

# Biostatistics 602 - Statistical Inference

## Lecture 19

### Likelihood Ratio Test

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- ### ▪ Hypothesis

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## Example of Hypothesis Testing

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		Decision	
		Accept $H_0$	Reject $H_0$
Truth	$H_0$	Correct Decision	Type I error
	$H_1$	Type II error	Correct Decision

## Power function

## Definition - The power function

The power function of a hypothesis test with rejection region  $R$  is the function of  $\theta$  defined by

$$\beta(\theta) = \Pr(\mathbf{X} \in R | \theta) = \Pr(\text{reject } H_0 | \theta)$$

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An ideal test should have power function satisfying  $\beta(\theta) = 0$  for all  $\theta \in \Omega_0$ ,  $\beta(\theta) = 1$  for all  $\theta \in \Omega_0^c$ , which is typically not possible in practice.

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Any size  $\alpha$  test is also a level  $\alpha$  test

# Likelihood Ratio Tests (LRT)

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Let  $L(\theta|\mathbf{x})$  be the likelihood function of  $\theta$ . The likelihood ratio test statistic for testing  $H_0 : \theta \in \Omega_0$  vs.  $H_1 : \theta \in \Omega_0^c$  is

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where  $\hat{\theta}$  is the MLE of  $\theta$  over  $\theta \in \Omega$ , and  $\hat{\theta}_0$  is the MLE of  $\theta$  over  $\theta \in \Omega_0$  (restricted MLE).

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The *likelihood ratio test* is a test that rejects  $H_0$  if and only if  $\lambda(\mathbf{x}) \leq c$  where  $0 \leq c \leq 1$ .

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For the LRT test and its power function

## Solution

$$L(\theta | \mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x_i - \theta)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

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We need to find MLE of  $\theta$  over  $\Omega = (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $\Omega_0 = (-\infty, \theta_0]$ .

# MLE of $\theta$ over $\Omega = (-\infty, \infty)$

To maximize  $L(\theta|\mathbf{x})$ , we need to maximize  $\exp\left[-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n(x_i-\theta)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$ , or equivalently to minimize  $\sum_{i=1}^n(x_i - \theta)^2$ .

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$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^n(x_i - \theta)^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n(x_i^2 + \theta^2 - 2\theta x_i) \\ &= n\theta^2 - 2\theta \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\end{aligned}$$

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The equation above minimizes when  $\theta = \hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n} = \bar{x}$ .

# MLE of $\theta$ over $\Omega_0 = (-\infty, \theta_0]$

- $L(\theta|\mathbf{x})$  is maximized at  $\theta = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n} = \bar{x}$  if  $\bar{x} \leq \theta_0$ .

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- However, if  $\bar{x} \geq \theta_0$ ,  $\bar{x}$  does not fall into a valid range of  $\hat{\theta}_0$ , and  $\theta \leq \theta_0$ , the likelihood function will be an increasing function. Therefore  $\hat{\theta}_0 = \theta_0$ .

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To summarize,

$$\hat{\theta}_0 = \begin{cases} \bar{X} & \text{if } \bar{X} \leq \theta_0 \\ \theta_0 & \text{if } \bar{X} > \theta_0 \end{cases}$$

# Likelihood ratio test

$$\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{L(\hat{\theta}_0 | \mathbf{x})}{L(\hat{\theta} | \mathbf{x})} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \bar{X} \leq \theta_0 \\ \frac{\exp\left[-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \theta_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]}{\exp\left[-\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]} & \text{if } \bar{X} > \theta_0 \end{cases}$$

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$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \bar{X} \leq \theta_0 \\ \exp\left[-\frac{n(\bar{x} - \theta_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right] & \text{if } \bar{X} > \theta_0 \end{cases}$$

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$$= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \bar{X} \leq \theta_0 \\ \exp\left[-\frac{n(\bar{x} - \theta_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right] & \text{if } \bar{X} > \theta_0 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, the likelihood test rejects the null hypothesis if and only if

$$\exp\left[-\frac{n(\bar{x} - \theta_0)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right] \leq c$$

and  $\bar{x} \geq \theta_0$ .

# Specifying $c$

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## Specifying $c$ (cont'd)

So, LRT rejects  $H_0$  if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x} - \theta_0 &\geq \sqrt{-\frac{2\sigma^2 \log c}{n}} \\ \iff \frac{\bar{x} - \theta_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} &\geq \frac{\sqrt{-\frac{2\sigma^2 \log c}{n}}}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} = c^* \end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, the rejection region is

$$\left\{ \mathbf{x} : \frac{\bar{x} - \theta_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \geq c^* \right\}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\bar{X} - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \\ \implies \beta(\theta) &= \Pr\left(Z \geq \frac{\theta_0 - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} + c^*\right)\end{aligned}$$

where  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

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Note that  $\Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\theta_0 - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} + c^* \right)$  is maximized when  $\theta$  is maximum (i.e.  $\theta = \theta_0$ ).

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Note that  $\Pr \left( Z \geq \frac{\theta_0 - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} + c^* \right)$  is maximized when  $\theta$  is maximum (i.e.  $\theta = \theta_0$ ).

Therefore, size  $\alpha$  LRT test rejects  $H_0$  if and only if  $\frac{\bar{x} - \theta_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \geq z_\alpha$ .

# Another Example of LRT

## Problem

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} f(x|\theta) = e^{-(x-\theta)}$  where  $x \geq \theta$  and  $-\infty < \theta < \infty$ . Find a LRT testing the following one-sided hypothesis.

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When  $\theta \in \Omega_0^c$ , the likelihood is still an increasing function, but bounded by  $\theta \leq \min(x_{(1)}, \theta_0)$ . Therefore, the likelihood is maximized when  $\theta = \hat{\theta}_0 = \min(x_{(1)}, \theta_0)$ .

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To find size  $\alpha$  test, we need to find  $c$  satisfying the condition

$$\sup_{\theta \leq \theta_0} \beta(\theta) = \alpha$$

# LRT based on sufficient statistics

## Theorem 8.2.4

If  $T(\mathbf{X})$  is a sufficient statistic for  $\theta$ ,  $\lambda^*(t)$  is the LRT statistic based on  $T$ , and  $\lambda(\mathbf{x})$  is the LRT statistic based on  $\mathbf{x}$  then

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for every  $\mathbf{x}$  in the sample space.

# Proof

By Factorization Theorem, the joint pdf of  $\mathbf{x}$  can be written as

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and we can choose  $g(t|\theta)$  to be the pdf or pmf of  $T(\mathbf{x})$ .

Then, the LRT statistic based on  $T(\mathbf{X})$  is defined as

$$\lambda^*(t) = \frac{\sup_{\theta \in \Omega_0} L(\theta | T(\mathbf{x}) = t)}{\sup_{\theta \in \Omega} L(\theta | T(\mathbf{x}) = t)} = \frac{\sup_{\theta \in \Omega_0} g(t|\theta)}{\sup_{\theta \in \Omega} g(t|\theta)}$$

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The simplified expression of  $\lambda(\mathbf{x})$  should depend on  $\mathbf{x}$  only through  $T(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $T(\mathbf{x})$  is a sufficient statistic for  $\theta$ .

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Consider  $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$  where  $\sigma^2$  is known.

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# LRT with nuisance parameters

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$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$  where both  $\theta$  and  $\sigma^2$  unknown. Between  $H_0 : \theta \leq \theta_0$  and  $H_1 : \theta > \theta_0$ .

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$$\Omega = \{(\theta, \sigma^2) : \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma^2 > 0\}$$

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Step 1, fix  $\sigma^2$ , likelihood is maximized when  $\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \theta)^2$  is minimized over  $\theta \leq \theta_0$ .

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## Solution - Maximizing Numerator (cont'd)

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Combining the results together

$$\lambda(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \bar{x} \leq \theta_0 \\ \left(\frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{\hat{\sigma}_0^2}\right)^{n/2} & \text{if } \bar{x} > \theta_0 \end{cases}$$

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LRT test reject if  $\frac{\bar{x} - \theta_0}{s_{\mathbf{X}}/\sqrt{n}} \geq c^{***}$

The next step is specify  $c$  to get size  $\alpha$  test (omitted).

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for every  $\theta' \in \Omega_0^c$  and  $\theta \in \Omega_0$ .

# Example

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Note that  $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2)$ ,  $\bar{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2/n)$ , and  $\frac{\bar{X} - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

## Example (cont'd)

Therefore, for  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

$$\beta(\theta) = \Pr\left(Z > c + \frac{\theta_0 - \theta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

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Because the power function is increasing function of  $\theta$ ,

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always holds when  $\theta \leq \theta_0 < \theta'$ . Therefore the LRTs are unbiased.

# Summary

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- LRT based on sufficient statistics
- LRT with nuisance parameters
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## Next Lecture

- Uniformly Most Powerful Test