

Fisher's approach to the issue of multiple comparisons:

→ use an initial test at the right level of significance

eg for one-way ANOVA, the overall F test in the ANOVA table will tell you whether or not to expect any differences between the level means

→ compute Fisher's LSD (not corrected in any way for multiple comparisons)
"Least Significant Difference"

$$t_{n-p}(0.975) \cdot \sqrt{\frac{2}{n_i} \hat{\sigma}^2}$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{df}_{\text{error}}} \quad \xrightarrow{\sqrt{MS_{\text{error}}}} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{size of each of the levels (same for all levels in a balanced design)}}$

this is the standard error for $(\bar{y}_{\text{level } i} - \bar{y}_{\text{level } j})$

So, for the corn data, Fisher's LSD

$$= t_{20}(0.975) \cdot 12.79062 \sqrt{\frac{2}{6}} = (2.085963)(7.384669) \approx 15.4$$

So, any two levels with means that differ by more than this are "significantly" different

eg displayed graphically for the corn data

