Hellenic Complex Systems Laboratory

# Inferences about the Difference between Two Proportions

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# Inferences about the Difference between Two Proportions

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Search Terms: proportions, difference between proportions, confidence interval, inference, critical ratio statistic, statistical significance, statistics

#### Short Description of the Demonstration

This Demonstration explores statistical inferences regarding the difference between two proportions of populations obeying a condition (or trait). It calculates the statistical significance and the confidence intervals for the difference and plots the confidence intervals versus *p*-value. This is done for differing populations obeying a condition or without the condition and for differing *p*-values for the estimation of the confidence intervals.



Figure 1: Point estimation and 99% confidence interval for the difference of two proportions of populations obeying a condition, as well as their plots versus p-value, with the settings shown at the left.



Figure 2: Point estimation and 95% confidence interval for the difference of two proportions of populations obeying a condition, as well as their plots versus p-value, with the settings shown at the left.



**Figure 3**: Point estimation and 95% confidence interval for the difference of two proportions of populations obeying a condition, as well as their plots versus p-value, with the settings shown at the left.



**Figure 4**: Point estimation and 99% confidence interval for the difference of two proportions of populations obeying a condition, as well as their plots versus p-value, with the settings shown at the left.

## Details

The statistical significance of the difference between the two proportions is assessed by means of the *z*-score (or critical ratio statistic) [1]. The confidence interval for the difference between the proportions is calculated as in [2].

### References

[1] J. L. Fleiss, B. Levin and M. C. Paik. Methods for Generating a Fourfold Table. *Statistical Methods for Rates and Proportions*, 3rd ed., Hoboken, NJ: J. Wiley, 2003 pp. 51–52.

[2] J. L. Fleiss, B. Levin and M. C. Paik. A Simple Confidence Interval for the Difference between Two Independent Proportions. *Statistical Methods for Rates and Proportions*, 3rd ed., Hoboken, NJ: J. Wiley, 2003 pp. 60–61.

#### Source Code

The updated Wolfram Mathematica<sup>©</sup> source code is available at: <u>https://www.hcsl.com/Tools/InferencesAboutTheDifferenceBetweenTwoProportions-author.nb</u>

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