

## Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test

The Signed-Rank Test is a nonparametric analog to the paired t-test utilizing more information than available in the Sign Test. The Signed-Rank test requires use of ordinal data - data that can be ordered, or ranked, according to amount of effect. However, amount or effect need not have meaning beyond order of classes of data.

### Assumptions:

- Observed values  $X_{1,1}, X_{1,2}, X_{1,3}, \dots, X_{1,n}$  are a random sample exactly matched with Observed values  $X_{2,1}, X_{2,2}, X_{2,3}, \dots, X_{2,n}$  across individuals 1,2,3, ..., n.
- Let the value  $d_i = X_{1,i} - X_{2,i}$  for each individual i be assessed as  $|d_i| =$  rank order of single observations or discrete classes of observations with observed frequency.
- The  $d_i$ 's are independent.
- The underlying distribution of the  $d_i$ 's is continuous & symmetric but not necessarily a Normal Distribution.
- All  $d_i$ 's have the same median

Dermatology Example >  
Rosner 2006 Ex 9.12, p. 370

### Hypotheses:

- $H_0: \Delta = 0$  < No population ordinal difference in median
- $H_1: \Delta \neq 0$  < Two sided test

### Rank Data and Sum:

- Ignore all  $d_i$ 's = 0 - Don't include them in the rankings.
- The  $|d_i|$ 's are ranked ( $R_i = \text{rank}(|d_i|)$ ) according to their absolute value with smallest  $|d_i| = 1$  and largest  $|d_i| = n$ .
- Give all  $d_i$ 's with same absolute value the same average rank.
- Count number of ties ( $t_j$ ) for each group (g) of ties for the  $d_i$ 's
- Compute the Rank Sum [ $RS_{\text{pos}}$ ] of positive  $d_i$ 's.

$$d_{\text{neg}} := \begin{pmatrix} -8 \\ -7 \\ -6 \\ -5 \\ -4 \\ -3 \\ -2 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{count}_{\text{neg}} := \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad d_{\text{pos}} := \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{count}_{\text{pos}} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 6 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R := d_{\text{pos}}$$

$$\text{count} := \text{count}_{\text{neg}} + \text{count}_{\text{pos}}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{count} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 10 \\ 14 \end{pmatrix}$$

$i := 0 \dots \text{length}(R) - 1$   
 $n := \sum_i \text{count}_i \quad n = 40$   
 < count in absolute value of rank (sums the positive and negative counts above)

	Before	After	d	
1	1	9	-8	
2	1	8	-7	
3	1	8	-7	
4	1	8	-7	
5	1	7	-6	
6	1	7	-6	
7	1	6	-5	
8	1	6	-5	
9	1	5	-4	
10	2	5	-3	
11	2	5	-3	
12	3	6	-3	
13	1	4	-3	
14	1	4	-3	
15	3	5	-2	
16	2	4	-2	
17	1	3	-2	
18	1	3	-2	
19	1	2	-1	
20	2	3	-1	
21	3	4	-1	
22	4	5	-1	
23	5	4	1	
24	6	5	1	
25	4	3	1	
26	2	1	1	
27	2	1	1	
28	3	2	1	
29	5	4	1	
30	6	5	1	
31	2	1	1	
32	2	1	1	
33	3	1	2	
34	4	2	2	
35	5	3	2	
36	6	4	2	
37	5	3	2	
38	4	2	2	
39	4	1	3	
40	5	2	3	

**Averaging Absolute Value of Rank:**

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 5 \\ 4 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{count} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 10 \\ 14 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{AR} := \begin{pmatrix} 40 \\ 38 \\ 35.5 \\ 33.5 \\ 32 \\ 28 \\ 19.5 \\ 7.5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(40)/1" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(37-39)/3" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(35-36)/2" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(33-34)/2" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(32)/2" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(25-31)/7" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(15-24)/10" \\ "< \text{average rank} = \text{sum}(1-14)/14" \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{count}_{\text{pos}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 6 \\ 10 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} < \\ < \text{multiplied} \\ < \text{by AR} \end{matrix}$$

**Computing Rank Sum Positive:**

$$\text{RS}_{\text{pos}} := 10 \cdot 7.5 + 6 \cdot 19.5 + 2 \cdot 28 \quad \text{RS}_{\text{pos}} = 248 \quad < \text{sum of the ranks for positive } d_i\text{'s}$$

**Computing Criterion for Test Statistic T:**

$$\frac{n \cdot (n + 1)}{4} = 410 \quad < \text{criterion for test statistic T} \quad < \text{Critical Value} \quad n = 40$$

**Criterion for Normal Approximation:**

- IF number of non-zero  $d_i < 16$  THEN use Special Tables e.g., Rosner Table 11 in Appendix  
 OTHERWISE Normal Approximation may be used

$$n = 40 \quad < \text{qualifies for Normal Approximation} \\
 t := \text{count} \\
 \text{St} := \sum (t^3 - t) \quad \text{St} = 4092 \quad \wedge \text{note use of vector sum function here that adds all elements of a vector together...} \\
 t = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 10 \\ 14 \end{pmatrix} \quad t^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 27 \\ 8 \\ 8 \\ 1 \\ 343 \\ 1000 \\ 2744 \end{pmatrix} \quad t^3 - t = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 24 \\ 6 \\ 6 \\ 0 \\ 336 \\ 990 \\ 2730 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Test Statistic:**

IF  $\text{RS}_{\text{pos}} \neq \frac{n(n+1)}{4}$  AND there ARE NO ties THEN: ^ sum these for St

$$T := \frac{\left[ \left| \text{RS}_{\text{pos}} - \frac{n \cdot (n + 1)}{4} \right| - \frac{1}{2} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{n \cdot (n + 1) \cdot (2 \cdot n + 1)}{24}}} \quad \text{RS}_{\text{pos}} = 248 \quad T = 2.1708$$

IF  $\text{RS}_{\text{pos}} \neq \frac{n(n+1)}{4}$  AND there ARE ties THEN:

$$T := \frac{\left[ \left| \text{RS}_{\text{pos}} - \frac{n \cdot (n + 1)}{4} \right| - \frac{1}{2} \right]}{\sqrt{\frac{n \cdot (n + 1) \cdot (2 \cdot n + 1)}{24} - \frac{\sum (t^3 - t)}{48}}} \quad T = 2.1877 \quad < \text{this one applies here, since there are ties}$$

IF  $RS_{\text{pos}} = n(n+1)/4$  THEN:

$$T := 0$$

GENERAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE ABOVE:

$$j := 0 \dots \text{length}(\text{AR}) - 1$$

$$T := \frac{\left[ \left| RS_{\text{pos}} - \frac{n \cdot (n+1)}{4} \right| - \frac{1}{2} \right]}{\sqrt{\sum_j \frac{t_j \cdot (\text{AR}_j)^2}{4}}}$$

$$T = 2.1877$$

< this one also applies

### Critical Value of the Test:

$\alpha := 0.05$  < Probability of Type I error must be explicitly set

$$C := \text{qnorm}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}, 0, 1\right) \quad C = 1.96$$

### Decision Rule:

IF  $T > C$  THEN REJECT  $H_0$  OTHERWISE ACCEPT  $H_0$

$$T = 2.1877 \quad C = 1.96$$

### Probability Value:

$$P := 2 \cdot (1 - \text{pnorm}(T, 0, 1))$$

$$P = 0.02869$$

### Prototype in R:

```
#WILCOXON SIGNED-RANK TEST
#PAIRED t-TEST ANALOG
```

```
ROS=read.table("c:/DATA/Biostatistics/RosnerEX9.12.txt")
ROS
attach(ROS)
wilcox.test(Before, After, alternative="two.sided", paired=T)
```

Wilcoxon signed rank test with continuity correction

data: Before and After  
 V = 248, p-value = 0.02869  
 alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0

Warning message:

In wilcox.test.default(Before, After, alternative = "two.sided", :  
 cannot compute exact p-value with ties

^ Note: V in R's report =  $RS_{\text{pos}}$  above. P values match.