NST 1B Experimental Psychology Statistics practical 2

## Difference tests (1): parametric

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Everything (inc. slides) also at pobox.com/~rudolf/psychology



These slides are on the web. No need to scribble frantically.

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## Reminder: basic principles



#### Reminder: the logic of null hypothesis testing

**Research hypothesis**  $(H_1)$ : e.g. measure weights of 50 joggers and 50 nonjoggers; research hypothesis might be 'there is a difference between the weights of joggers and non-joggers; the population mean of joggers is not the same as the population mean of non-joggers'.

Usually very hard to calculate the probability of a research hypothesis (sometimes because they're poorly specified — for example, how *big* a difference?).

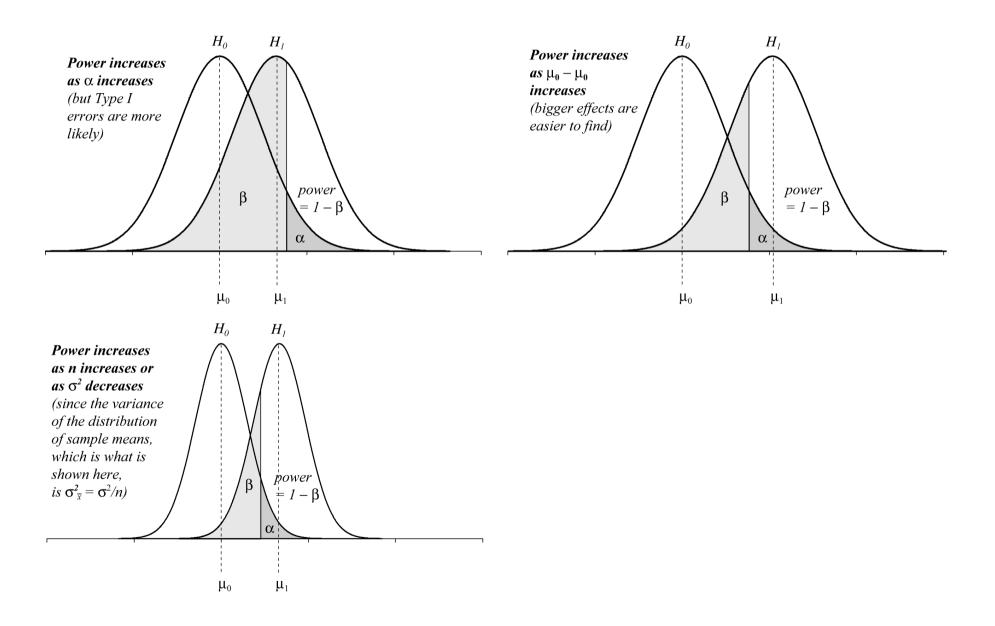
Null hypothesis  $(H_0)$ : e.g. 'there is no difference between the population means of joggers and non-joggers; any observed differences are **due to** chance.'

**Calculate probability of finding the observed data** (e.g. difference) **if the null hypothesis is true.** This is the *p* value.

If p very small, reject null hypothesis ('chance alone is not a good enough explanation'). Otherwise, retain null hypothesis (Occam's razor: chance is the simplest explanation). Criterion level of p is called  $\alpha$ .

	True state of the world	
Decision	H <sub>0</sub> true	H <sub>0</sub> false
<b>Reject H</b> <sub>0</sub>	Type I error	Correct decision
	$probability = \alpha$	<i>probability</i> = $1 - \beta$ = power
Do not reject H <sub>0</sub>	Correct decision	Type II error
	$probability = 1 - \alpha$	$probability = \beta$

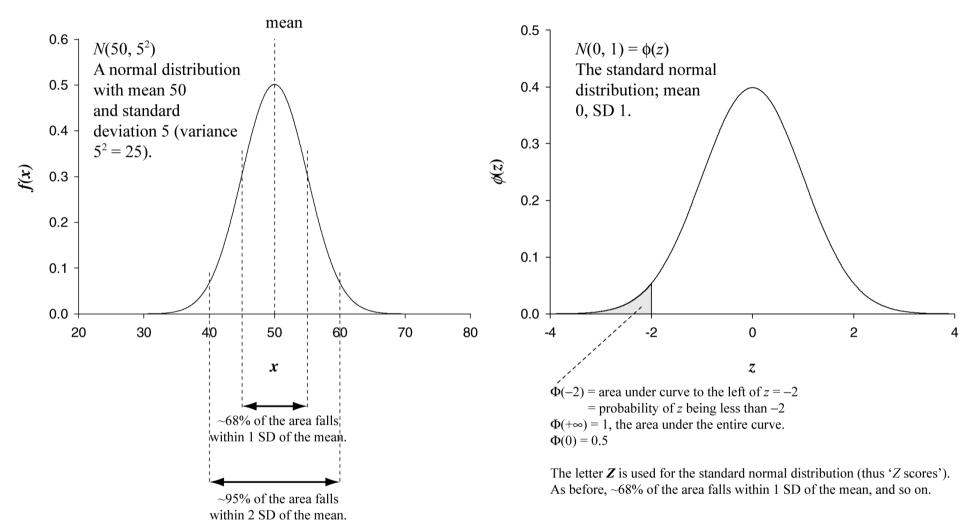
#### Power: the probability of FINDING a GENUINE effect

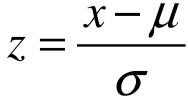


### Reminder: Z



#### Reminder: the distribution of Z (the standard normal distribution)





# Reminder: If we know $\mu$ and $\sigma$ , we can test hypotheses about **single** observations with a *Z* test

**Example:** we know IQs are distributed with a mean ( $\mu$ ) of 100 and a standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 15 in the healthy population. If we select a single person from our population, what is the probability that he/she has an IQ of **60 or less?** 

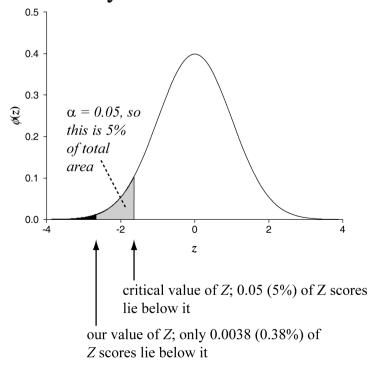
$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{60 - 100}{15} = -2.667$$

Our tables will tell us that the probability of finding a Z score less than +2.667 is 0.9962...

So the probability of finding a Z score less than -2.667 is 1 - 0.9962 = 0.0038 (since the Z curve is symmetrical about zero).

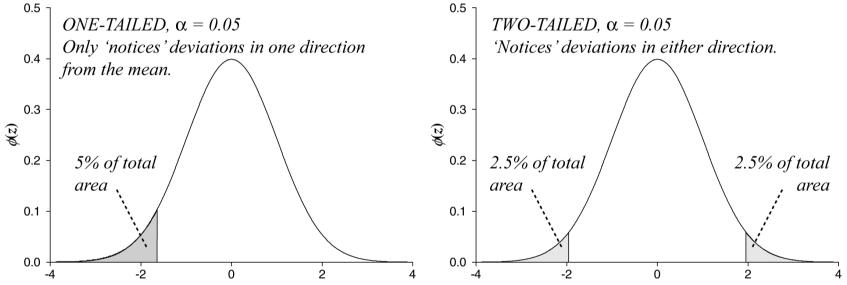
If our **null hypothesis** is that the person *does* come from the healthy population, we might reject the null hypothesis if p < 0.05 (as in this example). This will happen whenever Z < -1.64. This is an example of a **critical value** of *Z*.

Therefore, this IQ is 2.667 standard deviations below the mean. How likely is that?



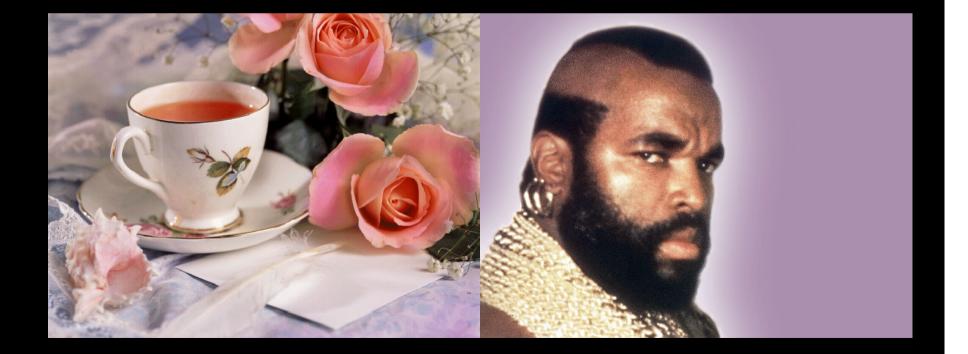
#### Reminder: one- and two-tailed tests

We asked for the probability of finding an individual with an IQ of 60 or less in the normal population. This tests the null hypothesis  $H_0$ : 'the individual comes from the normal population with mean 100 and SD 15'. We calculate *p*, and would reject  $H_0$  if  $p < \alpha$  (where  $\alpha$  is typically 0.05 by arbitrary convention).

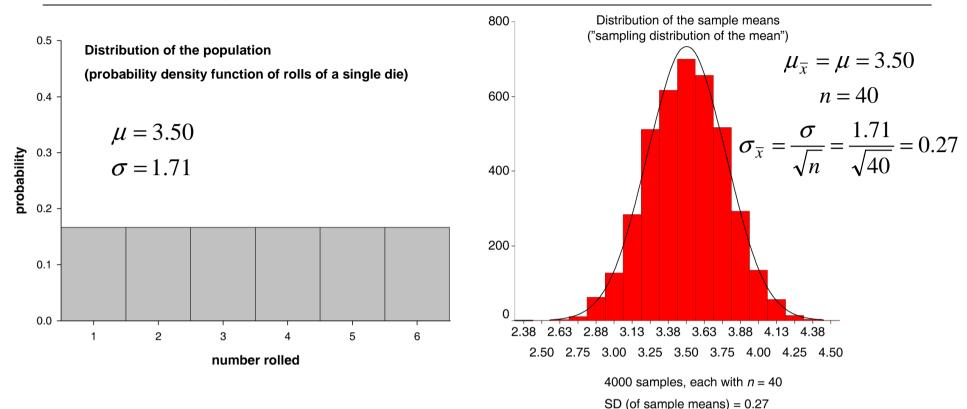


This is a **one-tailed** test. If we do **not** reject the null hypothesis, it means that the IQ is **not significantly less** than 100; it might be (a) not different from 100, or (b) *bigger* than 100. If we want to reject the null hypothesis if the IQ is **bigger** or smaller, we use a **two-tailed** test, and 'allocate'  $\alpha/2$  for testing each tail to keep the overall Type I error rate at  $\alpha$ . The critical values of Z will then be slightly larger (-1.96 and +1.96, as it happens).

### The t test



### The 'sampling distribution of the mean'



#### **The Central Limit Theorem**

mean (of all sample means) = 3.50

Given a population with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ , from which we take samples of size *n*, the distribution

of sample means will have a mean  $\mu_{\overline{x}} = \mu$ , a variance  $\sigma_{\overline{x}}^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$ , and a standard deviation  $\sigma_{\overline{x}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ .

As the sample size n increases, the distribution of the sample means will approach the normal distribution.

This lets us test hypotheses about **groups** of observations (**samples**). For a given *n*, we can find out the probability of obtaining a particular sample mean.

# If we know the population SD, $\sigma$ , we can test hypotheses about samples with a Z test

**Example:** we know IQs are distributed with a mean ( $\mu$ ) of 100 and a standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of 15 in the healthy population. Suppose we take a **single sample** of 5 people and find their IQs are {140, 121, 95, 105, 91}. What is the probability of obtaining data with this sample mean or greater from the healthy population?

Well, we can work out our sample mean:

We know *n*:

We know the mean of all sample means from this population:

... and the standard deviation of all sample means: (often called the **standard error of the mean**)

$$\sigma_{\overline{x}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{15}{\sqrt{5}} = 6.708$$

So we can work out a Z score:

$$z = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu_{\overline{x}}}{\sigma_{\overline{x}}} = \frac{110.4 - 100}{6.708} = 1.55$$

Our tables will tell us that P(Z < 1.55) = 0.9394. So P(Z > 1.55) = 1 - 0.9394 = 0.061. We'd report p = 0.061 for our test.

○ 0.5

 $\bar{x} = 110.4$ 

 $\mu_{\bar{x}} = \mu = 100$ 

n=5

$$z = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu_{\overline{x}}}{\sigma_{\overline{x}}} = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

If we don't know the **population** SD,  $\sigma$ , and very often we don't, we can't use this test.

?

$$t = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu_{\overline{x}}}{s_{\overline{x}}} = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

Instead, we can calculate a number using the **sample SD** (which we can easily calculate) as an *estimator* of the population SD (which we don't know). But this number, which we call *t*, does NOT have the same distribution as *Z*.

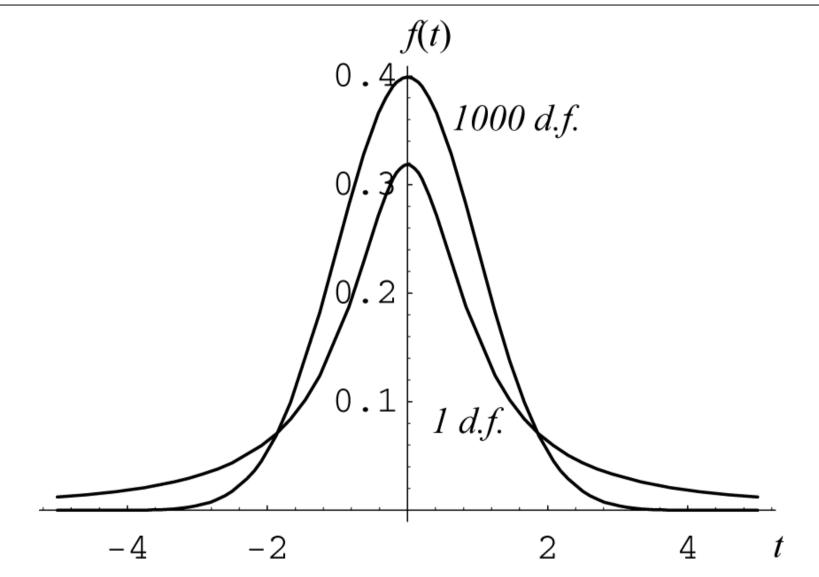
#### The distribution of t. "Student's" (Gossett's) t distribution

As is so often the case, beer made a statistical problem go away.



Student (Gossett, W.S.) (1908). The probable error of a mean. *Biometrika* 6: 1–25.

The distribution of *t* when  $H_0$  is true depends on the sample size (which determines the 'degrees of freedom', or d.f.)



When d.f. =  $\infty$ , the *t* distribution (under  $H_0$ ) is the same as the normal distribution.

#### Degrees of freedom (*df*). (Few understand this well!)

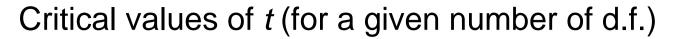
Estimates of parameters can be based upon different amounts of information. The number of **independent** pieces of information that go into the estimate of a parameter is called the **degrees of freedom** (**d.f.** or df).

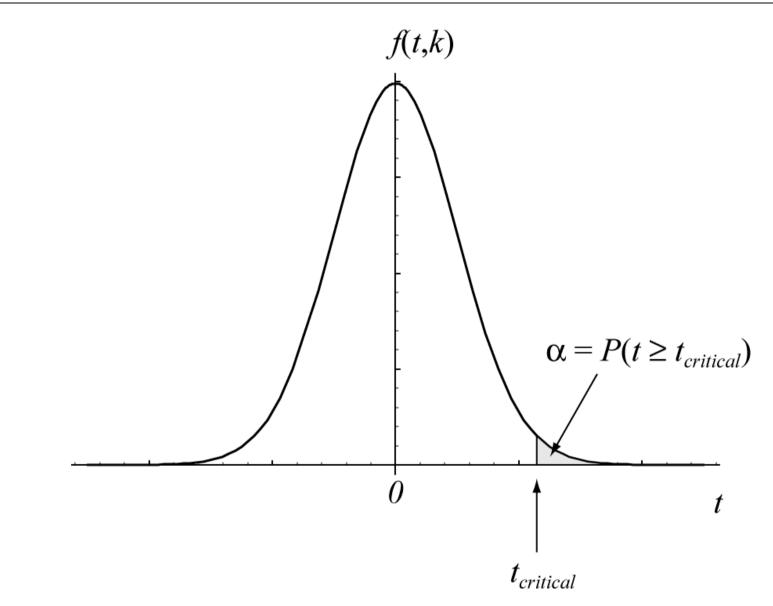
Or, the number of observations free to vary. (Example: 3 numbers and a mean.)

Or, the df is the number of measurements exceeding the amount absolutely necessary to measure the 'object' (or parameter) in question. To measure the length of a rod requires 1 measurement. If 10 measurements are taken, then the set of 10 measurements has 9 df.

In general, the *df* of an estimate is the number of independent scores that go into the estimate **minus** the number of parameters estimated from those scores as intermediate steps. For example, if the variance  $\sigma^2$  is estimated (by  $s^2$ ) from a random sample of *n* independent scores, then the number of degrees of freedom is equal to the number of independent scores (*n*) minus the number of parameters estimated as intermediate steps (one, as  $\mu$  is estimated by  $\bar{x}$ ) and is therefore *n*-1.  $s_X^2 = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}$ 

Two statistics are drinking in a bar. One turns to the other and asks 'So how are you finding married life?' The other replies 'It's okay, but you lose a degree of freedom.' The first chuckles evilly. 'You need a larger sample.'

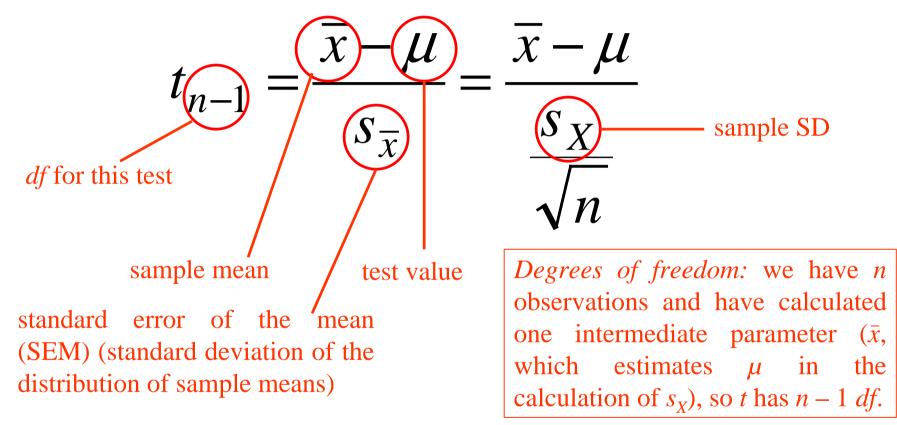




When d.f. =  $\infty$ , the *t* distribution (under  $H_0$ ) is the same as the normal distribution.

#### The one-sample *t* test

We've just seen the logic behind this. We calculate *t* according to this formula:

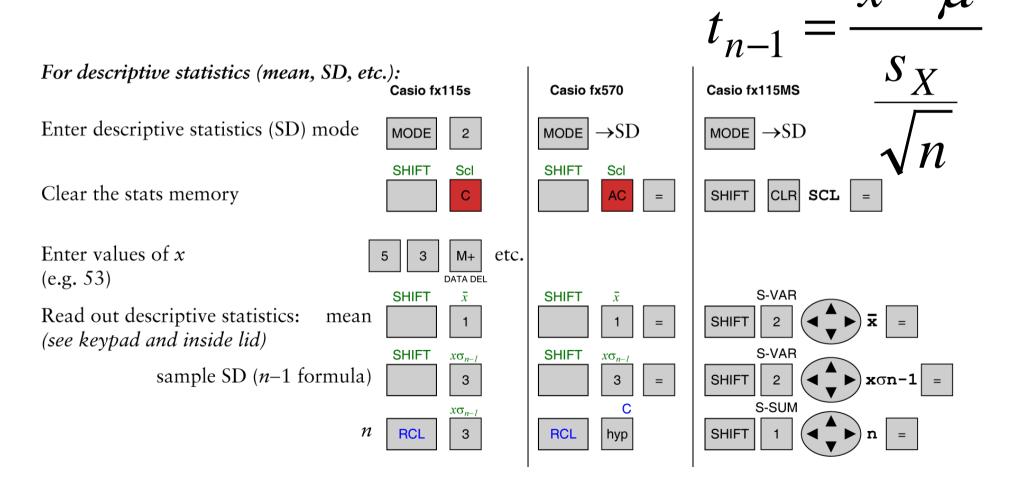


The null hypothesis is that the sample comes from a population with mean  $\mu$ .

Look up the critical value of t (for a given  $\alpha$ ) using your tables of t for the correct number of degrees of freedom (n - 1). If your |t| is bigger, it's significant.

#### The one-sample *t* test: EXAMPLE (1)

It has been suggested that 15-year-olds should sleep 8 hours per night. We measure sleep duration in 8 such teenagers and find that they sleep  $\{8.3, 5.4, 7.2, 8.1, 7.6, 6.2, 9.1, 7.3\}$  hours per night. Does their group mean differ from 8 hours per night?



### The one-sample *t* test: EXAMPLE (2)

It has been suggested that 15-year-olds should sleep 8 hours per night. We measure sleep duration in 8 such teenagers and find that they sleep **{8.3, 5.4, 7.2, 8.1, 7.6, 6.2, 9.1, 7.3}** hours per night. Does their group mean differ from 8 hours per night?

sample mean sample SD ( $s_X$ ) population mean to test ( $\mu$ ) sample size (n) t t  $t = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\frac{s_X}{\sqrt{n}}} = \frac{7.4 - 8}{\frac{1.178}{\sqrt{8}}} = -1.44$  df df = n - 1 = 7critical value of t(use  $\alpha = 0.05$  two-tailed) df dr dr

 $\alpha = P(t \ge t_{critical})$ 

Since our |t| is not as large as the critical value, we do **not** reject the null hypothesis. **Not** 'significant'; p > 0.05. We have **not** established that, as a group, they sleep less than 8h per night.

#### Paired and unpaired tests (related and unrelated data)

Now we'll look at *t* tests with **two samples.** In general, two samples can be **related** or **unrelated**.

- *Related:* e.g. measuring the same subject twice; measuring a large set of twins; ... any situation in which two measurements are *more likely to resemble each other than by chance alone* within the 'domain' of interest.
- Unrelated: where no two measurements are related.

Example: measuring digit span on land and underwater. Could use either

- related (within-subjects) design: measure ten people on land; measure same ten people underwater. 'Good' performers on land likely to be 'good' performers underwater; the two scores from the same subject are related.
- **unrelated** (**between-subjects**) **design:** measure ten people on land and another ten people underwater.

If there is 'relatedness' in your data, your analysis must take account of it.

- This may give you more power (e.g. if the data is paired, a paired test has more power than an unpaired test; unpaired test may give Type II error).
- beware **pseudoreplication:** e.g. measure one person ten times on land; measure another person ten times underwater; pretend that n = 20. In fact, n = 2, as repeated measurements of the same person do not add much more information — they're all likely to be similar. Get Type I errors.

#### The two-sample, paired t test

Very simple. Calculate the **differences** between each pair of observations. Then perform a **one-sample** *t* test on the differences, comparing them to zero. (Null hypothesis: the mean difference is zero.)

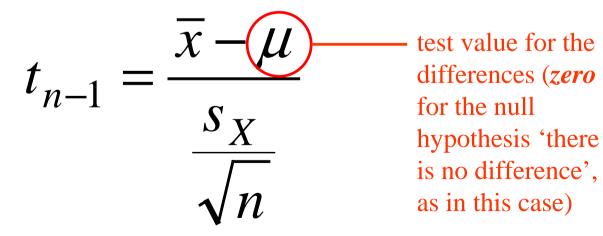
 $t_{n-1} = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\frac{S_X}{\sqrt{n}}}$ 

test value for the differences (**zero** for the null hypothesis 'there is no difference')

#### The two-sample, paired *t* test: EXAMPLE (1)

Looking at **high-frequency words** only, does the **rate of errors** that you made while categorizing *homophones* differ from the error rate when categorizing *non-homophone (control)* words — i.e. is there a **non-zero homophone effect?** (Each subject categorizes both homophones and control words, so we will use a paired *t* test.)

Relevant difference scores are labelled % *errors* — *homophone effect* (*i.e. error rate for homophones minus error rate for control items*) — *high f[requency] words* on your summary sheet. **Mean** = **3.13; standard deviation** = **11.80;** *n* = **104.** 



#### The two-sample, paired t test: EXAMPLE (2)

Looking at **high-frequency words** only, does the **rate of errors** that you made while categorizing *homophones* differ from the error rate when categorizing *non-homophone (control)* words — i.e. is there a **non-zero homophone effect?** 

Since our *t* is larger than the critical value, we **reject** the null hypothesis. 'Significant'; p < 0.05. Not easy to tell whether p < 0.01 (since critical *t* for  $\alpha = 0.01$  and 103 *df* is somewhere between 2.75 and 2.576). You made more errors for homophones (p < 0.05 two-tailed).

#### Confidence intervals using t

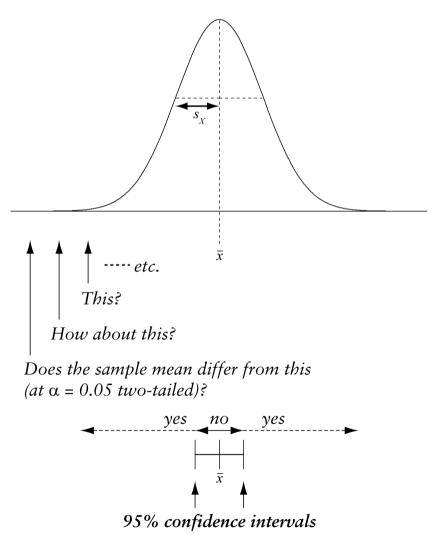
If we know the mean and SD of a sample, we could perform a *t* test to see if it differed from a given number. We could repeat that for every possible number...

Since 
$$t_{n-1} = \frac{\overline{x} - \mu}{\frac{s_X}{\sqrt{n}}}$$
  
therefore  $\mu = \overline{x} \pm \left( t_{\text{critical for } n-1 \, df} \times \frac{s_X}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$ 

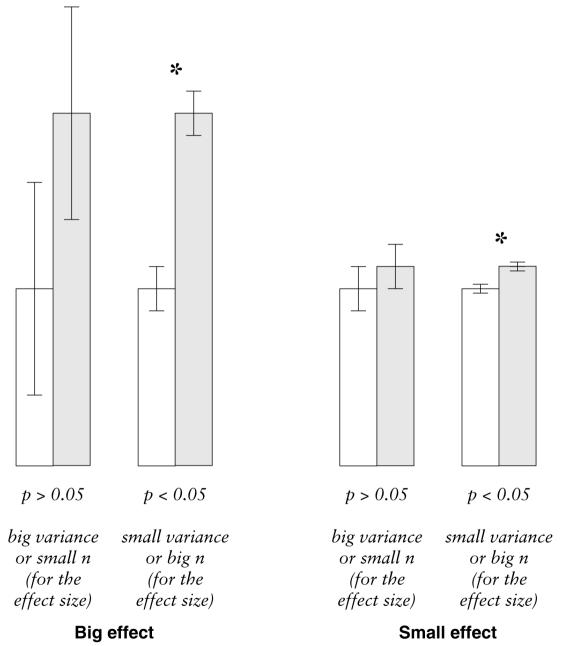
For our homophone example: sample mean = 3.13 (%), s = 11.80 (%). For n = 104 (df = 103),  $t_{critical}$  for  $\alpha = 0.05$  two-tailed is approx.  $\pm 1.96$ . Therefore...

$$\pm 1.96 = \frac{3.13 - \mu}{\frac{11.80}{\sqrt{104}}}$$
 and therefore  $\mu = 3.13 \pm 2.27$ 

This means that there is a **95% chance that the true population mean** homophone effect for high-frequency words is between 0.86% and 5.4%.



#### Significance is not the same as effect size



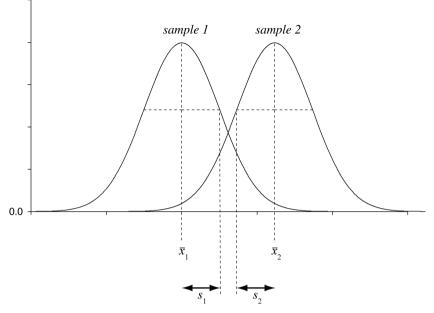
Reporting both may be useful (for example, giving the effect size with its 95% confidence interval; if the confidence interval includes 0, then the effect size is not significantly different from 0).

How big an effect needs to be to be *important* depends on the experiment.

#### The two-sample, unpaired *t* test

How can we test the difference between two independent samples? In other words, do both samples come from underlying populations with the same mean? (= Null hypothesis.)

Basically, if the sample means are very far apart, as measured by something that depends (somehow) on the variability of the samples, then we will reject the null hypothesis.



As always,

t = -

something

standard error of the something (= SD of an infinite set of samples of the something)

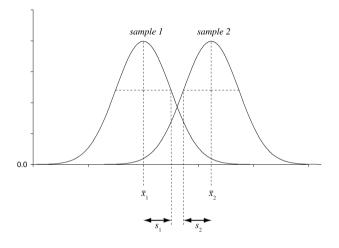
In this case,

difference between the means

 $t = \frac{1}{\text{standard error of the difference between the means (SED)}}$ 

#### The two-sample, unpaired t test

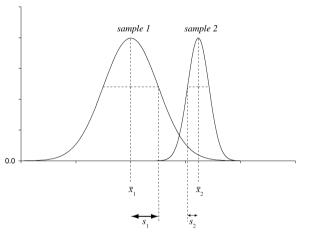
Don't worry about how we calculate the SED (it's in the handout if you're bizarrely keen). The format of the *t* test depends (unfortunately) on whether the two samples have the same variance.



#### If the samples have the same variance:

- There's one formula for *t* if the samples are not the same size  $(n_1 \neq n_2)$ , and a simpler formula if they are  $(n_1 = n_2)$ .
- Formulae are on the Formula Sheet.

• We have  $n_1+n_2$  observations and estimated 2 parameters (the means, used to calculate the two SDs), so we have  $n_1 + n_2$ -2 df.



#### If they do not:

- the number we calculate does not have quite the same distribution as *t*.
- We calculate a number as before but call the result *t*'.

• We then test our t' as if it were a t score, but with a **different number of degrees of freedom. Details on the Formula Sheet.** 

#### The two-sample, unpaired *t* test — EXAMPLE

In high-frequency word categorization, was the homophone effect (error rate for homophones minus error rate for control words) different in males and females?

% errors — Females: n = 64; mean = 3.39; SD = 11.66 Males: n = 40; mean = 2.71; SD = 12.14 Null hypothesis: no difference between males and females. Let's use the equal-variance form of the unpaired *t* test:

$$t_{n_1+n_2-2} = \frac{\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2}}{\sqrt{\frac{s_p^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_p^2}{n_2}}} \quad \text{where} \quad s_p^2 = \frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$$

#### The two-sample, unpaired *t* test — EXAMPLE (2)

In high-frequency word categorization, was the homophone effect (error rate for homophones minus error rate for control words) different in males and females? If we call females 'group 1' and males 'group 2'...

$$s_p^2 = \frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2} = \frac{63 \times (11.66)^2 + 39 \times (12.14)^2}{64 + 40 - 2} = 140.32$$

$$t_{n_1+n_2-2} = \frac{\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2}}{\sqrt{\frac{s_p^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_p^2}{n_2}}} = \frac{3.39 - 2.71}{\sqrt{\frac{140.32}{64} + \frac{140.32}{40}}} = \frac{0.68}{2.388} = 0.285$$

*df*:  $(n_1 + n_2 - 2) = 102$ 

Critical *t* for 102 *df* (for  $\alpha = 0.05$  two-tailed) is about **2.0** Not a significant difference.

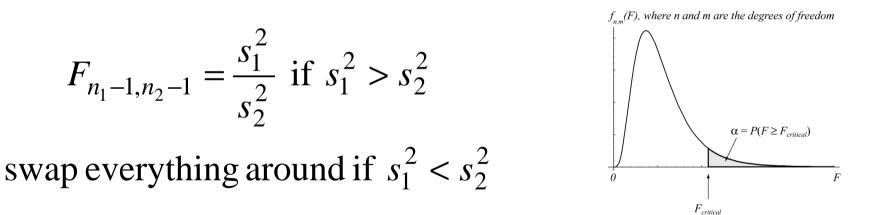
#### 'Are the variances equal or not?' The F test

So how can we tell if the variances are 'the same' or 'different' — either to choose the type of *t* test, or because we're actually interested in differences in variability?

(a) We can look at them. It may be obvious.

(b) We can perform a statistical test to compare the two variances.

A popular test — not the best one, but a reasonable and easy one — is the *F* test. *F* is the ratio of two variances. Since our tables will give us critical values for F > 1 (but not F < 1), we make sure  $F \ge 1$  by putting the **bigger variance on top:** 



Null hypothesis is that the variances are the same (F = 1). If our F exceeds the critical F for the relevant number of df (note that there are separate df for the numerator and the denominator), we reject the null hypothesis. Since we have ensured that  $F \ge 1$ , we run a one-tailed test on F — so double the stated one-tailed  $\alpha$  to get the two-tailed  $\alpha$  for the question 'are the variances *different*?'.

#### F test: homophone example

### **Example:** classifying high-frequency words. Was the homophone effect **more variable** in males than females?

Females: *n* = 64, SD = 11.66 Males: *n* = 40, SD = 12.14

0

Put the biggest variance on top:  $F_{n_1-1,n_2-1} = \frac{s_1^2}{s_2^2} \text{ if } s_1^2 > s_2^2$ swap everything around if  $s_1^2 < s_2^2$ 

$$F_{n_1-1,n_2-1} = \frac{s_1^2}{s_2^2}$$
$$F_{39,63} = \frac{12.14^2}{11.66^2} = 1.08$$

From tables, critical *F* for 39,63 *df* (for  $\alpha = 0.05$  two-tailed)... well, we haven't got it exactly, but the closest ( $F_{40,60}$ ) is **1.74.** 

Our *F* is *not* bigger, so we do *not* reject the null hypothesis. The variability of homophone effect was not significantly different in males and females.

#### Assumptions of the *t* test

• The mean is meaningful.

If you compare the football shirt numbers worn by England strikers who've scored more than 20 goals for their country with those worn by less successful strikers, you might find that the successful strikers have a mean shirt number that's 1.2 lower than the less successful strikers. So what?

• The underlying scores (for one-sample and unpaired *t* tests) or difference scores (for paired *t* tests) are **normally distributed.** 

Large samples compensate for this to *some* degree (but see handout for details). Rule of thumb: if n > 30, you're OK. If n > 15 and the data don't look too weird, it's probably OK. Otherwise, bear this in mind.

• To use the equal-variance version of the unpaired two-sample *t* test, the two samples must come from populations with equal variances (whether or not  $n_1 = n_2$ ).

(There's a helpful clue to remember that one in the name of the test.) The *t* test is fairly **robust** to violations of this assumption (gives a good estimate of the *p* value) if  $n_1 = n_2$ , but not if  $n_1 \neq n_2$ .

#### Parametric and non-parametric tests

The t test is a **parametric** test: it makes assumptions about parameters of the underlying populations (such as the distribution — e.g. assuming that the data are normally distributed). If these assumptions are violated:

(a) we can *transform* the data to fit the assumptions better

(NOT covered at Part 1B level)

*or* (b) we can use a **nonparametric** ('distribution-free') test that doesn't make the same assumptions.

In general, if the assumptions of parametric tests are met, they are the most powerful. If not, we may need to use nonparametric tests. They may, for example, answer questions about medians rather than means. We'll cover some next time.



## A final thought and a technique



Number of tests with  $\alpha = 0.05$  per test

P(at least one Type I error if null hypothesis true)= 1 – P(no Type I errors if null hypothesis true)

1	1 - (1 - 0.05) = 0.05
2	$1 - (1 - 0.05)^2 = 0.0975$
3	$1 - (1 - 0.05)^3 = 0.1426$
4	$1 - (1 - 0.05)^4 = 0.1855$
5	$1 - (1 - 0.05)^5 = 0.2262$

 $100 \qquad 1 - (1 - 0.05)^{100} = 0.9941$ 

 $n = (1 - 0.05)^n$ 

(But remember, you can't make a Type I error — saying something is significant when it isn't — at all *unless* the null hypothesis is *actually* true. So these are all 'maximum' Type I error rates.)

#### Drawing and interpreting between- and within-subject effects

