

9.5 Carrying Out a Test for the Slope of a Regression Model

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 9 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **carrying out a test for the slope**.

You must be able to:

- compute the slope t statistic and find the **p-value**
- compare it to α and reach a decision
- state a conclusion about the linear relationship in context

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ The procedure

1. State $H_0 : \beta = 0$ and H_a ; check conditions.
2. Compute $t = \frac{b}{SE(b)}$ with $df = n - 2$.
3. Find the **p-value** from the t -distribution.
4. Compare to α : a **small** p-value $\rightarrow$ **reject** $H_0 \rightarrow$ there **is** a linear relationship.

■ A worked test

A regression gives slope $b = 2.5$ with $SE(b) = 1.0$ from $n = 12$ points. Then

$$t = \frac{2.5}{1.0} = 2.5, \quad df = 12 - 2 = 10,$$

a p-value $\approx 0.03 < 0.05$ – reject $H_0 : \beta = 0$, so a linear relationship exists.

2 Practice

2.1 State the steps to carry out a slope test.

[2]

2.2 State what a small p-value indicates about the slope. [1]

2.3 A slope test gives a p-value of 0.001 at $\alpha = 0.05$. State the decision. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A slope test with a small p-value suggests [1]

- **A** no relationship
 - **B** a real linear relationship
 - **C** bias
 - **D** a curved pattern
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3.2 A slope test rejects H_0 when the p-value is [1]

- **A** above α
 - **B** below α
 - **C** exactly zero
 - **D** exactly one
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3.3 A slope test gives $t = 3.0$, $df = 20$, p-value 0.007 at $\alpha = 0.05$.

(a) State the decision. [1]

(b) State whether there is a linear relationship. [1]

(c) State the conclusion in context. [1]

4 Go further

- work through the **9.5 Carrying Out a Test for the Slope of a Regression Model** lesson on the **Learn** page;

- read the **Inference for Quantitative Data: Slopes** section of the AP Statistics handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 state hypotheses and check conditions; compute t ; find the p-value; compare to α and conclude.

2.2 the slope is significantly different from 0 —a real linear relationship.

2.3 reject H_0 ($0.001 < 0.05$).

3.1 B.

3.2 B.

3.3 (a) reject H_0 . (b) yes. (c) there is convincing evidence of a linear relationship between the variables.