



# BOOTSTRAPPING

Jeff Goldsmith, PhD  
Department of Biostatistics

# Repeated sampling

- “Repeated sampling” is a conceptual framework that underlies almost all of statistics
  - Repeatedly draw random samples of the same size from a population
  - For each sample, compute the mean
  - The distribution of the sample mean converges to a Normal distribution
- Repeated sampling doesn’t happen in reality
  - Data are difficult and expensive to collect
  - You get your data, and that’s pretty much it
- Repeated sampling can happen on a computer

# Bootstrapping

- Hard to overstate how important and useful bootstrapping is in statistics
- Idea is to mimic repeated sampling with the one sample you have
- Your sample is drawn at random from your population
  - You'd like to draw more samples, but you can't
  - So you draw a **bootstrap sample** from the one sample you have
  - The bootstrap sample has the same size as the original sample, and is drawn with replacement
  - Analyze this sample using whatever approach you want to apply
  - Repeat

# Why bootstrap?

- The repeated sampling framework often provides useful theoretical results under certain assumptions and / or asymptotics
  - Sample means follow a known distribution
  - Regression coefficients follow a known distribution
  - Odds ratios follow a known distribution
- If your assumptions aren't met, or your sample isn't large enough for asymptotics, you can't use the "known distribution"
- Bootstrapping gets you back to repeated sampling, and uses an empirical rather than a theoretical distribution for your statistic of interest

# Coding the bootstrap

- Bootstrapping is a natural application of iterative tools
- Write a function (or functions) to:
  - Draw a sample with replacement
  - Analyze the sample
  - Return object of interest
- Repeat this process many times
- Keeping track of the bootstrap samples, analyses, and results in a single data frame organizes the process and prevents mistakes

# Coding the bootstrap

- Bootstrapping is a natural application of iterative tools
- Write a function (or functions) to:
  - Draw a sample with replacement
  - Analyze the sample
  - Return object of interest
- Repeat this process many times
- Keeping track of the bootstrap samples, analyses, and results in a single data frame organizes the process and prevents mistakes
- That's why you use **LIST COLUMNS!!**

# Coding the bootstrap

- Bootstrapping is a natural application of iterative tools
- Write a function (or functions) to:
  - Draw a sample with replacement
  - Analyze the sample
  - Return object of interest
- Repeat this process many times
- Keeping track of the bootstrap samples, analyses, and results in a single data frame organizes the process and prevents mistakes
- That's why you use **LIST COLUMNS!!**

