

Political Science 30: Political Inquiry

Section 9

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“An approximate answer to the right problem is worth a good deal more than an exact answer to an approximate problem.” —John Tukey

Learning Outcomes

By the end of section today, you should:

- Be able to identify which formula and test to use for various types of data and questions
- Feel comfortable with the main ideas from key readings
- Feel confident going into the final exam!

Warm Up

Name

What is one thing you have learned in this class?

Announcements

- Final Exam: March 23, 2018, 8am-10:59am
- Price Center East Ballroom
- Bring:
 - 3"x5" notecard with whatever notes and formulas you want written on it. You can write on both sides of the card.
 - Pen/pencil
 - Calculator **NO PHONES**
- Format/Content:
 - Readings
 - Data and Data Interpretation (difference in means, difference in proportions, 95% confidence interval of a mean and proportion, chi square test, regression)
 - Study math and data interpretation portions of HW 2-4
- Need Help? Sign up for office hours via Google Hangout (see link in email)

Study Tips

- Make your own notecards! The process of going through your notes to pull out important information will be very helpful.
- Start by making a practice notecard (maybe of a bigger size) and try doing the practice questions, homework problems, examples from class, etc. with just the information on your card.
- Add to / subtract from the card as needed and keep practicing until you can solve the problems with just a 3x5 card.
- Condense your notes on the readings to 1-3 sentences / bullet points
- Write practice questions with a partner and trade

What formula do I use?

- Get together in groups of 2-3
- Using the handout, read each question carefully. Write down the formula and null hypothesis (as appropriate) for each question.
- Do not solve the problems.

Interpretation

Let's say that you did all the calculations for these problems and got the following answers. Write down your interpretation of each result.

- 1 Margin of Error = 0.632
- 2 Confidence Interval: (0.13, 0.17) or (13%, 17%)
- 3 Confidence Interval: (0.2, 0.32) or (20%, 32%)
- 4 Regression Output:
 - Intercept: 12.8; Confidence Interval (-13, 28.6)
 - Coefficient for Campaign Spending: 0.03; Confidence Interval: (0.0285, 0.0315)
 - R-Square: 0.273
- 5 Margin of Error: 0.002 (0.2%)
- 6 Confidence Interval: (2775.47, 3224.53)
- 7 Chi Square Statistic=47.14, Degrees of Freedom=3 (threshold=7.81)

- Fowler (2008), “The Colbert Bump in Campaign Donations: More Truthful than Truthy”
- Wolfinger and Rosenstone (1980), Chapter 2, *Who Votes?*, Tables 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
- Mutz (2010), “The Dog that Didn’t Bark: The Role of Canines in the 2008 Campaign”
- Dreze and Sen (1989), “China and India” from *Hunger and Public Action*

Fowler (2008), The Colbert Bump

- IV:
- DV:
- Method/Research Design:
- Key Finding:

Fowler (2008), The Colbert Bump

- IV: Went on the show/didn't go on the show
- DV: Campaign contributions immediately after appearing on the show; Votes won in the election
- Method/Research Design: Matching
 - Try to rule out confounds by matching candidates who appeared on the show to those who did not appear on the show on confounds (party ID, incumbency, donations, etc.)
- Key Finding: Democrats who appeared on the show received a bump in campaign contributions compared to those who didn't appear on the show. Republicans did not. No significant effect on votes.

Wolfinger and Rosenstone (1980)

- Great example of trying to deal with confounds using very simple methods
- What are the key variables of interest? What's the confound?
- How do the authors deal with the confounds?

Mutz (2010) The Dog that Didn't Bark

- Great example of using multivariate regression to hold confounds constant
- What was the research question?
- What is the IV? DV? Possible confounds?
- Key finding?

Dreze and Sen (1989) “China and India”

- Is this article an example of quantitative or qualitative research?
- What is the IV? DV?
- What is their research design — how do the authors try to answer their question?

Thank you for a great quarter! Good luck on the exam!