

Contrasts & Statistical Inference

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SPM Course

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A mass-univariate approach





Estimation of the parameters



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Contrasts

□ A contrast selects a specific effect of interest.

- \Rightarrow A contrast *c* is a vector of length *p*.
- $\Rightarrow c^T \beta$ is a linear combination of regression coefficients β .

 $c = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ ...]^T$

 $c^{T}\beta = \mathbf{1} \times \beta_{1} + \mathbf{0} \times \beta_{2} + \mathbf{0} \times \beta_{3} + \mathbf{0} \times \beta_{4} + \cdots$ $= \boldsymbol{\beta}_{1}$

 $c = [0 \ 1 \ -1 \ 0 \ ...]^T$

 $c^{T}\beta = \mathbf{0} \times \beta_{1} + \mathbf{1} \times \beta_{2} + -\mathbf{1} \times \beta_{3} + \mathbf{0} \times \beta_{4} + \cdots$ $= \beta_{2} - \beta_{3}$

$$c^T \hat{\beta} \sim N(c^T \beta, \sigma^2 c^T (X^T X)^{-1} c)$$





Hypothesis Testing

To test a hypothesis, we construct "test statistics".

Null Hypothesis H₀

Typically what we want to disprove (no effect).

 \Rightarrow The Alternative Hypothesis H_A expresses outcome of interest.

Test Statistic T

The test statistic summarises evidence about H_0 .

Typically, test statistic is small in magnitude when the hypothesis H_0 is true and large when false.

⇒ We need to know the distribution of T under the null hypothesis.



Null Distribution of T

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Hypothesis Testing

Significance level α:

Acceptable false positive rate α .

 \Rightarrow threshold u_{α}

Threshold u_{α} controls the false positive rate

 $\alpha = p(T > u_{\alpha} \mid H_0)$



Null Distribution of T

Conclusion about the hypothesis:

We reject the null hypothesis in favour of the alternative hypothesis if $t > u_{\alpha}$

p-value:

A *p*-value summarises evidence against H_0 . This is the chance of observing value more extreme than *t* under the null hypothesis.

$$p(T > t | H_0)$$





*T***-test** - one dimensional contrasts – SPM{*t*}

 $c^{T} = 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$

Question:

box-car amplitude > 0 ? = $\beta_1 = c^T \beta > 0$?

 $\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 \beta_4 \beta_5 \dots$



Null hypothesis:

contrast of estimated parameters

Test statistic:

 $\frac{c^T \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\operatorname{var}(c^T \hat{\beta})}} = \frac{c^T \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\hat{\sigma}^2 c^T (X^T X)^{-1} c^2}}$ $z \sim t_{N-p}$



T-contrast in SPM

□ For a given contrast *c*:





T-test: a simple example

Passive word listening versus rest

Q: activation during listening?

Null hypothesis:
$$\beta_1 = 0$$

$$t = \frac{c^T \hat{\beta}}{\sqrt{\operatorname{var}(c^T \hat{\beta})}}$$





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Т

SPMresults: Height threshold T = $3.2057 \{p < 0.001\}$ voxel-level mm mm mm (<u>Z</u>_) *p*_{uncorrected}

13.94 12.04 11.82 13.72 12.29 9.89	Inf Inf Inf Inf 7.83	0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	-63 -48 -66 57 63 57	-27 -33 -21 -21 -12 -39	15 12 6 12 -3
7.39	6.36	0.000	36	-30	-15
6.84	5.99	0.000	51	0	48
6.36	5.65	0.000	-63	-54	-3
6.19	5.53	0.000	-30	-33	-18
5.96	5.36	0.000	36	-27	9
5.84	5.27	0.000	-45	42	9
5.44	4.97	0.000	48	27	24
5.32	4.87	0.000	36	-27	42



T-test: summary

□ *T*-test is a *signal-to-noise* measure (ratio of estimate to standard deviation of estimate).

□ Alternative hypothesis:

$$\mathsf{H}_{0}: c^{T}\beta = 0 \quad \text{vs} \quad \mathsf{H}_{\mathsf{A}}: c^{T}\beta > 0$$

T-contrasts are simple combinations of the betas; the Tstatistic does not depend on the scaling of the regressors or the scaling of the contrast.

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Scaling issue [1]/4 Subject 1

Subject 5

]/3



- The *T*-statistic does not depend on the scaling of the regressors.
- □ The *T*-statistic does not depend on the scaling of the contrast.
- \Box Contrast $c^T \hat{\beta}$ depends on scaling.
- > Be careful of the interpretation of the contrasts $c^T \hat{\beta}$ themselves (eg, for a second level analysis):

sum ≠ average



F-test - the extra-sum-of-squares principle

Model comparison:





F-test - multidimensional contrasts – SPM{*F*}

Tests multiple linear hypotheses:





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F-contrast in SPM







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F-test example: movement related effects

contrast(s)



Design matrix

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F-test: summary

- □ F-tests can be viewed as testing for the additional variance explained by a larger model w.r.t. a simpler (*nested*) model ⇒ *model comparison*.
- □ F tests a weighted **sum of squares** of one or several combinations of the regression coefficients β .
- In practice, we don't have to explicitly separate X into [X₁X₂] thanks to multidimensional contrasts.

Hypotheses:

 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ Null Hypothesis $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$ Alternative Hypothesis $H_A:$ at least one $\beta_k \neq 0$

□ In testing uni-dimensional contrast with an *F*-test, for example $\beta_1 - \beta_2$, the result will be the same as testing $\beta_2 - \beta_1$. It will be exactly the square of the *t*-test, testing for both positive and negative effects.



Orthogonal regressors

































Design orthogonality



- For each pair of columns of the design matrix, the orthogonality matrix depicts the magnitude of the cosine of the angle between them, with the range 0 to 1 mapped from white to black.
- If both vectors have zero mean then the cosine of the angle between the vectors is the same as the correlation between the two variates.

Measure : abs. value of cosine of angle between columns of design matrix Scale : black - colinear (cos=+1/-1) white - orthogonal (cos=0) gray - not orthogonal or colinear

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Correlated regressors: summary

- We implicitly test for an additional effect only. When testing for the first regressor, we are effectively removing the part of the signal that can be accounted for by the second regressor:
 - ⇒ implicit orthogonalisation.



Orthogonalisation = decorrelation. Parameters and test on the non modified regressor change.

Rarely solves the problem as it requires assumptions about which regressor to uniquely attribute the common variance.

- ⇒ change regressors (i.e. design) instead, e.g. factorial designs.
 ⇒ use F-tests to assess overall significance.
- Original regressors may not matter: it's the contrast you are testing which should be as decorrelated as possible from the rest of the design matrix

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