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Chapter 7. Survey sampling

1. Random sampling

Population = set of elements $\{1, 2, \ldots, N\}$
  labeled by values $\{x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_N\}$
PD = population distribution of x-values
  value of a random element $X \sim$ PD
Types of x-values (data): continuous, discrete
  categorical, dichotomous (2 categories)
General population parameters
  population mean $\mu = \mathrm{E}(X)$
  population standard deviation $\sigma = \sqrt{\mathrm{Var}(X)}$
  population proportion p (dichotomous data)
Two methods of studying PD and population parameters
  enumeration - expensive, sometimes impossible
  random sample: n random observations $(X_1, \ldots, X_n)$

Randomisation is a guard against investigator's biases even unconscious

IID sample (sampling with replacement)
  Independent Identically Distributed observations
Simple random sample (sampling without replacement)
  negative dependence $\mathrm{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = -\frac{\sigma^2}{N-1}$

Ex 1: students heights
  height in cm = discrete data, sex = dichotomous data

2. Point estimates

Population parameter θ estimation

point estimate $\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}(X_1, \ldots, X_n)$

Sampling distribution of $\hat{\theta}$ around unknown θ

different values $\hat{\theta}$ observed for different samples

Mean square error

$\mathrm{E}(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 = \left[\mathrm{E}(\hat{\theta}) - \theta\right]^2 + \sigma_{\hat{\theta}}^2$

$\mathrm{E}(\hat{\theta}) - \theta$ = systematic error, bias, lack of accuracy

$\sigma_{\hat{\theta}}$ = random error, lack of precision

Desired properties of point estimates

$\hat{\theta}$ is an unbiased estimate of θ, if $\mathrm{E}(\hat{\theta}) = \theta$

$\hat{\theta}$ is consistent, if $\mathrm{E}(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$

Sample mean $\bar{X} = \frac{X_1 + \ldots + X_n}{n}$

is an unbiased and consistent estimate of μ

$$\mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2/n & \text{if IID sample} \\ \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right) & \text{if simple random sample} \end{cases}$$

Finite population correction $1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}$

can be neglected if sample proportion $\frac{n}{N}$ is small

Population proportion p estimation

$\mathrm{P}(X_i = 1) = p$, $\mathrm{P}(X_i = 0) = q$, $\mu = p$, $\sigma^2 = pq$

sample proportion $\hat{p} = \bar{X}$

is an unbiased and consistent estimate of p

Sample variance $s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1}\Sigma(X_i - \bar{X})^2$

s = sample standard deviation

Other formulae

$s^2 = \frac{n}{n-1}(\overline{X^2} - \bar{X}^2)$, where $\overline{X^2} = \frac{1}{n}(X_1^2 + \ldots + X_n^2)$

dichotomous data case $s^2 = \frac{n}{n-1}\hat{p}\hat{q}$

Sample variance is an unbiased estimate of σ^2

$$\mathrm{E}(s^2) = \begin{cases} \sigma^2 & \text{if IID sample} \\ \sigma^2 \frac{N}{N-1} & \text{if simple random sample} \end{cases}$$

Standard errors of $\bar{X}$ and $\hat{p}$ for simple random sample

$s_{\bar{X}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\sqrt{1 - \frac{n}{N}}$, $s_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n-1}}\sqrt{1 - \frac{n}{N}}$

$\boxed{\text{Standard errors for IID sampling } s_{\bar{X}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}},\ s_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n-1}}}$

3. Confidence intervals

Approximate sampling distribution $\bar{X} \overset{a}{\sim} \mathrm{N}(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$

approximate 100(1–α)% two-sided CI for μ and p

$\bar{X} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot s_{\bar{X}}$ and $\hat{p} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot s_{\hat{p}}$, if n is large

100(1–α)%	68%	80%	90%	95%	99%	99.7%
$z_{\alpha/2}$	1.00	1.28	1.64	1.96	2.58	3.00

The higher is confidence level the wider is the CI

the larger is sample the narrower is the CI

95% CI is a random interval:

out of 100 intervals computed for 100 samples

Bin(100,0.95) $\approx$ N(95,(2.18)^2) will cover the true value

4. Estimation of a ratio

Two variables X and Y characterizing a population

two population means μ_x, μ_y and variances σ_x^2, σ_y^2

covariance $\sigma_{xy} = \frac{1}{N}\Sigma_{i=1}^{N}(x_i - \mu_x)(y_i - \mu_y)$

correlation coefficient $\rho = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}$

Estimate the ratio $r = \mu_y/\mu_x$ by $R = \bar{Y}/\bar{X}$

$\sigma_{\bar{x}\bar{y}} = \frac{\sigma_{xy}}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)$, $\rho_{\bar{x}\bar{y}} = \rho$

Using the method of propagation of error find

$\mathrm{E}(R) \approx r + \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)\frac{1}{\mu_x^2}(r\sigma_x^2 - \rho\sigma_x\sigma_y)$

$\mathrm{Var}(R) \approx \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)\frac{1}{\mu_x^2}(r^2\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 - 2r\rho\sigma_x\sigma_y)$

Mean square error

$\mathrm{E}(R - r)^2 = [\mathrm{E}(R) - r]^2 + \mathrm{Var}(R)$

negligible (of order n^{-2}) contribution of the bias

The standard error s_R

$s_R^2 = \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)\frac{1}{\bar{X}^2}(R^2 s_x^2 + s_y^2 - 2R s_{xy})$

$s_{xy} = \frac{1}{n-1}\Sigma_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}) = \frac{1}{n-1}(\Sigma_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i - n\bar{x}\bar{y})$

approximate CI for r is $R \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot s_R$

Strong correlation decreases both the bias and random error size. Small μ_x has an opposite effect.

Ratio estimate of the mean μ_y

Assuming μ_x is known compare $\bar{Y}$ to $\bar{Y}_R = \mu_x R$

$\mathrm{E}(\bar{Y}_R) \approx \mu_Y + \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)\frac{1}{\mu_x}(r\sigma_x^2 - \rho\sigma_x\sigma_y)$

$\mathrm{Var}(\bar{Y}_R) \approx \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)(r^2\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2 - 2r\rho\sigma_x\sigma_y)$

$$\boxed{\frac{\mathrm{Var}(\bar{Y}_R)}{\mathrm{Var}(\bar{Y})} \approx 1 + r^2\frac{\sigma_x^2}{\sigma_y^2} - 2r\rho\frac{\sigma_x}{\sigma_y}}$$

For $r > 0$ and large n

estimate $\bar{Y}_R$ is better than $\bar{Y}$ if $\rho > \frac{C_x}{2C_y}$

coefficients of variation $C_x = \sigma_x/\mu_x$ and $C_y = \sigma_y/\mu_y$

Another approximate CI for μ_y is given by $\bar{Y}_R \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot s_{\bar{Y}_R}$

$s^2_{\bar{Y}_R} = \frac{1}{n}\left(1 - \frac{n-1}{N-1}\right)(R^2 s_x^2 + s_y^2 - 2R s_{xy})$

5. Stratified random sampling

Population consists of L strata with

known L strata fractions $W_1 + \ldots + W_L = 1$ and

unknown strata means μ_l and standard deviations σ_l

Population mean $\mu = W_1\mu_1 + \ldots + W_L\mu_L$

population variance $\sigma^2 = \overline{\sigma^2} + \Sigma W_l(\mu_l - \mu)^2$

average variance $\overline{\sigma^2} = W_1\sigma_1^2 + \ldots + W_L\sigma_L^2$

Stratified random sampling

L independent samples from each stratum

with sample means $\bar{X}_1, \ldots, \bar{X}_L$

$$\boxed{\text{Stratified sample mean: } \bar{X}_s = W_1\bar{X}_1 + \ldots + W_L\bar{X}_L}$$

$\bar{X}_s$ is an unbiased and consistent estimate of μ

$\mathrm{E}(\bar{X}_s) = W_1\mathrm{E}(\bar{X}_1) + \ldots + W_L\mathrm{E}(\bar{X}_L) = \mu$

$s^2_{\bar{X}_s} = (W_1 s_{\bar{X}_1})^2 + \ldots + (W_L s_{\bar{X}_L})^2$

$$\boxed{\text{Approximate CI for } \mu\text{: } \bar{X}_s \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot s_{\bar{X}_s}}$$

Pooled sample mean

$\bar{X}_p = \frac{1}{n}(n_1\bar{X}_1 + \ldots + n_L\bar{X}_L)$, $n = n_1 + \ldots + n_L$

$\mathrm{E}(\bar{X}_p) = \frac{n_1}{n}\mu_1 + \ldots + \frac{n_L}{n}\mu_L = \mu + \Sigma(\frac{n_l}{n} - W_l)\mu_l$

$\mathrm{bias}(\bar{X}_p) = \Sigma(\frac{n_l}{n} - W_l)\mu_l$

Ex 1: students heights

$L = 2$, $W_1 = W_2 = 0.5$, compare $\bar{X}_s$ with $\bar{X}_p$

$\boxed{\text{Optimal allocation: } n_l = n\frac{W_l\sigma_l}{\bar{\sigma}},\ \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{so}) = \frac{1}{n}\cdot\bar{\sigma}^2}$

average standard deviation $\bar{\sigma} = W_1\sigma_1 + \ldots + W_L\sigma_L$

$\bar{X}_{so}$ minimizes standard error of X_s

weakness: usually unknown σ_l and $\bar{\sigma}$

$\boxed{\text{Proportional allocation: } n_l = nW_l,\ \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{sp}) = \frac{1}{n}\cdot\overline{\sigma^2}}$

Compare three unbiased estimates of μ

$\mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{so}) \le \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{sp}) \le \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X})$

Variability in σ_l accross strata

$\mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{sp}) - \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{so}) = \frac{1}{n}(\overline{\sigma^2} - \bar{\sigma}^2) = \frac{1}{n}\Sigma W_l(\sigma_l - \bar{\sigma})^2$

Variability in means μ_l accross strata

$\mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}) - \mathrm{Var}(\bar{X}_{sp}) = \frac{1}{n}(\sigma^2 - \overline{\sigma^2}) = \frac{1}{n}\Sigma W_l(\mu_l - \mu)^2$