

null hypothesis (H_0)

A hypothesis that must be rejected for an *alternative hypothesis* H_A to be accepted. For example, if an *experiment* fails to show that a die is fair (H_0), the alternative hypothesis that the die is loaded (H_A) may be accepted (at a given *level of significance*). The null hypothesis is often the assumption that *data points* adhere to some ideal *model*, like a *probability distribution*. For example, the null hypothesis that a die is fair may be described by a *uniform distribution of outcomes* (eyes facing up).

A null hypothesis H_0 is assumed to be true until data gathered in an experiment contradict the hypothesis at a given level of significance.

