar equals the average variance ("Standardized alpha" based on correlations instead of covariance)

- Increase # items, increase alpha
- If average interitem correlation is low, alpha will be low. As the average inter-item covariance increases, Cronbach's alpha increases as well (holding the number of items constant).

Cronbach's alpha

negate reverse-coded items first...

- Scores
 - .00 (no consistency) to 1.0 (perfect)
 - .70 (70% of variance reliable variance) Commonly cited as acceptable (Something important, might want .90+)
- See Python guide to compute...

Increasing the reliability of a composite questionnaire

- Increase the number of items on your questionnaire
- Standardize the conditions under which the test is administered (e.g., timing procedures, lighting, ventilation, instructions)
- Make sure you score your questionnaire carefully, eliminating scoring errors

Increasing the reliability of a composite questionnaire

- Check to be sure the items on your questionnaire are clearly written and appropriate for those who will complete your questionnaire
- Assess reliability with each item dropped (In R, see:

https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/psych/psych.pdf

Questionnaire administration & results analysis

- Mail survey
 - A questionnaire is mailed directly to participants
 - Convenient
 - Nonresponse bias is a serious problem resulting in an unrepresentative sample

- Mail survey
- Internet survey
 - Distributed via e-mail or on a website
 - Large samples can be acquired quickly
 - Biased samples are possible because of uneven computer ownership across demographic groups
 - Check out surveymonkey.com or Qualtrics

- Mail survey
- Internet survey
- Telephone survey
 - Participants are contacted by telephone and asked questions directly
 - Questions must be asked carefully
 - The plethora of "junk calls" may make participants suspicious

- Mail survey
- Internet survey
- Telephone survey
- Group administration
 - A questionnaire is distributed to a group of participants at once (e.g., a class)
 - Completed by participants simultaneously
 - Ensuring anonymity may be a problem

- Mail survey
- Internet survey
- Telephone survey
- Group administration
- Interview
 - Participants asked questions face-to-face
 - Characteristics/behavior of the interviewer may affect the participants' responses

Mechanical Turk



Invented by Hungarian engineer and inventor Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen in 1769.

Photo a reconstructed version by John Gaughan.

Mechanical Turk

- Amazon Mechanical Turk: crowdsourcing tool
- People perform small tasks for micropayments
- Developed by Peter Cohen at Amazon for its internal use (find duplicates in webpages in 2005)
- Boon for certain type of research projects

MTurk payment

- 2017 paper:
 - Median hourly wage: ~\$2/h
 - Only 4% earned more than \$7.25/h
 - Average requester pays more thank \$11/h
 - But lower-paying requesters post more work

Hara et al. "A Data-Driven Analysis of Worker's Earnings on Amazon Mechanical Turk," CHI 2018.

Mechanical Turk

Introduction | Dashboard | Status | Account Settings

HITS

Oualifications

Your Account

Mechanical Turk is a marketplace for work.

We give businesses and developers access to an on-demand, scalable workforce. Workers select from thousands of tasks and work whenever it's convenient.

334,267 HITs available. View them now.

Make Money by working on HITs

1 18

amazon mechanical turk

Artificial Artificial Intelligence

HITs - Human Intelligence Tasks - are individual tasks that you work on. Find HITs now.

As a Mechanical Turk Worker you:

- Can work from home
- · Choose your own work hours
- Get paid for doing good work



Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITs - Human Intelligence Tasks - and get results using Mechanical Turk Register Now

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Ramesh Radhakrishna | Account Settings | Sign Out | Help

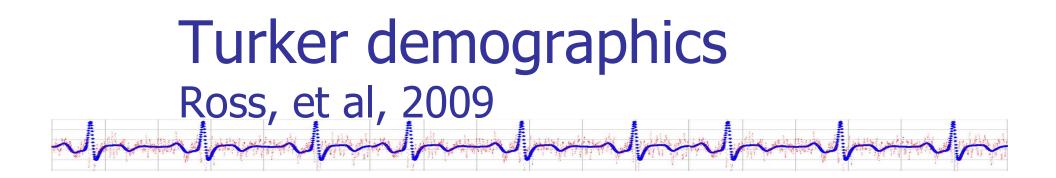
As a Mechanical Turk Requester you:

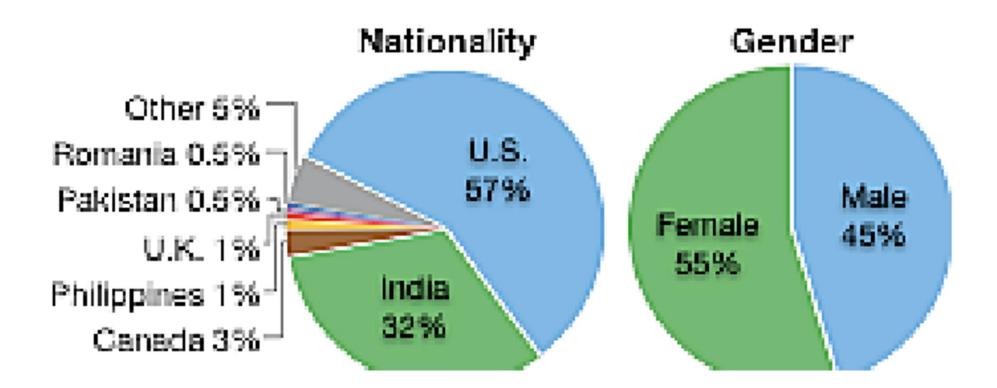
- Have access to a global, on-demand, 24 x 7 workforce
- Get thousands of HITs completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results



 Click
 Log into/create a new Amazon account
 Tadaaaaa. You can start creating HITs.

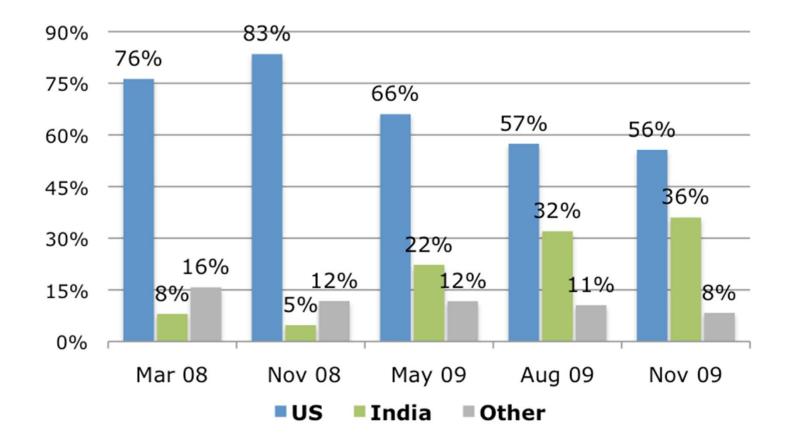
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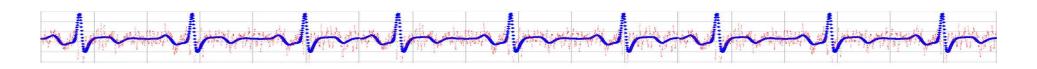


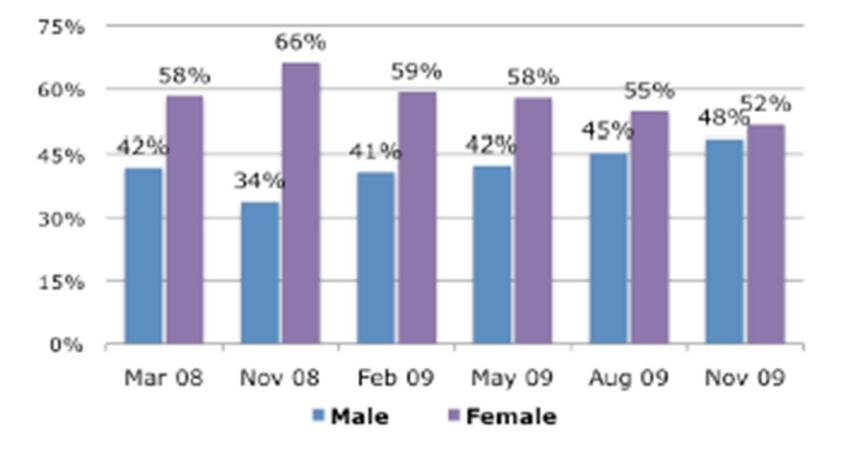
Turk: Demographics

Ross, et al, CHI 2010, Who are the Crowdworkers? Shifting Demographics in Mechanical Turk

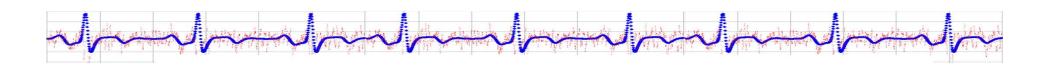


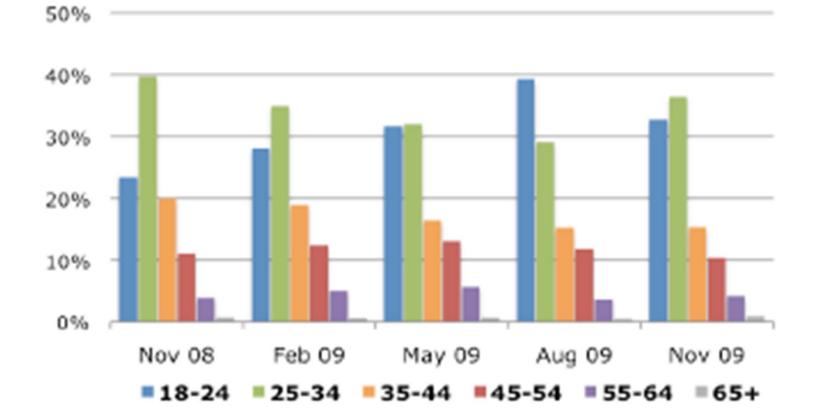
Turk: Demographics





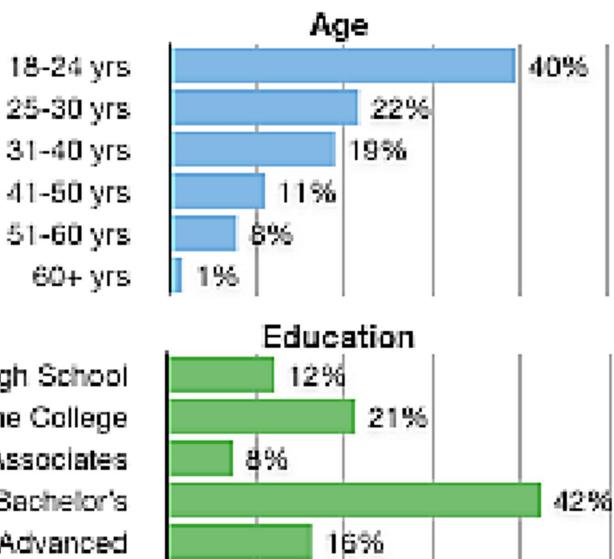
Turk: Demographics

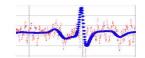




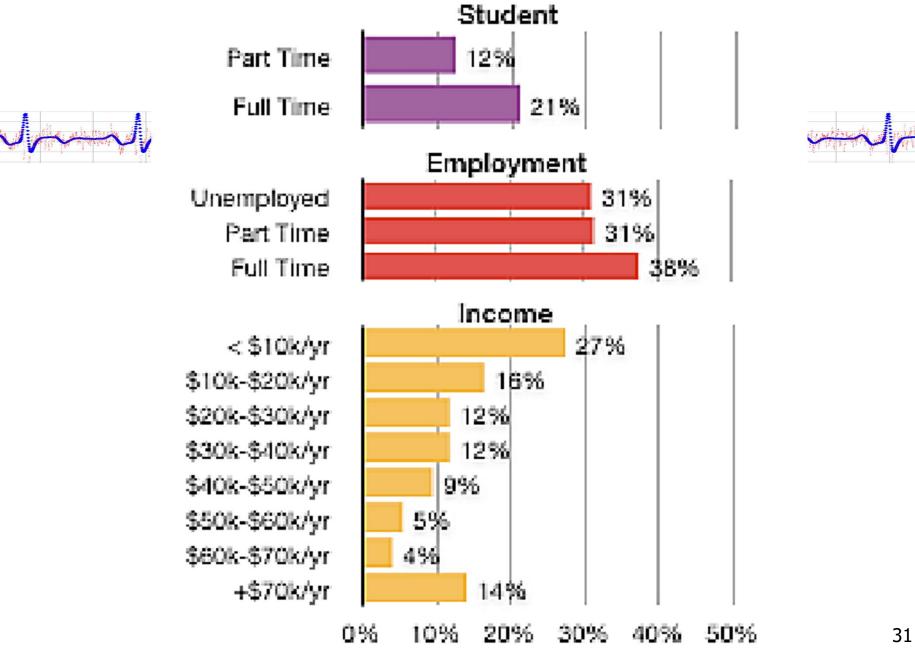
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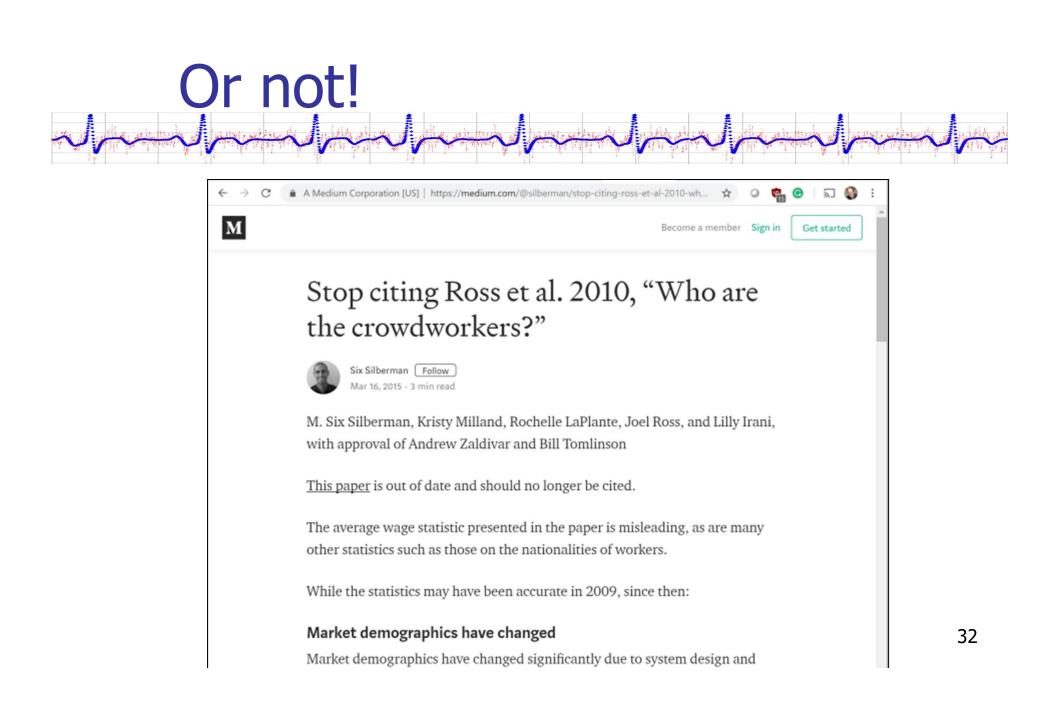




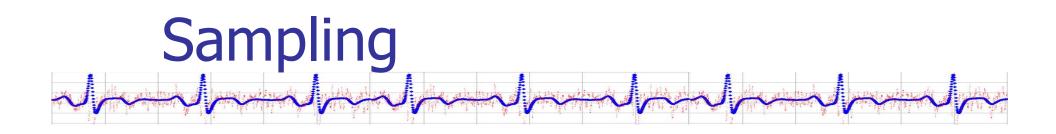


High School Some College Associates Bachelor's Advanced





In general, personal techniques (interview, phone) provide higher response rates, but are more expensive and may suffer from bias problems



Sampling

 Sometimes you really can measure the entire population (e.g., workgroup, company), but this is rare...

 "Convenience sample"
 Cases are selected only on the basis of feasibility or ease of data collection

Acquiring a survey sample

- Obtain a *representative sample* Sample closely matches population characteristics
- A biased sample occurs when your sample characteristics don't match population characteristics
 - Produce misleading or inaccurate results
 - Usually stem from inadequate sampling procedures

- Simple random sampling
 - Randomly select a sample from the population
 - Random digit dialing is a variant used with telephone surveys
 - Reduces systematic bias, but does not guarantee a representative sample
 - Some segments of the population may be overor underrepresented

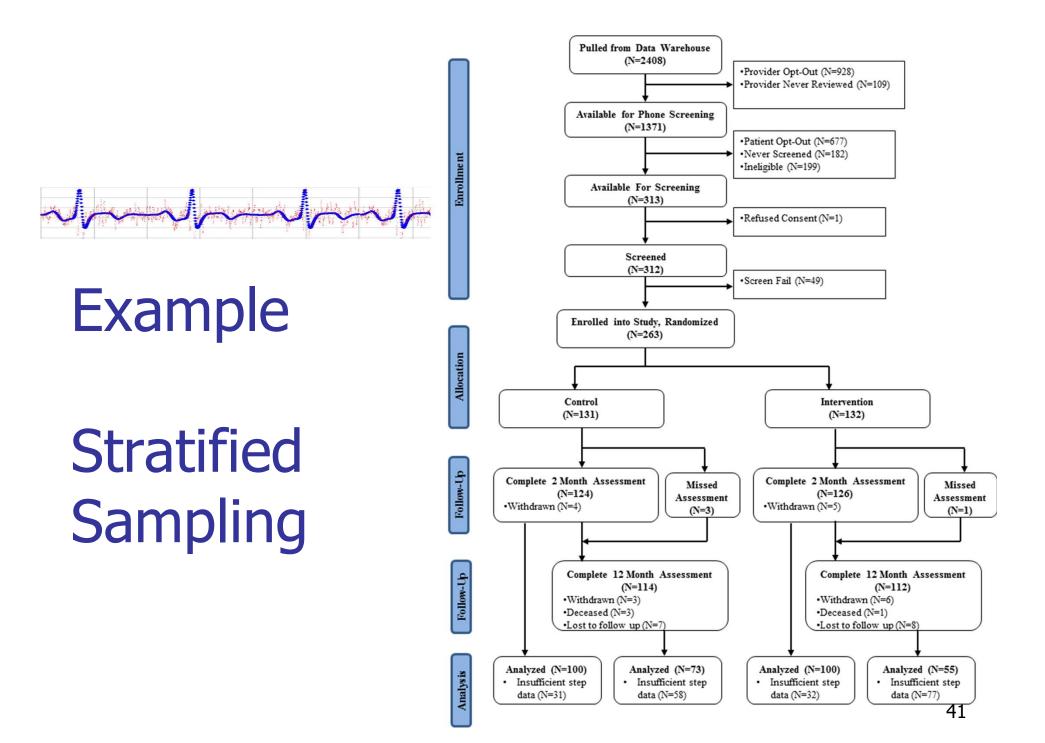
- Simple random sampling
- Systematic sampling
 - Every kth element is sampled after a randomly selected starting point

E.g., sample every 5th name in the telephone book after a random page/start point

- Empirically equivalent to random sampling, but not always
- Easier than random sampling

- Simple random sampling
- Systematic sampling
- Stratified sampling
 - Used to obtain a representative sample
 - Population divided into (demographic) strata
 - Focus also on variables that are related to other variables of interest in your study (e.g., relationship between age and computer literacy)
 - A random sample of a fixed size is drawn from each stratum
 - May still lead to over- or underrepresentation of certain segments of the population

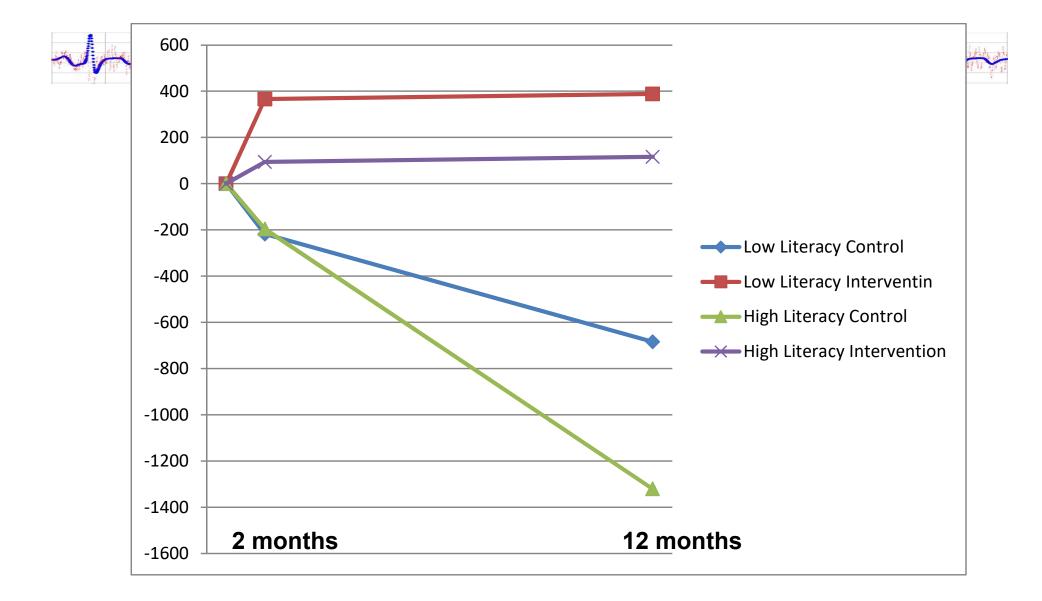
- Simple random sampling
- Systematic sampling
- Stratified sampling
- Proportionate sampling
 - Same as stratified sampling except that the proportions of different groups in the population are reflected in the samples from the strata



Low Literacy Geriatrics Pts NIA R01, N=263, 55+



Low Literacy Geriatrics Pts



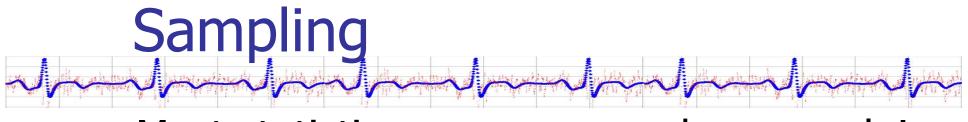
Sampling example:

You want to conduct a survey of job satisfaction of all employees but can only afford to contact 100 of them

- Personnel breakdown:
 - 50% Engineering
 - 25% Sales & Marketing
 - 15% Admin
 - 10% Management
- Examples of
 - Stratified sampling?
 - Proportionate sampling?

- Cluster Sampling
 - Used when populations are very large
 - The unit of sampling is a group (e.g., a class in a school) rather than individuals
 - Groups are randomly sampled from the population (e.g., ten classes from a particular school)

- Cluster sampling
- Multistage sampling
 - Variant of cluster sampling
 - First, identify large clusters (e.g., school districts) and randomly sample from that population
 - Second, sample individuals from randomly selected clusters
 - Can be used along with stratified sampling to ensure a representative sample
 - Note: Multilevel, hierarchical statistical analysis can tease apart differences: individual vs. cluster 46



Most statistics assume a random sample!

Sample size

 In all empirical research, you should motivate your sample size

- B&A Ch 9 provide formula for estimating sample size for binomial descriptive studies.
 - For binomial (two category) measures
 - Based on
 - Amount of acceptable sampling error
 - Expected magnitude of population proportions

Sample size

• You should try to select an *economic sample*

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- Includes enough respondents to ensure a valid survey and no more
- Two factors are taken into account when determining necessary sample size
 - Amount of acceptable sampling error
 - Expected magnitude of population proportions
- Formula to calculate sample size using the above parameters



- How would you do hypothesis testing?
- Kinds of errors?
- Which are worse?

A typical scenario

- Between-subject design
- Let every subject try both Wizziword & Word
- Measure performance
- Research Hypothesis:
 - Wizziword is better

What if ...

 You can test every subject in your population, AND

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- There is no measurement error?
- Nothing else that could cause "error variance"
- \rightarrow
- Compute descriptives for two treatments
- If Wizziword perf > Word perf conclude H1 is supported
- No uncertainty, No 'p' value

Basic Process of Hypothesis Testing

- H1: Research Hypothesis:
 - Population 1 is different than Population 2
- H0: Null Hypothesis:
 - No difference between Pop 1 and Pop 2
 - The difference is "null"
- Compute p(observed difference/H0)
 - `p' = probability observed difference is due to random variation
- If p<*threshold* then reject H0 => accept H1
 - p typically set to 0.05 for most work
 - p is called the "level of significance"



How surprising would this result be if there really were no difference?

Why do things this way???

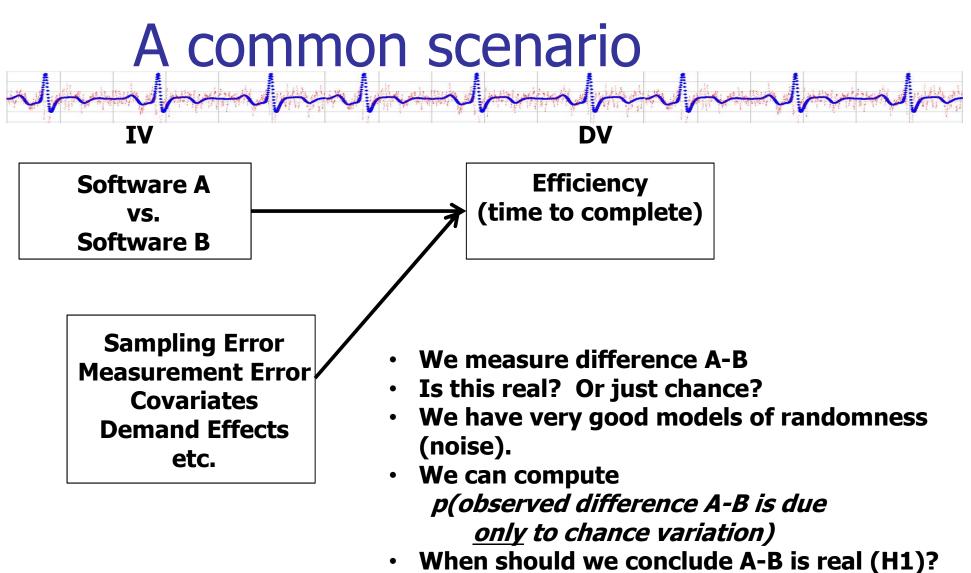
The grand plan

- X^2 tests
 - For nominal measures
 - Can apply to a single measure
- Correlation tests
 - For two numeric measures
- t-test for independent means
 - For categorical IV, numeric DV

Hypothesis Testing

How can we tell if our hunches about the world are right?

- Step 3 of the scientific method
- How can we do this in the face of sampling error, measurement error, and extraneous variables?



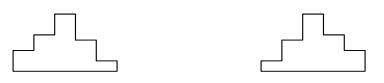
What can we conclude otherwise (H0)? 58

What if ...

 You can test every subject in your population, AND

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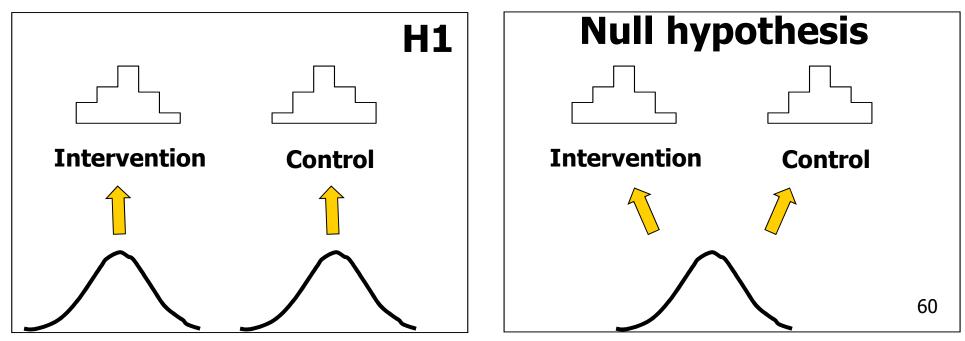
- There is no measurement error? AND
- There are no covariates or other noise?
- \rightarrow
- Compute descriptives for two treatments
- If Software A Efficiency > Software B Efficiency conclude H1 is supported
- No uncertainty, p=0.0



Intervention

Control

The big question: which is correct?



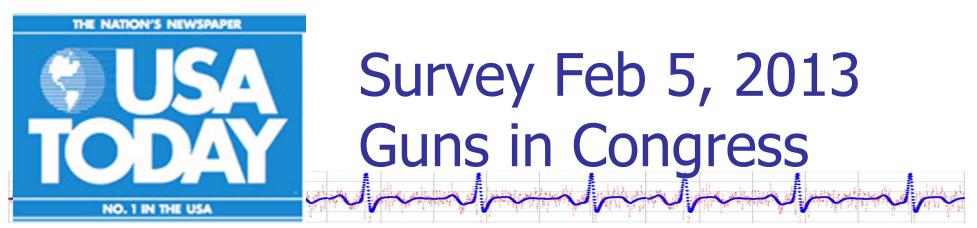
Basic Process of Hypothesis Testing

H1: Research Hypothesis:

- Population 1 is different than Population 2 on some measure
- H0: Null Hypothesis:
 - No difference between Pop 1 and Pop 2
 - The difference is "null"
- Compute *p(observed difference/H0)*
 - `p' = probability observed difference is due to random variation
- If p<*threshold* then reject H0 => accept H1
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The plan for hypothesis testing

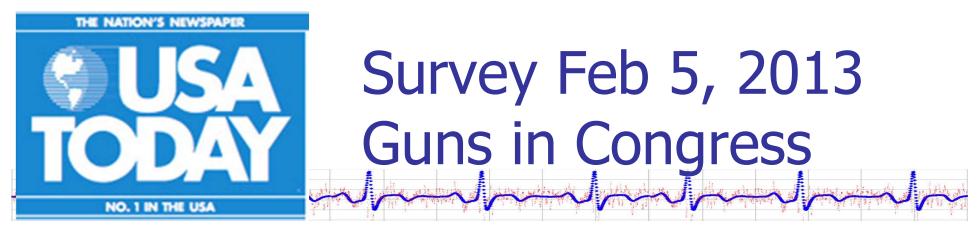
- X² tests
 - For 1 or 2 nominal measures
- Correlation tests
 - For two numeric measures
- t-test for independent means
 - For categorical IV, numeric DV



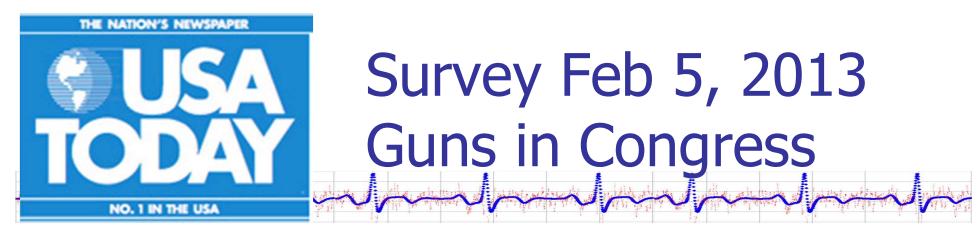
- How many members of congress own guns?
- Dataset:

Title Member Party State GunOwner NRAGrade

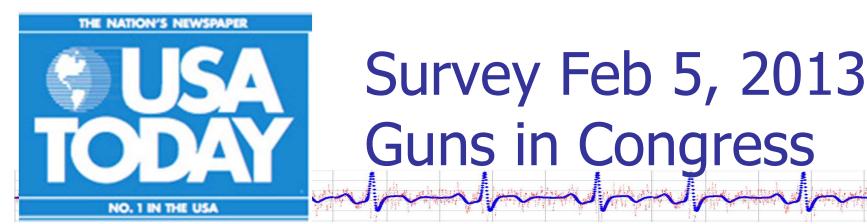
531 seated members 165 Yes, 147 No, 219 "no comment"



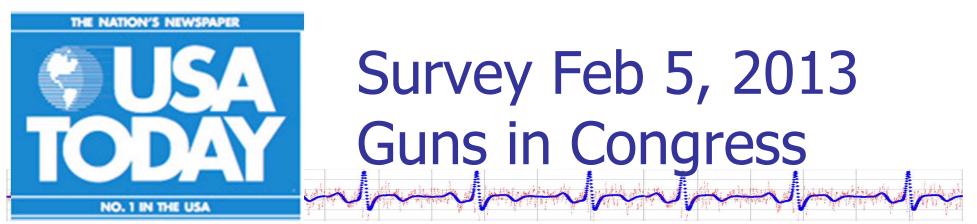
- Question: Is congressional gun ownership greater than US national gun ownership?
 - 32% of households have guns
 - 2010 data, 2011 study University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center
 - Note: rate of individual ownership is less
 - Congress: 165 Yes, 147 No



- Question: Is the rate of congressional gun ownership greater than the US national gun ownership rate?
- US: 32% Congress: 55%
 - Based on percentages, yes.
- Are congressional members representative of US households wrt gun ownership?
- If we were to take a random sample of 312 US households, how likely would we be to see this outcome?



- Null Hypothesis (H₀): distribution of gun ownership in congress = distribution of gun ownership in US households.
- Research Hypothesis (H₁): distribution of gun ownership in congress ≠ distribution of gun ownership in US households.
- Inferential statistics: What is the probability of drawing a sample from US households that has the rate of gun ownership observed in congress?
 - What is p(H₁|H₀) ?



- Significance:
 - How small does p(H₁|H₀) need to be before we say that congress is really different?
 - Convention: $p(H_1|H_0) <= 0.05$
 - "Level of significance" $\alpha = 0.05$
- How to compute $p(H_1|H_0)$?
 - Chi square distribution....

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 - p is called the "level of significance"



How surprising would this result be if there really were no difference?

Why do things this way???

Terminology Soup

- Descriptive statistics = describing state of the world
- Inferential statistics = Hypothesis testing
 - When you only have access to a sample, or want to account for other kinds of noise
- Univariate analysis/statistics = statistics on only one variable (DV) at a time
- Multivariate analysis/statistics = statistics
 on more than one variable (DV) at a time⁷⁰

Basic Process of Hypothesis Testing

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Examples

- Research Question:
 - Which is better, Guitar Hero or Rock Band?
- Research Question:
 - Is the ownership of Wii vs. Xbox consoles significantly different among NU students compared to ownership in the general US population?
- Research Question:
 - Are Wii owners more likely to own Guitar Hero vs. Rock Band, compared to Xbox owners?

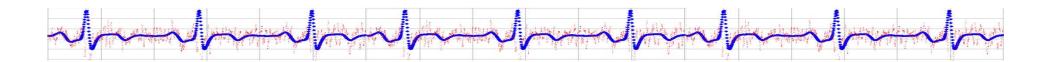


"The Truth"

Your conclusion Accept H1	H1 False H1 True	
	Type I Error	Correct Decision
Reject H1	Correct Decision	Type II Error

`p' = Probability of Type I Error

Chi-Square for Goodness of Fit



Is an observed frequency distribution significantly different from an expected distribution?

Chi-Square for Goodness of Fit

- Assumes
 - 1. You have a nominal variable
 - Values are exhaustive & mutually-exclusive

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- 2. You have an *Expected Frequency* table for the nominal variable
- 3. None of the expected frequencies are "too small" (≥5)
- 4. Random sampling

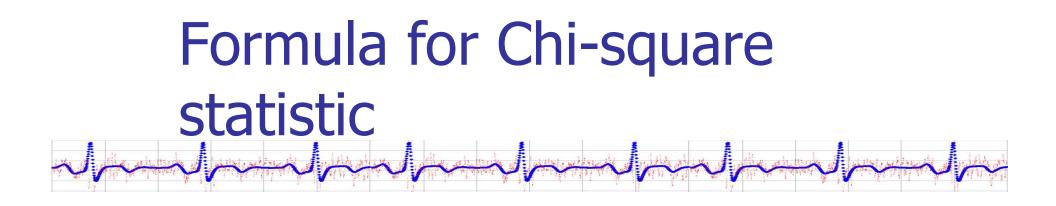
Chi-Square for Goodness of Fit

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- Form of null hypothesis H0?
 - Observed frequency = Expected frequency
 - Populations (expected, observed) are actually the same on the nominal measure of interest
- Form of hypothesis H1?
 - Observed frequency ≠ Expected frequency
 - Populations (expected, observed) are different

Procedure for Hypothesis Testing with Chi-square

- Formulate your research hypothesis (including statement of expected frequencies)
- 2. Determine hypothesis test parameters
 - significance threshold
- 3. Collect your data
- 4. Compute Chi-Square statistic and draw conclusion



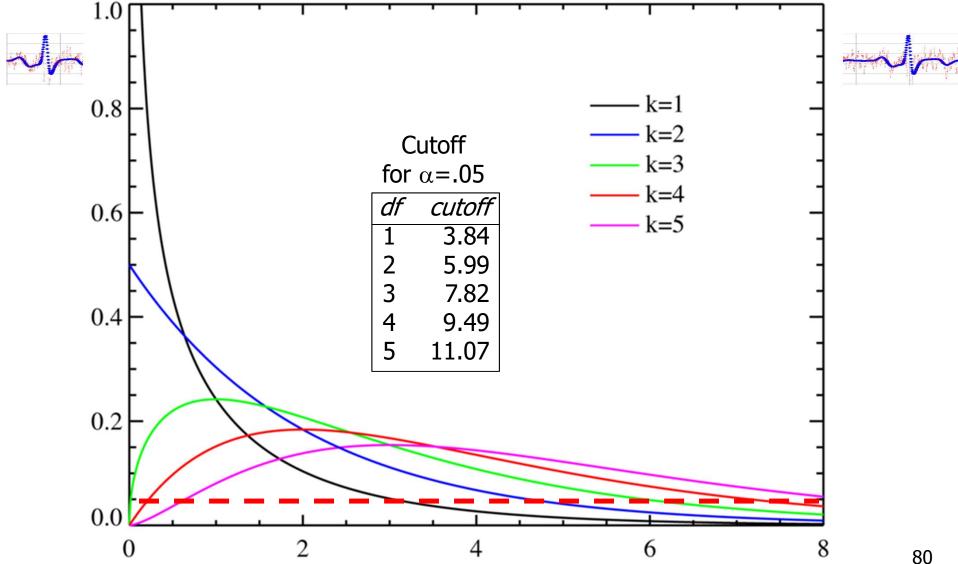
$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

- O = Observed frequency for a given category
- E = Expected frequency for a given category
- Note: "statistic" is a function you apply to a set of data (in a statistical analysis)

Computing Chi-square

- Manually:
 - Determine df (= num categories 1)
 - Compute Chi-square using formula
 - Lookup to see if statistic>table entry for significance,df
 - If yes => reject H0
 - If no => inconclusive

Chi-square probability distribution



Reporting result

 $X^{2}(df) = chisq, p < sigthresh$

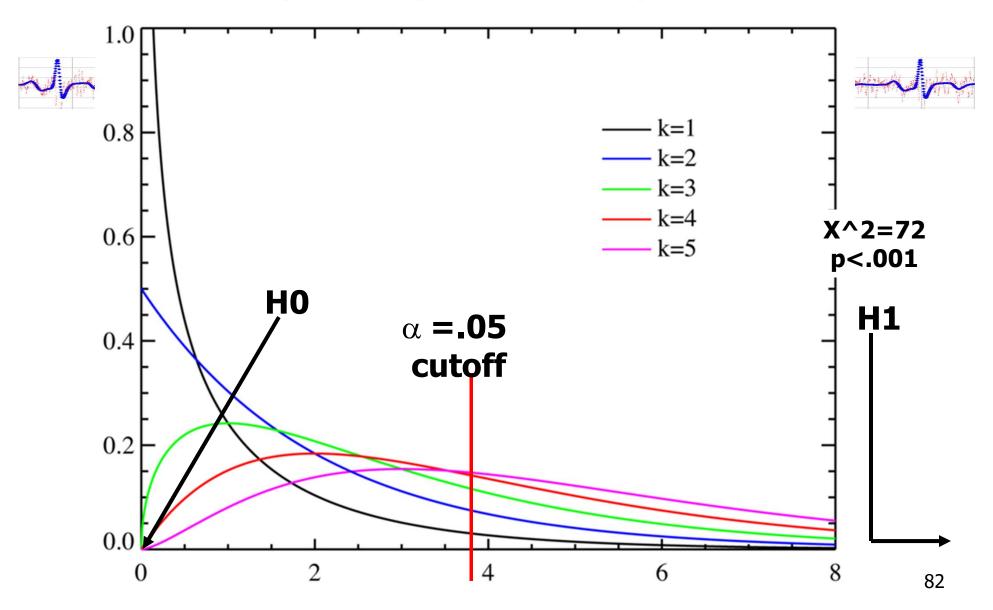
Where,

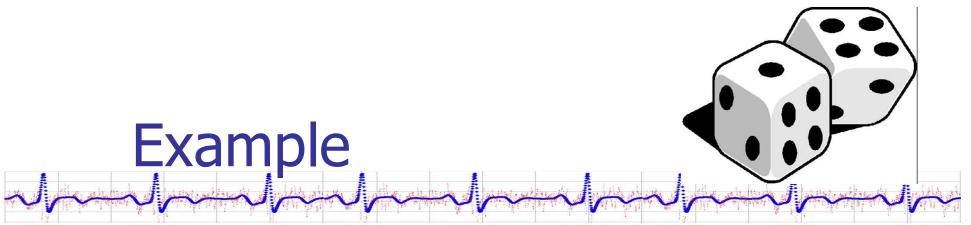
- df = degrees of freedom
- sigthresh = pre-defined significance threshold
 - Note: if p<<sigthresh, can report that as well, e.g., "p<.01", "p=.001"

For example: $X^2(2) = 11.89, p < 0.05$

If not significant, than use "n.s." instead of "p<...". Usually also report expected and actual frequencies, or at a minimum, the total number of cases considered (aka "n").

Chi-square probability distribution



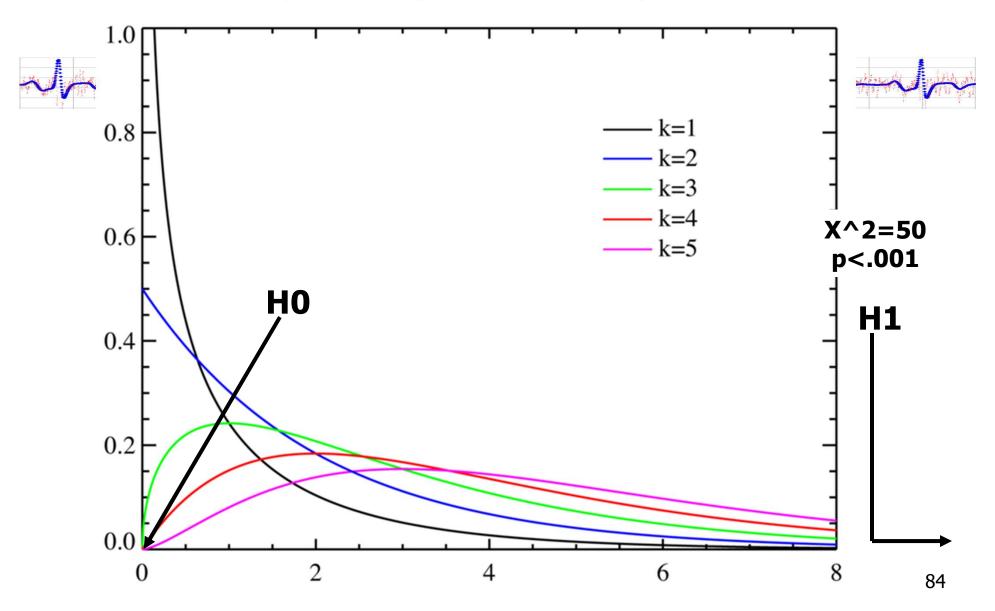


- You go gambling in a shady casino, and suspect that the games are rigged.
- You focus your attention on one 6-sided die being used in a game and keep track of 60 rolls:

Roll	1	2	3	4	5	6
Count	6	5	7	9	3	30

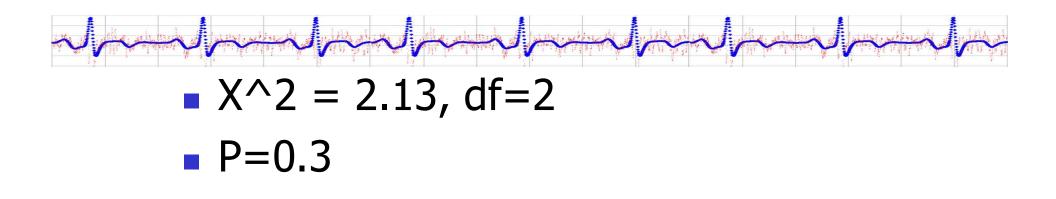
Is the die "loaded"?

Chi-square probability distribution



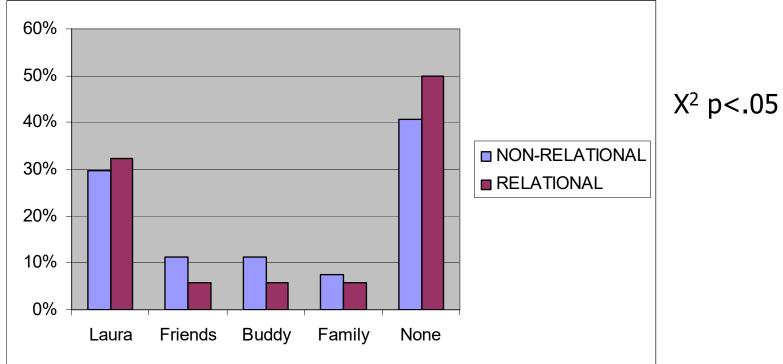
Example Market share in US is: 96% PC; 3% Macintosh; 1% Linux

- You do a survey in your company and find the following user breakdown:
 440 PC; 9 Mac; 3 Linux
- Is your company weird?

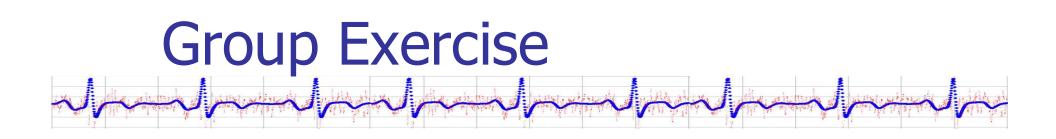


Relational Results All Subjects





What do you do if you don't have any information to base Expected frequencies on?



Group Exercise

For each problem, write

- 1. Two populations being compared
- 2. Research hypothesis
- 3. Null hypothesis
- 4. Test criteria
- 5. Expected frequencies
- 6. Observed frequencies
- 7. Test results
 - publication format and
 - English

Cutoff		
for	α=.05	
df	cutoff	
1	3.84	
2	5.99	
3	7.82	
4	9.49	
5	11.07	

Chi-square Goodness of Fit test

Which of the following is it appropriate?

- Descriptive study designs
- Demonstration study designs
- Correlational study designs
- Experimental study designs



- The results returned are the Chi Square statistic, and the p value. Optionally enter the degrees of freedom, ddof. from scipy.stats
- import chisquare
- observed= [16, 18, 16, 14, 12, 12]
- expected= [16, 16, 14, 15, 13, 12]
- ddof = 2
- chisquare(observed, expected, ddof)

>>> (2.0, 0.84914503608460956)

Note: If you don't supply an expected distribution, it will use a default equal distribution...



Chi-Square Test for Independence

Are two variables related (H1), or are they independent (H0)?

- Assumptons
 - Both variables must be nominal.
 - Cannot be related in a 'special' way (i.e., repeated measures)
 - Random sampling assumed

Chi-square Test for Independence

Which of the following is it appropriate?

- Descriptive study designs
- Demonstration study designs
- Correlational study designs
- Experimental study designs

Example from chapter

Morning & night people using different modes of transportation.

What kind of table is this?



	Bus	Carpool	Own Car
Morning	60	30	30
Night	20	20	40

What kind of study is this?

Correlational

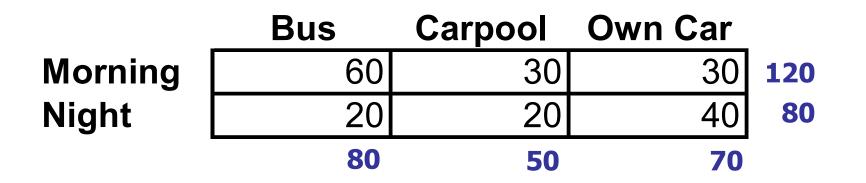
Expected frequencies if variables are independent

- E = (R x C)/N for each cell
 - R = row count
 - C = column count
 - N = total number in all cells

	Bus	Carpool	Own Car
Morning	60	30	30
Night	20	20	40

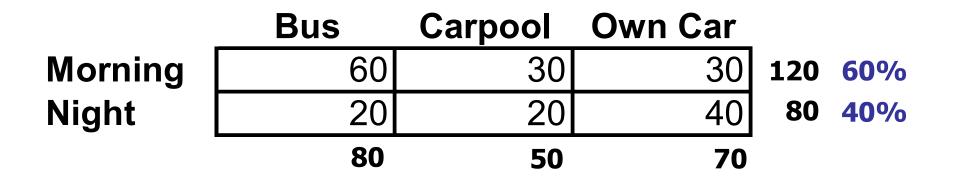


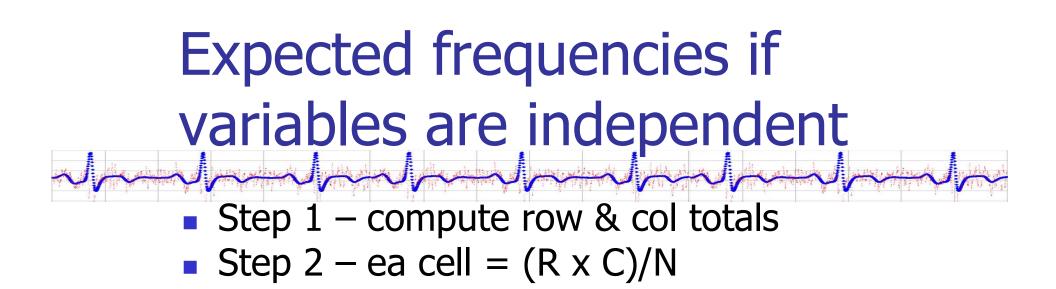
Step 1 – compute row & col totals

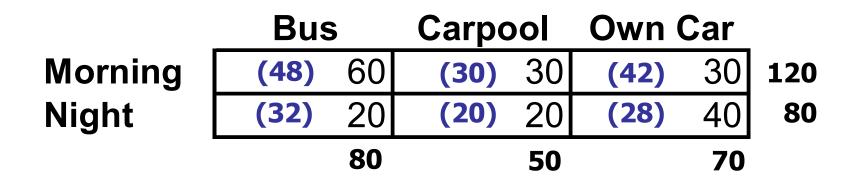


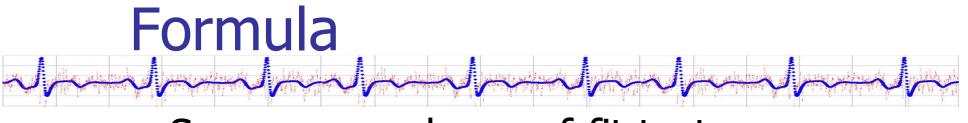
Expected frequencies if variables are independent

- Step 1 compute row & col totals
- Step 2 compute row %









Same as goodness-of-fit test.

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

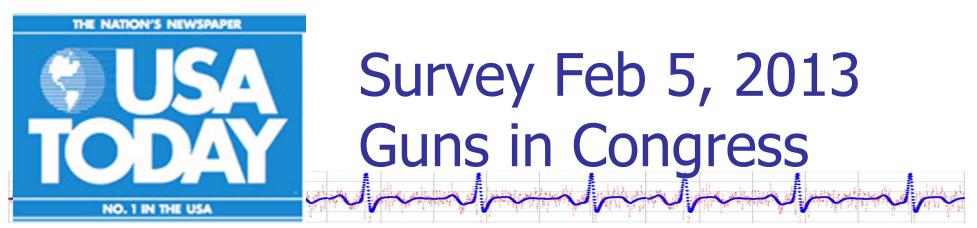
df = (NumRows-1)x(NumColumns-1)

13.8425.9937.8249.49511.07

cutoff

df

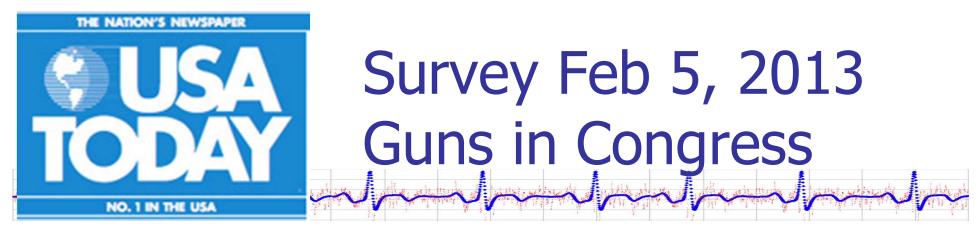
Conclusion?



- How many members of congress own guns?
- Dataset:

Title Member Party State GunOwner NRAGrade

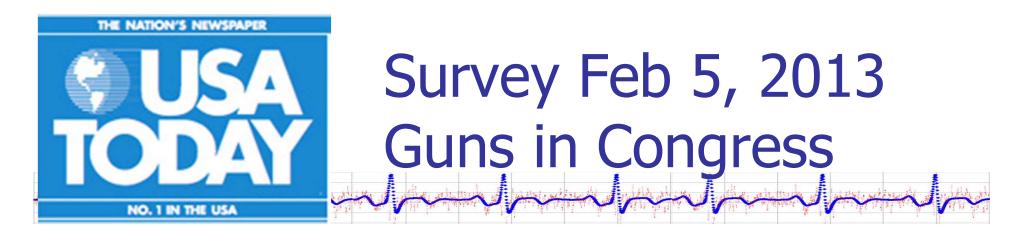
531 seated members 165 Yes, 147 No, 219 "no comment"



Given the data, what questions could we ask about the relatedness of nominal measures?

Title Member Party State GunOwner NRAGrade

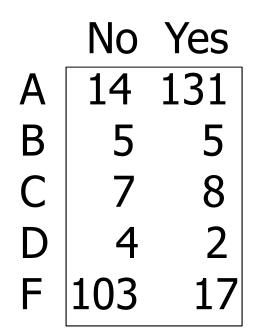
- Q: Is Gun Ownership related to party?
- Q: Is Gun Ownership related to NRAGrade?



• Q: Is Gun Ownership related to party?



Q: Is Gun Ownership related to NRAGrade?



df=(2-1) x (5-1) X^2 = 155