Generating Power Curves for z-Tests

The student of statistics learns that "power" of a statistical test involves the sensitivity of the test for accepting the null hypothesis when, in fact, one should. It is obtained as 1.0 - beta where beta is the probability of making a Type II error (accepting the null hypothesis due to random sampling variability when one should have rejected.) This power is a function of the alpha rate accepted by the researcher (probability of a Type I error) as well as the difference between the null and alternative hypothesized statistic and the standard deviation of the statistic (which is, itself, a function of sample size.)

This procedure plots the power curves for various levels of Type I error given the standard deviation of the statistic. Shown below is the specification form for the plot and the results obtained.

Power Analysis for z-Test	×
Mean of the Null Hypothesis:	100
Standard Deviation of the distrib	ution: 15
Sample Size:	30
Probability of Type I Error: ■ 0.01 ■ 0.025 ■ 0.05	Reset
	Cancel
0.075	Compute
0.20	Return

Figure 1 Power Curves Dialog



Figure 2 Power Curves for Three Levels of Alpha

Power of the z-test for Alternate Hypotheses

Alpha Levels:	0.01	0.05	0.10	
Alpha Levels: X := 100.00 X := 100.14 X := 100.27 X := 100.41 X := 100.55 X := 100.68 X := 100.96 X := 101.10 X := 101.23 X := 101.37 X := 101.51 X := 101.64 X := 101.78 Y := 101.92	0.01 0.010 0.011 0.013 0.015 0.017 0.019 0.021 0.024 0.027 0.030 0.034 0.038 0.042 0.047 0.052	0.05 0.050 0.055 0.061 0.068 0.074 0.082 0.089 0.098 0.107 0.116 0.126 0.137 0.148 0.160 0.172	0.10 0.109 0.119 0.129 0.140 0.151 0.163 0.176 0.189 0.203 0.217 0.232 0.248 0.264 0.280	
X := 101.92	0.052	0.172	0.280	
X := 101.78	0.047	0.160	0.264	
X := 102.05	0.058	0.185	0.298	
X := 102.19	0.063	0.199	0.315	
X := 102.33	0.070	0.213	0.333	
X := 102.46	0.077	0.228	0.351	
X etc.				