Probability Sampling: An Application

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Introduction

- General Probability Sampling
 - Definition of a Probability Sample
 - Cost Function and Constraints
 - Sample Design
 - Objective Function
 - Tools
- Application
 - Background Information
 - Development of Cost Function, Constraints
 - Development of Sample Design
 - Development of Objective Function
 - Implementation
- Morals of the Story



Probability Sample

- Definition: A sample selected in such a way that every member of the sample has a known chance of selection (and every member of the population has a nonzero chance of selection)
- This definition does not require EQUAL probability of selection, as long as we use some sort of randomness to make our decisions.
- Sampling Units
 - Primary Sampling Unit (PSU)
 - Secondary Sampling Unit (SSU)

Probability Sample

Advantages

- Reduces risk of selection bias (allows for unbiased estimators of population parameters)
- Produces results that are generalizable to the U.S. population (allow for known margins of error from population parameters)

Cost Function and Constraints

O Cost Function Formula for a Balanced Survey:

$$c_{total} = c_1 n + c_2 m n$$

- n is the total number of PSUs
- m is the total number of SSUs
- \circ When the survey is unbalanced, replace m with $ar{m}$
- O Constraints can be
 - Financial
 - Time
 - Resources



Sample Design

- O Depends on what information you have and what information you want...
 - O Simple Random Sample
 - Cluster Sample
- Requires the use of auxiliary variable:
 - Stratified Sample
 - O Probability Proportional to Size Sampling



Objective Function

- O Helps us choose optimal sample size with two goals:
 - Minimize the cost with respect to a certain variance
 - Minimize the variance with respect to a certain cost
 - O Both reduce to the same answer!
- O Either way, we need to know how to calculate the variance of our statistic of interest.
 - O Total
 - Mean
 - Proportion
 - Regression

Tools for Design

- O Excel
 - O Solver
 - Allows for customizable objective function
 - Allows for additional constraints
 - Extremely useful for choosing sample sizes
 - O Can solve problems numerically
 - O "Using Spreadsheet Solvers in Sample Design"
 - O (Stokes & Plummer, 2004).

Tools for Analysis

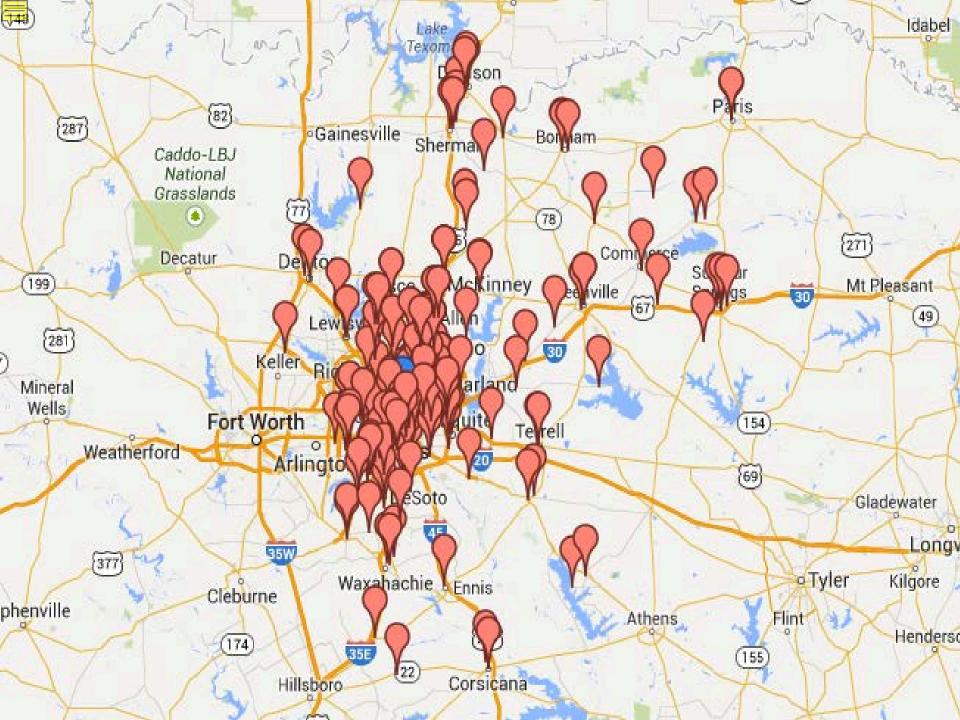
- O SAS
 - O Selection: SURVEYSELECT
 - Analysis of Means and Totals: SURVEYMEANS
 - Analysis of Regression: SURVEYREG
 - Analysis of Generalized Regression: SURVEYLOGISTIC
 - Analysis of Frequency Tables: SURVEYFREQ
 - O Easily allows use of sampling unit weights
- O Do not ignore weights when analyzing data!

Application

- O Background Information:
 - O Predict food-insecurity in the Greater North Texas Area
 - The grant, from the Hunger Center of Dallas, Subsidiary of North Texas Food Bank, focuses on
 - Financial Literacy
 - O Social Network
 - O Educational Level
 - Reaches beyond the unidirectional definition of poverty
- Sampling Units
 - 172 Food Banks (PSU)
 - Approximately 1000 Clients (SSU)

Application

- Additional Information on Food Banks
 - O ID Number
 - O Name
 - Number of clients served in the last three months
 - Mileage
 - O Housing in America Survey Info
 - County
 - City
 - Zip Code
 - IBSCO Map
 - Unemployment Rate by County Proxy Variable



- O Constraints:
 - Financial
 - O Cost per survey: \$50 per respondent
 - o \$20 incentive, given to the respondent
 - o \$15 paycheck, given to the interviewer
 - \$10 paycheck, given for data entry
 - \$5 reimbursement for gas and travel time
 - O For N=1000, total cost is \$50,000

- Constraints
 - O Time
 - O Time per survey: 40 minutes
 - O 35 minutes for survey
 - o 5 minutes for travel time
 - O For N=1000, total time is 660 hours
- O Interviewers
 - 4 surveyors, contributing 165 hours each
 - O If they spend 10 hours per week interviewing, the survey will take 16 weeks to complete.
 - Plan: conduct surveys November February (4 months total)

- Other practical issues:
 - O Interviewers could work for a maximum in one day.
 - Interviews could potentially take longer than 30 minutes.
 - O Interviewers were sent in pairs for safety reasons.

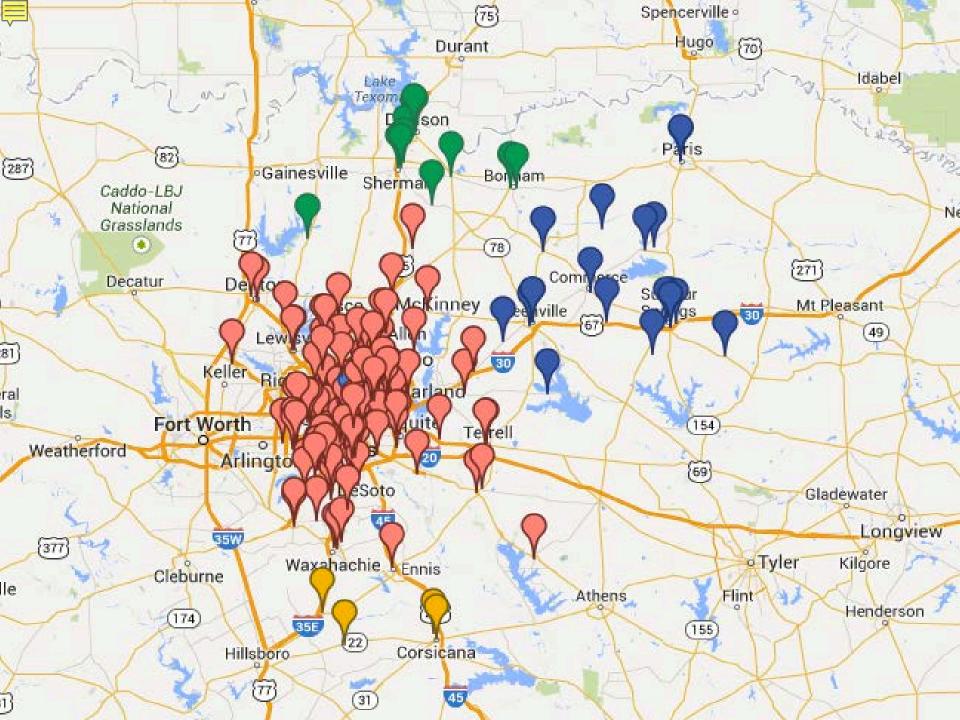
- Assume that interviewers could conduct a constant number of interviews per day, and that the financial cost was constant up to travel reimbursement.
- Travel reimbursement is proportional to the miles the interviewers drive.

Cost = Miles x (Reimbursement + Hourly Wage/Average Speed)

Development of Sample Design

Stratification

- Ensures representation of both urban and rural areas
- O No objective definition of urban and rural
- O Instead, we ensured that food banks from the northern, southern, and eastern regions would be represented.
- Four Geographical Strata
 - Metropolitan Region
 - O North Region
 - O South Region
 - Cast Region



Development of Sample Design

PPS Sampling

- Assigned probabilities to each bank proportional to the number of clients served
- Larger banks have a higher probability of selection
- O Sampling the same number of clients from each bank ensures approximately equal probability of selection for clients (makes analysis easier)

Development of Objective Function

- O Goal: Predict food insecurity using decision trees
 - O Closest Statistic: Proportion
- Objective: Minimize variance with respect to cost
- O Variance:

$$Var_{total} = \sum [Var_{within} + Var_{between}]$$

Objective Function

$$Var_{between} = N(1 - \frac{n}{N})(\frac{\sum m^2(\pi(2\alpha - 1) - E(\alpha))^2}{n - 1})$$

$$Var_{within} = \frac{N}{n} \sum_{m} m^{2} (1 - \frac{\min(m, \frac{N}{n})}{m}) V(\alpha)$$

where α represents the proxy variable, unemployment rate,

 π represents the sampling weight based on the number of clients per bank, and m represents the number of clients served at the bank.

Excel Solver

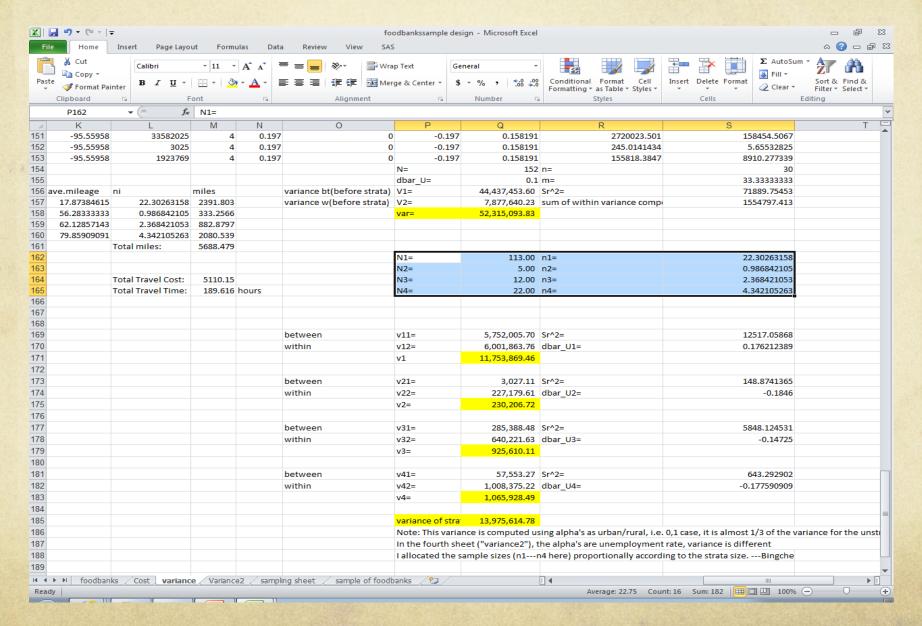
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Excel Solver

- O Solver is an available add-in to MS Excel that handles sampling design
 - Objective Variable
 - Changing Variables
 - Constraints

Obtains an optimal solution when it exists

Excel Solver



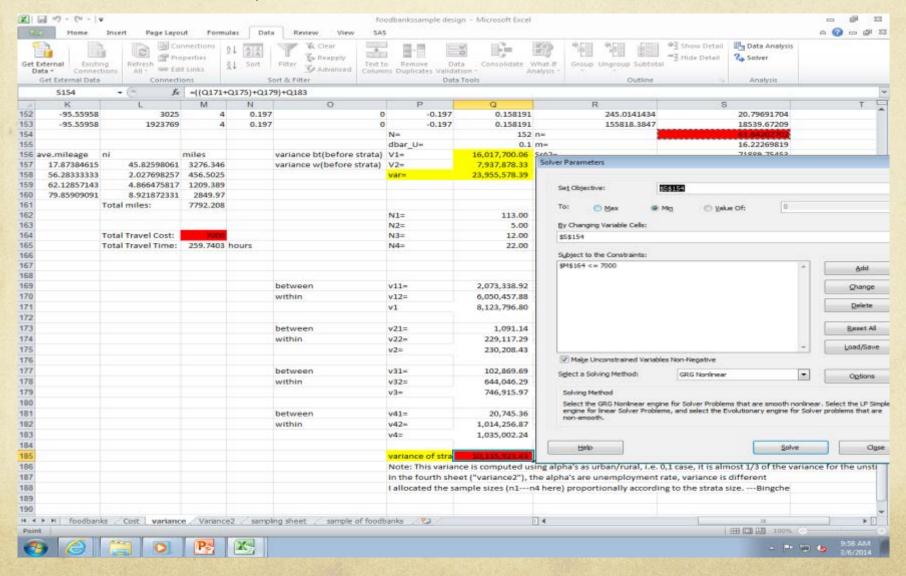
Excel Solver - Variance

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Excel Solver - Variance

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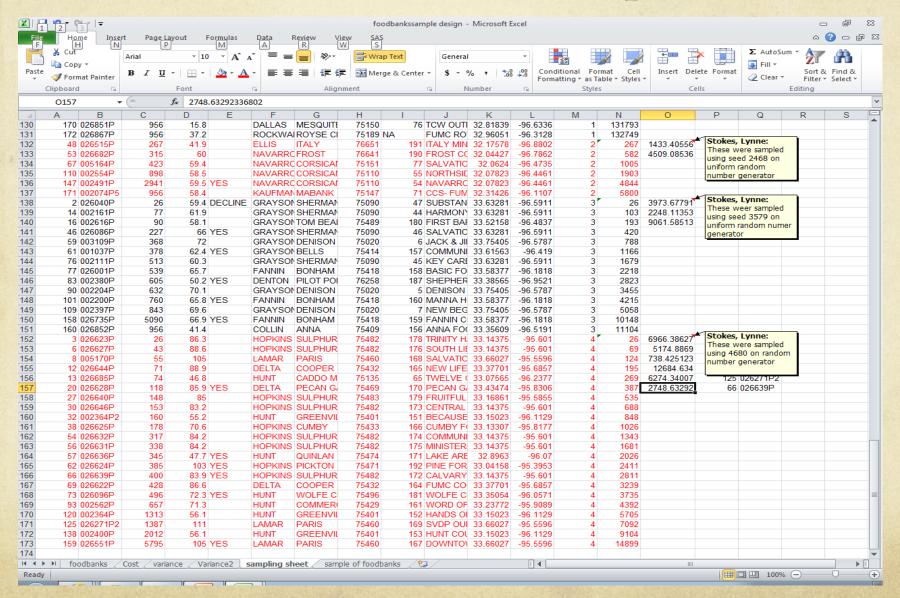
Excel Solver - Minimize Sample Size Based on Variance



Excel Solver - Final Sample

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	24 02		131				DALLA		75209			ERVICES			96.8255	1	2163	87143.49			026099P2	87143.5		
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	26 00		141		YES	KAUFMAN			75142			ALVATIO			96.3038	1	2441	115385.1			026588P	115385.1		
	28 00		150		YES	DALLAS			75223			ETHODIS			96.7492	1	2591	110722.0			002218P	110722.1		
	29 00		152			ELLIS	MIDLO		76065			IANNA H			96.9867	1	2743	120254.7			008036P	120254.8		
	31 00		160		9	DALLAS			75116			ISEN CH			96.9127	1	2903	87609.39			026099P2	87609.4		
	33 02	6810P	162	42.1	1	DENTON	DENTO	N	76201	1	185 FI	IRST BAI	33.22	66 -	97.1306	1	3065	50851.93	379	129	001041P	50851.94		
	34 00	2093P	165	14	1	DALLAS	DALLA	S	75216	1	114 H	OLY CRO	32.710	08 -	96.7972	1	3230	9998.612	238	71	002408P	9998.612		
	35 02	6508P	166	15.1	DECLINE	COLLIN	PLANC)	75075		38 LI	IFESOUF	33.024	72 -	96.7404	1	3396	61089.5	77	135	002680P	61089.58		
	36 00	2136P	168	14.6	6	DALLAS	DALLA	S	75217	1	116 N	EWMAN	32.722	38 -	96.6758	1	3564	37381.	.36	117	002117P	37381.36		
	37 02		173			DALLAS	IRVING		75061			OOD SH			96.9614	1	3737	40727.73			002086P1	40727.74		
	39 00		182				DALLA		75241			LIFF VIE			96.7744	1	3919	1397.699			002013P	1397.699		
		6799P	201			DALLAS	GARLA		75041			EARTS A			-96.646	1	4120	42279.38			022586P	42279.38		
		6431P2	204			COLLIN	PLANC		75075			VDP ST			96.7404	1	4324	48485.97			026095P	48485.98		
	42 02		220				DALLA		75212			OICE OF			96.8695	1	4544	17108.64			002360P	17108.65		
	43 00		220			DENTON			76262			ORTHWE			97.2187	1	4764	23708.2			002499P	23708.22		
	44 00		222		YES	ELLIS	WAXAH		75165			ALVATIO			96.8328	1	4986 5210	46573.76	034	126	002137P	46573.76	.	
	45 00 47 02		224 250			ELLIS COLLIN	WAXAH		75165 75002			ROWN S			96.8328 96.6245	1	5460					45176.06 125120.4		
	49 02		280		1 YES	DALLAS	DALLA		75238	4		T PATRIC			96.7092	1	5740					87066.52		
	50 02		287				DALLA		75206			INGDOM			96.7712	1	6027					100930.1		
	51 02		288				DALLA		75210			ORTH TE			96.7473	1	6315					106350.7		
	52 00		293			ELLIS	ENNIS		75119			ELPING			96.6196	1	6608					113363.5		
	55 02		324		YES	COLLIN	PRINCE	ΞTC	75407			HRIST C			96.4966	1	6932							
	58 00		353			DALLAS	GARLA		75042			IETRO F			-96.674	1	7285							
Ī	60 02		377				DALLA		75215			T PHILIP			96.7704	1	7662							
2	63 00		396		2	COLLIN	RICHA		75081			ICHARDS			96.7092	1	8058							
	64 02		397		YES	ELLIS	MIDLO [*]		76065			ENIOR C			96.9867	1	8455							
	65 02	6812P	400	8.7	7	DALLAS	DALLA	S	75229	1	129 TI	EENA'S F	32.895	38 -	96.8599	1	8855							
5	68 02	6031P	424	14.6	YES	DALLAS	DALLA	S	75211	1	103 M	IOUNTAI	32.736	93 -	96.8825	1	9279							
4 Þ ÞI	foodb	anks /	Cost / va	riance / Va	ariance2 s	sampling sh	neet /	sample	of foodb	anks	/ 🐑] 4				III					

Excel Solver - Final Sample



Final Sample

- C Eight Interviews per Day
 - 42 Food Banks
 - O 24 Clients per Food Bank
- O Twelve Interviews per Day
 - O 30 Food Banks
 - O 33 Clients per Food Bank

Other Practical Issues

- O How do we select clients once we're actually inside the food banks?
 - As randomly as possible
 - No possible frame
 - O Choose them systematically, i.e., every tenth person
- Non-response: Clients may choose not to participate

Concluding Remarks

- O When in doubt, it's helpful to think of what we would do if we had more data.
- O It's also helpful to start from a simple scenario where you know all the formulas and analysis and work your way up to a more complicated scenario.

Concluding Remarks

- This is not a math problem! We rarely have enough information to find the optimal solution, and if we do, it may be too complicated. Our goal is to do something reasonable.
- O Part of doing something reasonable is to take a look at different scenarios and see how the results may be affected.
- O If you spend time making a complicated design, you need to make sure the analysis is also done the right way.

References

Stokes, L., & Plummer, J. (2004). Using Spreadsheet Solvers in Sample Design. Computational Statistics & Data Analysis, 44 (3), 527-546.

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