

Economics 326
Methods of Empirical Research in Economics
Lecture 8: Hypothesis testing (Part 1)

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Hypothesis testing

- ▶ Hypothesis testing is one of a fundamental problems in statistics.
- ▶ A hypothesis is (usually) an **assertion** about the unknown population parameters such as β_1 in $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + U_i$.

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In this example, we are interested in testing if $\beta_1 = 0$ (no Phillips curve) against $\beta_1 < 0$ (Phillips curve).

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 1. $Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + U_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$
 2. $E(U_i | X_1, \dots, X_n) = 0$ for all i 's.
 3. $E(U_i^2 | X_1, \dots, X_n) = \sigma^2$ for all i 's.
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 5. U 's are jointly normally distributed conditional on X 's.
- ▶ Recall that, in this case, conditionally on X 's:

$$\hat{\beta}_1 \sim N(\beta_1, \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)), \text{ where } \text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}.$$

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- ▶ Usually, one rejects H_0 if the test statistic falls into a **critical region**. A critical region is constructed by taking into account the probability of making a wrong decision.

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$$1 - P(\text{Type II error}) = 1 - P(\text{Accept } H_0 | H_0 \text{ is false}).$$

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- ▶ It is **easier** to reject the null for larger values of α .
- ▶ **p-value** : Given the data, the **smallest** significance level at which the null can be rejected.

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- ▶ Consider the following **decision rule** (test):

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where $z_{1-\alpha/2}$ is the $(1 - \alpha/2)$ quantile of the standard normal distribution (**critical value**).

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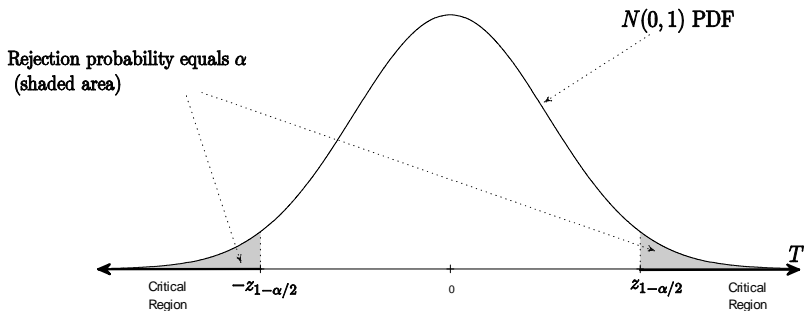
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The distribution of T when σ^2 is known (infeasible test)

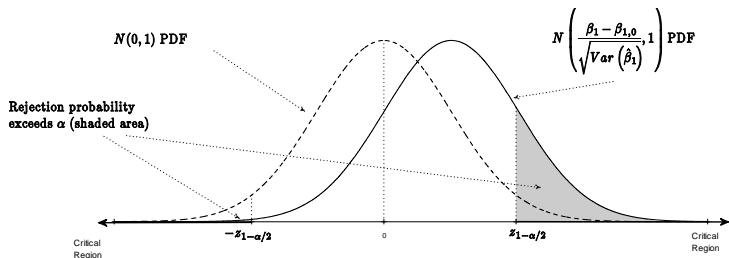


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- ▶ When $\beta_1 - \beta_{1,0} > 0$:



- ▶ Rejection probability exceeds α under H_1 : power increases with the distance from H_0 ($|\beta_{1,0} - \beta_1|$) and decreases with $\text{Var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$.