

Inference for Slopes

AP Statistics • Unit 9

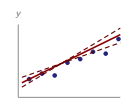
AP Statistics



Inference for Slopes

What we will cover

- 1 The slope is a statistic
- 2 Confidence interval for a slope
- 3 Test for a slope
- 4 Selecting the right procedure



1 Slope

Inference for Slopes

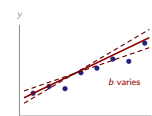
Slope

The slope is a statistic

A regression line comes from *one* sample, so the sample **slope** 斜率 b has a **sampling distribution** 抽样分布.

- true population slope β is fixed but unknown
- b estimates β , bouncing sample to sample

Inference measures the **uncertainty** 不确定性 in b to speak about the **true** relationship.



2 Interval

Inference for Slopes

Interval

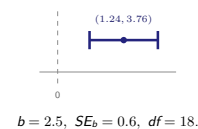
Confidence interval for a slope

Build a t -interval on the true slope β . Check the conditions – **LINER**: Linear, Independent, Normal, Equal spread, Random.

$$b \pm t^* \cdot SE_b$$

- read b and SE_b from computer output
- $df = n - 2$ (a line uses a and b)

If the interval excludes 0, there is a real linear relationship.



3 Test

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└ Test

Test for a slope

The test asks directly whether the slope is zero:

- **null** 原假设 $H_0: \beta = 0$ (no linear relationship)
- **alternative** 备择假设 $H_a: \beta >, <, \text{ or } \neq 0$
$$t = \frac{b}{SE_b}, \quad df = n - 2$$

$\beta = 0$ means a flat line – x has no straight-line effect on y .

Study time

$b = 2.5, SE_b = 0.6, n = 20$:

$$t = \frac{2.5}{0.6} \approx 4.17$$

$df = 18, p \approx 0.0006$: reject – a real linear link.

4 Select

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└ Select

Selecting the right procedure

The whole course in one decision – read the **type of data** first:

Proportions

categorical: one/two-sample z

Means

quantitative: one/two-sample or paired t

Count tables

χ^2 : fit, homogeneity, independence

Slope

two quantitative vars: t for β

Select 选择 the procedure, **implement** 实施 with conditions, **communicate** 表达 in context.

5 Recap

Inference for Slopes
└ Recap

Unit 9 – key takeaways

1 Slope varies

b estimates the true slope β ; it has a sampling distribution

2 Interval

$b \pm t^* SE_b, df = n - 2$; LINER conditions

3 Test

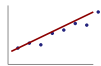
$H_0: \beta = 0; t = b/SE_b$; excludes 0 $\Rightarrow$ real link

4 Choose

data type picks z, t, χ^2 , or slope- t

Check yourself

- 1 What are the degrees of freedom for a slope t -procedure?
- 2 What does the LINER "E" stand for?
- 3 What null value of β means no linear relationship?
- 4 Two quantitative variables and a relationship: which test?



Answers 1. $n - 2$ 2. Equal spread 3. $\beta = 0$ 4. a t -test for the slope