

ttest

One-sample or paired-sample t -test

Syntax

```
h = ttest(x)
h = ttest(x,m)
h = ttest(x,y)
h = ttest(...,alpha)
h = ttest(...,alpha,tail)
h = ttest(...,alpha,tail,dim)
[h,p] = ttest(...)
[h,p,ci] = ttest(...)
[h,p,ci,stats] = ttest(...)
```

Description

`h = ttest(x)` performs a t -test of the null hypothesis that data in the vector `x` are a random sample from a normal distribution with mean 0 and unknown variance, against the alternative that the mean is not 0. The result of the test is returned in `h`. `h = 1` indicates a rejection of the null hypothesis at the 5% significance level. `h = 0` indicates a failure to reject the null hypothesis at the 5% significance level.

`x` can also be a matrix or an N -dimensional array. For matrices, `ttest` performs separate t -tests along each column of `x` and returns a vector of results. For N -dimensional arrays, `ttest` works along the first non-singleton dimension of `x`.

The test treats NaN values as missing data, and ignores them.

`h = ttest(x,m)` performs a t -test of the null hypothesis that data in the vector `x` are a random sample from a normal distribution with mean `m` and unknown variance, against the alternative that the mean is not `m`.

`h = ttest(x,y)` performs a paired t -test of the null hypothesis that data in the difference `x-y` are a random sample from a normal distribution with mean 0 and unknown variance, against the alternative that the mean is not 0. `x` and `y` must be vectors of the same length, or arrays of the same size.

`h = ttest(...,alpha)` performs the test at the $(100*\alpha)\%$ significance level.

The default, when unspecified, is $\alpha = 0.05$.

`h = ttest(...,alpha,tail)` performs the test against the alternative specified by the string `tail`. There are three options for `tail`:

- 'both' — Mean is not 0 (or `m`) (two-tailed test). This is the default, when `tail` is unspecified.
- 'right' — Mean is greater than 0 (or `m`) (right-tail test)
- 'left' — Mean is less than 0 (or `m`) (left-tail test)

`tail` must be a single string, even when `x` is a matrix or an N -dimensional array.

`h = ttest(...,alpha,tail,dim)` works along dimension `dim` of `x`, or of `x-y` for a paired test. Use `[]` to pass in default values for `m`, `alpha`, or `tail`.

`[h,p] = ttest(...)` returns the p -value of the test. The p -value is the probability, under the null hypothesis, of observing a value as extreme or more extreme of the test statistic

$$t = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{s / \sqrt{n}}$$

where $\bar{x}$ is the sample mean, $\mu = 0$ (or `m`) is the hypothesized population mean, s is the sample standard deviation, and n is the sample size. Under the null hypothesis, the test statistic will have Student's t distribution with $n - 1$ degrees of freedom.

`[h,p,ci] = ttest(...)` returns a $100 \cdot (1 - \alpha)\%$ confidence interval on the population mean, or on the difference of population means for a paired test.

`[h,p,ci,stats] = ttest(...)` returns the structure `stats` with the following fields:

- `tstat` — Value of the test statistic
- `df` — Degrees of freedom of the test
- `sd` — Sample standard deviation

Example

Simulate a random sample of size 100 from a normal distribution with mean 0.1:

```
x = normrnd(0.1,1,1,100);
```

Test the null hypothesis that the sample comes from a normal distribution with

mean 0:

```
[h,p,ci] = ttest(x,0)
h =
    0
p =
    0.8323
ci =
   -0.1650    0.2045
```

The test fails to reject the null hypothesis at the default $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level. Under the null hypothesis, the probability of observing a value as extreme or more extreme of the test statistic, as indicated by the p -value, is much greater than α . The 95% confidence interval on the mean contains 0.

Simulate a larger random sample of size 1000 from the same distribution:

```
y = normrnd(0.1,1,1,1000);
```

Test again if the sample comes from a normal distribution with mean 0:

```
[h,p,ci] = ttest(y,0)
h =
    1
p =
    0.0160
ci =
    0.0142    0.1379
```

This time the test rejects the null hypothesis at the default $\alpha = 0.05$ significance level. The p -value has fallen below $\alpha = 0.05$ and the 95% confidence interval on the mean does not contain 0.

Because the p -value of the sample y is greater than 0.01, the test will fail to reject the null hypothesis when the significance level is lowered to $\alpha = 0.01$:

```
[h,p,ci] = ttest(y,0,0.01)
h =
    0
p =
    0.0160
ci =
   -0.0053    0.1574
```

Notice that at the lowered significance level the 99% confidence interval on the mean widens to contain 0.

This example will produce slightly different results each time it is run, because of the random sampling.

See Also

[ttest2](#), [ztest](#)

◀ tstat

ttest2 ▶

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