

# Power and Sample Size Calculation

Presented by

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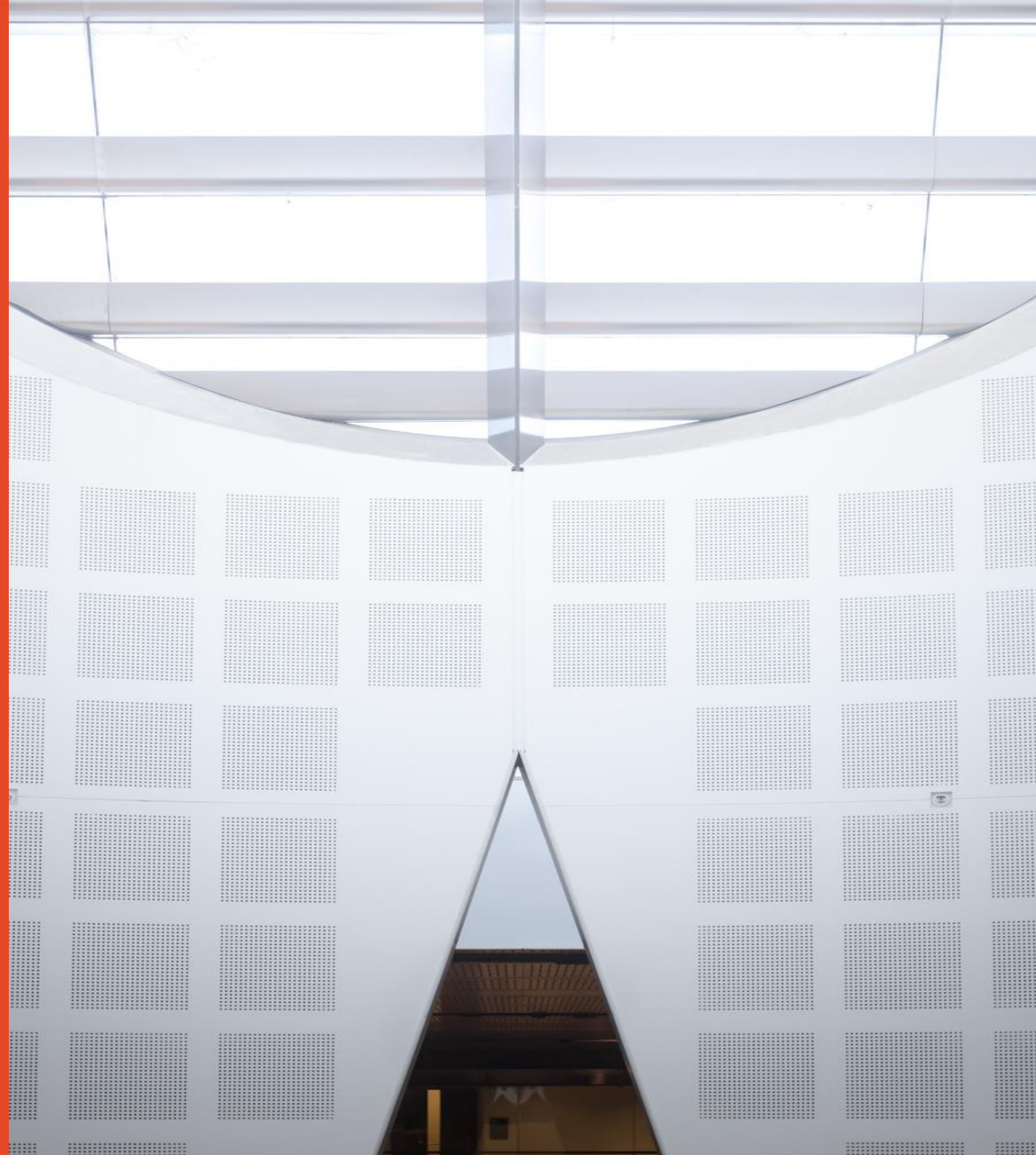
Core Research Facilities

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# Outline

- Statistical power and sample size calculation - concepts
- Software tools - G\*Power
- Example 1: Difference between 2 means (t-test)
- Example 2: Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)
- Example 3: Difference between 2 proportions (z-test)
- Power calculation for other designs
- References

## How to use this workshop

- These slides have a dual purpose:
  - To guide our interactive workshops
  - As self-contained reference material and workflows to be used after the workshop
- Some slides are for your reference, not all of the material will be discussed in the workshop. Such slides are marked with this blackboard icon
- Ask short questions or clarifications during the workshop. There will be breaks during the workshop for longer questions. You can email us about the material in these workshops at any time, or request a consultation for more in-depth discussion of the material as it relates to your specific project



# Why do we need to calculate power and sample size?

Why do we want to estimate the power of an experiment?

- To know if it is worth doing the experiment
- To plan the time and resources necessary
- To make sure we are not wasting our time
- To get a grant application approved
- To make sure the study design is ethically acceptable

# But do I really need to calculate power?

What type of study are you planning?

My study is:

- A pilot study
- Exploratory (no inferences or generalisation planned)
- Qualitative



NO – perhaps not



Sample size may be determined by other considerations, but a power analysis might still help

My study is:

- Confirmatory (pilot study already done)
- Testing a specific hypothesis
- Will make inferences about wider population



YES – Statistical validity is important



Continue with workshop!



# What is the power of an experimental design?

The power to know...

Start with the hypothesis that you have generated, for example:

“The means of two groups are different”

In statistics, this is referred to as the alternative hypothesis  $H_1$ .

Classically we test the veracity of the null hypothesis:

$H_0$ : There is no difference between the means of the two groups

A statistical test of the null hypothesis is always subject to uncertainty, or error. There are two main types of error.

# Types of statistical error

## Type I error

- Incorrectly rejecting the null hypothesis
- Also called false positive rate
- Referred to as the Significance level, designated by  $\alpha$
- The *convention* is to set the significance level to  $\alpha = 0.05$

## Type II error

- Incorrectly accepting the null hypothesis
- Also called the false negative rate
- Denoted by  $\beta$
- Power is the complement of Type II error, denoted by  $1 - \beta$
- We want Power to be as high as possible, typically  $1 - \beta > 0.8$

# Types of statistical error

When we perform a null hypothesis test, we are setting up a binary choice that can result in these types of error.



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# Types of statistical error

| Table of error types                                  |                 | Reality<br>Null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is                             |  |
|---|-----------------|---|--|
|   |                 | True  | False  |
| <u>Decision</u><br>about null<br>hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) | Don't<br>reject | Correct inference<br>(true negative)<br>(probability = $1-\alpha$ ) | Type II error<br>(false negative)<br>(probability = $\beta$ )      |
|   | Reject          | Type I error<br>(false positive)<br>(probability = $\alpha$ )       | Correct inference<br>(true positive)<br>(probability = $1-\beta$ ) |

# Types of hypothesis

The most recognised hypothesis test relates to testing whether two measures are equal or different (a superiority trial).

Other study objectives will lead to other types of hypothesis test. The types below are frequently found in clinical trials:

- Superiority trials
- Equivalence trials
- Non-inferiority trials
- As-good-as-or-better trials
- Bioequivalence trials
- Trials to a given precision

The hypothesis tests that apply will vary depending on the study objective.

See reference for further details: Julious, Steven A. Sample Sizes for Clinical Trials . Boca Raton: CRC Press/Taylor & Francis, 2010. Print.

# Hypothesis test or estimation of effect size?

What if we don't want to perform a hypothesis test?

What if we just want to estimate group means for example?

The same power calculation process can be applied.

We will consider why later.

# Power calculation

How do we estimate the power of an experiment?

- It will depend on:
  - Sample size (more samples = more power)
  - Chosen significance level (typically  $\alpha = 0.05$ )
  - Minimum effect size to detect (larger minimum effect = more power)
  - Variance within groups (larger variance = less power)
  - Experimental design and type of statistical hypothesis test



Decisions regarding the experimental design can be critically important in determining statistical power.  
This is covered in the “**Experimental Design**” workshop.

# Sample size calculation - workflow

Often we need a sample size given a required minimum power

## Sample size calculation workflow steps

1. Determine experimental design and statistical test
2. Set  $\alpha$  and  $1 - \beta$
3. Set the smallest effect size of interest
4. Estimate the variance
5. Calculate the minimum sample size
6. Explore scenarios

# 1. Determine experiment type and statistical test

For example:

| Experimental Design                     | assumptions                                    | proposed statistical test |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Comparison of 2 means                   | independent groups, normality                  | Student's t-test          |
| Comparison of 2 means                   | independent groups, no assumption of normality | Mann-Whitney U test       |
| Comparison of 2 proportions             | independent groups                             | z-test                    |
| Comparison of means, more than 2 groups | independent groups normality                   | ANOVA, F-test             |

## 2. Set $\alpha$ and $1 - \beta$

Setting values of parameters

- Typically choose  $\alpha = 0.05$
- Typically choose  $1 - \beta = 0.8$  (or higher)
- Sometimes power ( $1 - \beta$ ) is required at 0.90 or 0.95

### 3. Set the smallest effect size of interest

What is the smallest effect size of interest?

- Decide on a smallest effect size of interest (sesoi). This should be based on the smallest effect size that is of *scientific interest*.



### 3. Set the smallest effect size of interest

#### too small

Effect size chosen is smaller than necessary



- The sample size is larger than necessary
- Possible waste of resources
- Can achieve statistical significance with an effect that is too small to be interesting or useful

#### just right

Effect size chosen is based on sesoi



- The sample size is just right
- If statistical significance is achieved, then it will align with scientific significance
- Most efficient use of resources

#### too large

Effect size chosen is larger than necessary

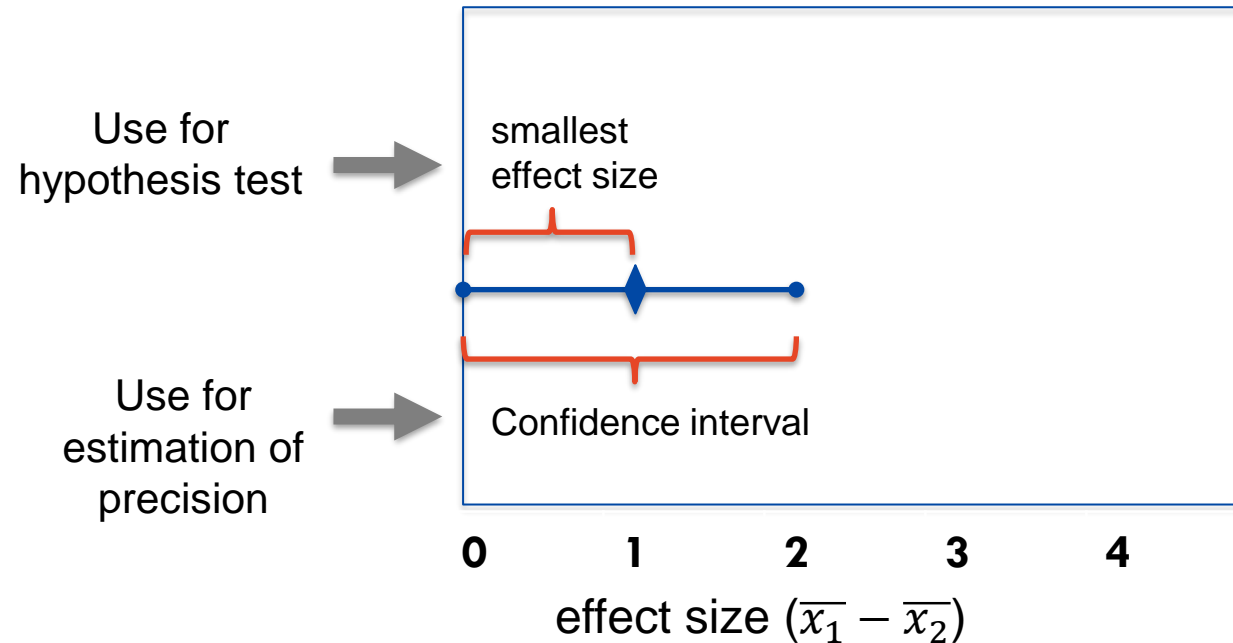


- The sample size is too small
- May detect large effects only
- Not able to achieve statistical significance for small effect sizes of interest
- Could be a waste of resources
- Will lead to a higher Type I error rate over the long run (poor reproducibility)

*goldilocks*

### 3. Set the smallest effect size of interest

Effect size – what it means for the hypothesis test and for the estimation of effect size



Further reading on the use of CI for sample size calc: see chapter 3 of **“Determining Sample Size Balancing Power, Precision, and Practicality”** by Dattalo

The minimum confidence interval width is twice the smallest effect size

## 4. Estimate the variance

Within study variance may be the big unknown in this calculation

How to estimate it?

- Estimate standard deviation (or proportions) from previous experiments?
- Consider theoretical bounds (eg for 5pt scales, proportions)
- Simulate some data and evaluate possible scenarios
- Seek expert knowledge?
- If no idea, may be best to do pilot study

## 4. Estimate the variance **Standardised Effect Size**

### **Alternative: Use the Standardised Effect Size**

Many effect sizes can be “standardised” by considering the ratio of the effect size to a within group standard deviation.

For example: Cohen’s d is the ratio of the difference in means to the pooled standard deviation

$$d = \frac{\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2}}{s}$$

Cohen’s d is therefore analogous to the number of standard deviations difference, or the z-score difference. Also called the standardised mean difference (SMD).

## 4. Estimate the variance **Standardised Effect Size**

### **Alternative: Use the Standardised Effect Size**

Instead of deciding on effect size and an estimate of SD, we can choose a value of Cohen's  $d$  based on accepted interpretations of relative size.

| <i>Effect size</i> | <i>d</i> | Reference        |
|--------------------|----------|------------------|
| Very small         | 0.01     | Sawilowsky, 2009 |
| Small              | 0.20     | Cohen, 1988      |
| Medium             | 0.50     | Cohen, 1988      |
| Large              | 0.80     | Cohen, 1988      |
| Very large         | 1.20     | Sawilowsky, 2009 |
| Huge               | 2.0      | Sawilowsky, 2009 |

Other guidelines are published for other standardised effect sizes.

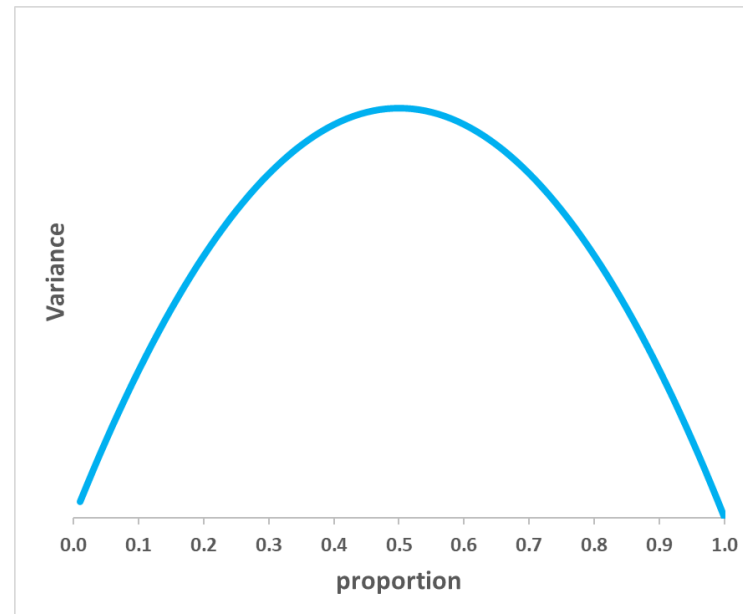
Note however that interpretation can vary across different fields of study.

## 4. Estimate the variance **Theoretical upper bound**

For proportions the maximum variance occurs when  $p = 50\%$  and is at a minimum when  $p = 0\%$  and  $100\%$ .

So we can use  $p = 50\%$  to find a theoretical upper bound.

$$\text{Variance}(p) = p(1 - p)$$



## 4. Estimate the variance **Theoretical upper bound**

For ordinal responses such as 5pt scales a similar limit applies:

Possible responses are: 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5

Mean=3      Min=1      Max=5

$$\text{Variance}(5\text{pt scale}) = (\max - \text{mean})(\text{mean} - \min)$$

$$\text{Max Variance}(5\text{pt scale}) = (5 - 3)(3 - 1) = 4$$

In practice the actual variance will be smaller than the max. A rule of thumb is explained on StackExchange

<https://stats.stackexchange.com/questions/23519/how-do-i-evaluate-standard-deviation>

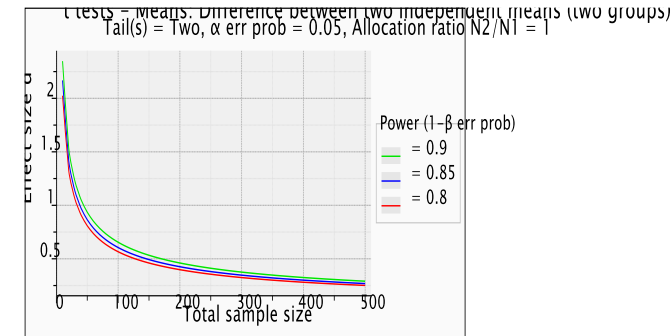
## 5. Calculate the minimum sample size

- This is typically done using a software package (we will use **G\*Power** in this workshop)
- Formulae for the calculation vary with the type of experimental design and the statistical test



## 6. Explore scenarios

- Don't just calculate a single sample size  $n$ !
- Use the software to calculate  $n$  for a range of scenarios in order to explore the consequences of uncertainty in the values used in the calculation
- This is called a **Power Analysis**
- *Consider also the shape of the cost curve for sample data collection*



For the above example note:  
increasing sample size up to  $\sim 100$   
yields big effect size detection benefit,  
but increasing sample size beyond  
 $\sim 100$  yields diminishing returns.

# Recap

## Sample size calculation workflow steps

1. Determine experiment type and statistical test
2. Set  $\alpha$  and  $1 - \beta$
3. Set the smallest effect size of interest
4. Estimate the variance
5. Calculate the minimum sample size
6. Explore scenarios

# Examples using G\*Power software

We will work through 3 simple examples

1. Difference between 2 means (continuous response)
2. Difference between 2 means (survey response)
3. Difference between 2 proportions

# Power calculation software

## G\*Power

- Download from website:
- <http://www.psychologie.hhu.de/arbeitsgruppen/allgemeine-psychologie-und-arbeitspsychologie/gpower.html>
- Current release 3.1.9.7 (Windows) 17 March 2020 (and 3.1.9.6 for Mac)
- Program has a simple user interface
- There is also a manual available online:  
[http://www.psychologie.hhu.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Fakultaeten/Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche\\_Fakultaet/Psychologie/AAP/gpower/GPowerManual.pdf](http://www.psychologie.hhu.de/fileadmin/redaktion/Fakultaeten/Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche_Fakultaet/Psychologie/AAP/gpower/GPowerManual.pdf)

G\*Power 3.1.9.7

File Edit View Tests Calculator Help

Central and noncentral distributions Protocol of power analyses

Test family: t tests

Statistical test: Correlation: Point biserial model

Type of power analysis: A priori: Compute required sample size - given  $\alpha$ , power, and effect size

Input Parameters

Tail(s): One

Determine => Effect size |p|: 0.3

$\alpha$  err prob: 0.05

Power ( $1 - \beta$  err prob): 0.95

Output Parameters

Noncentrality parameter  $\delta$ : ?

Critical t: ?

Df: ?

Total sample size: ?

Actual power: ?

X-Y plot for a range of values Calculate

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

The bone density of chickens is an important indication of their welfare. We want to test to see if (mineral) bone density can be improved from 120 to at least 130 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>

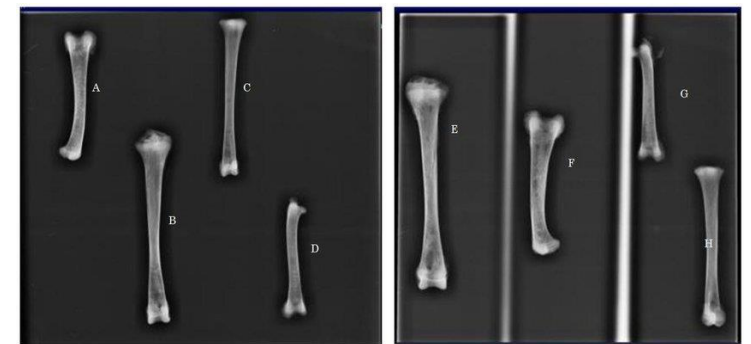


Treatment Group = high mineral diet

Control Group = normal diet

Response variable: Measure the tibia bone density after 6 weeks growth.  
How many chickens do I need to detect a difference in bone density of 10 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>?

What type of statistical test will we perform?



TY - JOUR AU - Mabelebele, Monnye AU - Norris, Dannah AU - Siwendu, Ndyabo AU - Ng'ambi, Jones AU - John, Alabi AU - Mbajjorgu, C.A. PY - 2017/01/01 SP - 1387 EP - 1398 T1 - Bone morphometric parameters of the tibia and femur of indigenous and broiler chickens reared intensively VL - 15 DO - 10.15666/aeer/1504\_13871398 JO - Applied Ecology and Environmental Research ER -

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

- Step 1: We will use a t-test (assume normality)
- Step 2:  $\alpha=0.05$  and  $1 - \beta=0.8$
- Step 3: Smallest Effect Size of interest is 10 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>
- Step 4: Estimate the variance
  - We know from previous studies what the typical variation in bone density is for the control diet. We don't know about the treatment diet. We will use an estimate from the control diet of SD=20 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>
- Assume we will have equal size groups,  $n_1=n_2$

# 1. Difference between 2 means

Step 5: Calculate the minimum sample size

- Put all the information into G\*Power
- Note: G\*Power will convert the difference in means with the estimated SD to a standardized effect size called Cohen's d.

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Step 5: G\*Power

G\*Power will use this formula to calculate the sample size:

$$n = 2 \frac{\delta^2}{d^2}$$

where:

$n$  = sample size per group (when  $n_1 = n_2$ )

$\delta$  = non-centrality parameter (of the  $t$  statistic, based on  $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ )

$d$  = standardised effect size (Cohen's  $d$ )

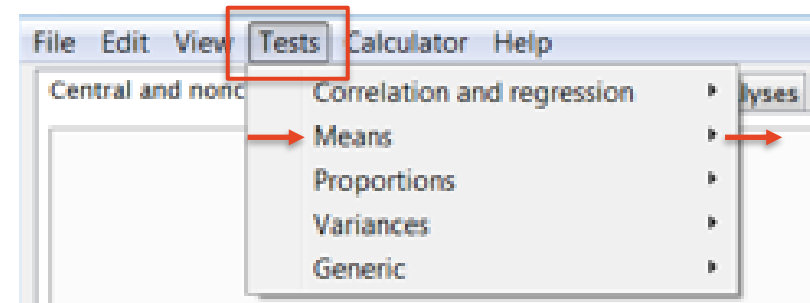
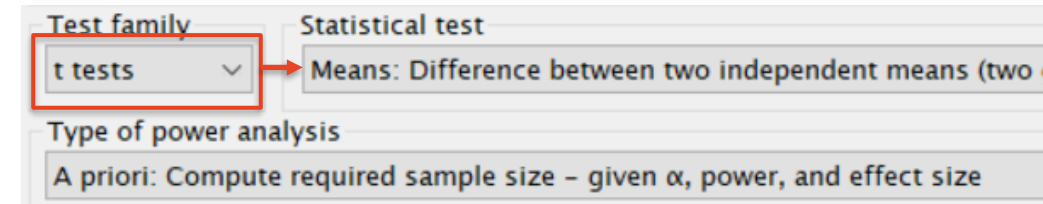


# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Step 5: G\*Power

There are two ways to find the correct test

- Distribution approach: Select the test family (eg t tests), then the statistical test
- Design based approach: Select the test parameter class (eg means), then the study design
- Select Tests/Means/Two independent groups



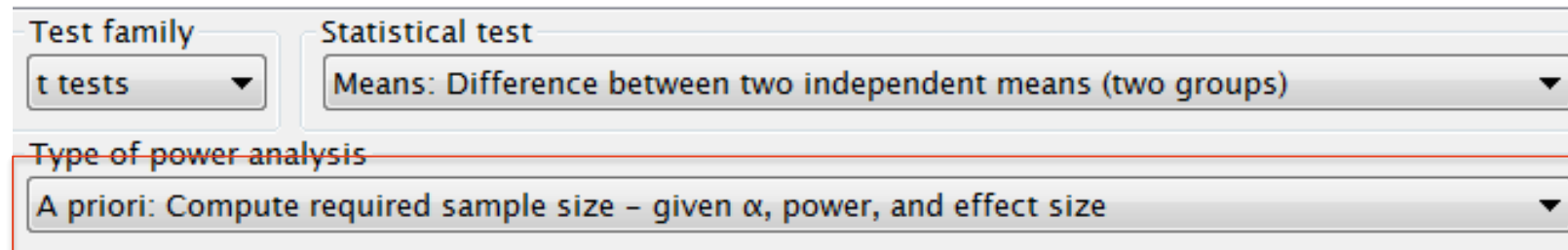
# 1. Difference between 2 means

## G\*Power

There are five different types of power analysis

- A priori
- Compromise
- Criterion
- Post Hoc
- Sensitivity

The “A priori” type is suitable for sample size calculation



The screenshot shows the G\*Power software interface. It has three main dropdown menus: 'Test family' set to 't tests', 'Statistical test' set to 'Means: Difference between two independent means (two groups)', and 'Type of power analysis' set to 'A priori: Compute required sample size - given  $\alpha$ , power, and effect size'. The 'Type of power analysis' dropdown is highlighted with a red rectangular box.

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

Enter the values for the chick experiment

- Use  $\alpha=0.05$  and  $1 - \beta=0.8$
- Allocation ratio  $N2/N1=1$
- Open the “determine” window to calculate the effect size  $d$ . Use means  $M1=120$ ,  $M2=130$ ,  $SD1=SD2=20$ , “calculate and transfer”
- Effect size is now shown  $d=0.5$ , select “two” tails, “Calculate”

The screenshot shows a software interface for calculating effect size and sample size. It is divided into two main sections: 'Input Parameters' and 'Output Parameters'.

**Input Parameters:**

- Tail(s):** A dropdown menu set to 'Two'.
- Effect size d:** A text box containing '0.5000000'.
- $\alpha$  err prob:** A text box containing '0.05'.
- Power ( $1 - \beta$  err prob):** A text box containing '0.8'.
- Allocation ratio  $N2/N1$ :** A text box containing '1'.
- Determine =>** A button circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to the 'Calculate and transfer to main window' button in the 'determine' window above.

**Output Parameters:**

- Noncentrality parameter  $\delta$ :** 2.8284271
- Critical t:** 1.9789706
- Df:** 126
- Sample size group 1:** 64
- Sample size group 2:** 64
- Total sample size:** 128
- Actual power:** 0.8014596

**Calculated results:** Four red arrows point to the values 64, 64, 128, and 0.8014596 in the 'Output Parameters' section.

**determine window (top right):**

- $n1 \neq n2$  (selected):**
  - Mean group 1: 120
  - Mean group 2: 130
  - SD  $\sigma$  within each group: 20
- $n1 = n2$  (unselected):**
  - Mean group 1: 0
  - Mean group 2: 1
  - SD  $\sigma$  group 1: 0.5
  - SD  $\sigma$  group 2: 0.5
- Calculate:** A button.
- Effect size d:** 0.5
- Calculate and transfer to main window:** A button circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to the 'Determine =>' button in the 'Input Parameters' section.
- Close:** A button.

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## **Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density**

- Group sample sizes are  $N1=64$ ,  $N2=64$
- Actual power = 0.8015
- G\*Power rounds up the sample size to the nearest integer, so actual power is slightly higher than the minimum requested.

## Protocol of the power analysis

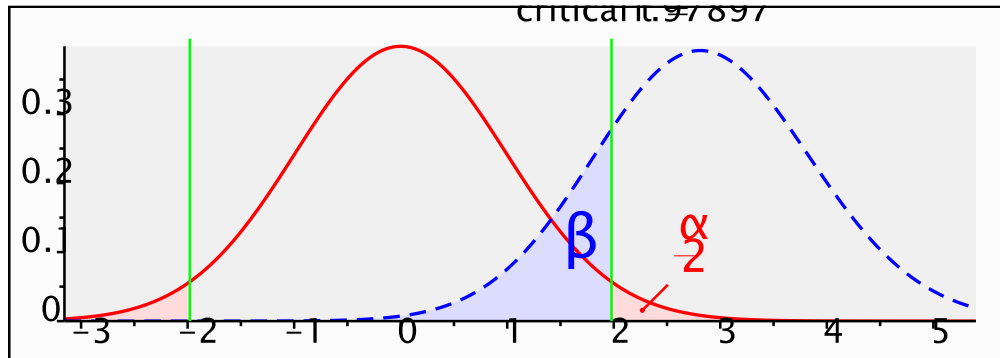
- You may want to save a copy of the calculation from this window (at the top right)

## Central and non central distributions

- You may be interested to check the visual display of the test statistics in this window (at the top left)

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Central and non central test statistic distribution



The central distribution of a test statistic (in red) describes how a test statistic is distributed when the null hypothesis is true.

The non central distribution (blue dashed line) describes how the test statistic is distributed when the null hypothesis is false (alternate hypothesis is true).

Shows the distribution with the minimum effect size threshold.

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

Step 6: Explore scenarios

### Power Analysis

- It is advisable to explore some different scenarios for different experimental settings.
- Consider how much your within study standard deviation could vary from your point estimate
  - Our estimate is  $SD = 20$
  - Possible min value = 15 (optimistic)
  - Possible max value = 30 (pessimistic, conservative)

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

For G\*Power we will use Cohen's d values to match the possible range of SD values

|          |         |                    |
|----------|---------|--------------------|
| Min      | SD = 15 | $d = 10/15 = 0.67$ |
| Expected | SD = 20 | $d = 10/20 = 0.5$  |
| Max      | SD = 30 | $d = 10/30 = 0.33$ |

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

X-Y Plot for a range of values

- Plot (on y axis) change to “power”
- Sample size from 10 to 400 in steps of 5
- Plot “3” graphs with  $d = 0.33$  in steps of 0.17

Plot Parameters

Plot (on y axis) Power ( $1 - \beta$  err prob) ☐ with markers

as a function of Total sample size from 10 in steps of 5 through to 400

Plot 3 graph(s) interpolating points

with Effect size d from 0.33 in steps of 0.17

and  $\alpha$  err prob at 0.05

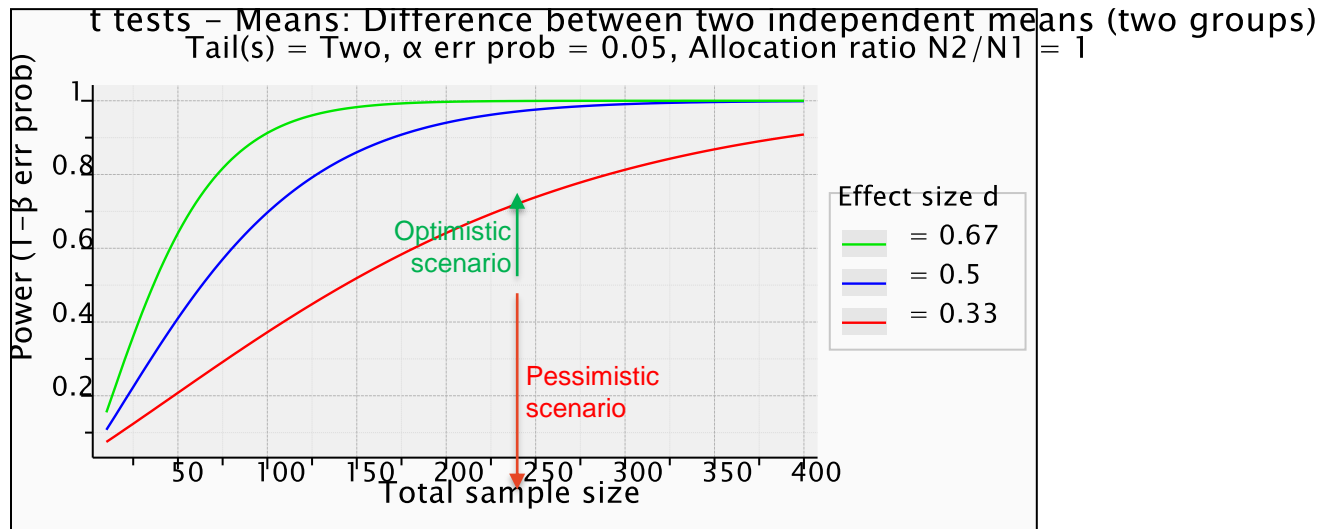
Draw plot



# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

X-Y Plot: sample size vs power



= 10/15

= 10/20

= 10/30

↑  
N=128

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

Remember: the accepted meaning of  $d=0.5$  is that this is a “medium” standardised effect size, so our value of  $d$  is roughly in the right ballpark for our planned study.

The sensitivity plot is another visualisation we can use in our power analysis. This plots effect size vs sample size.

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

### Sensitivity Plot:

We want to look at a wide range of effect sizes. To do this, we will plot a sample size range from 10 up to 400 (as before) with 3 power curves for power = 0.8, 0.85, 0.90.

Plot Parameters

Plot (on y axis)  ☐ with markers

as a function of  from  in steps of  through to

Plot  graph(s)

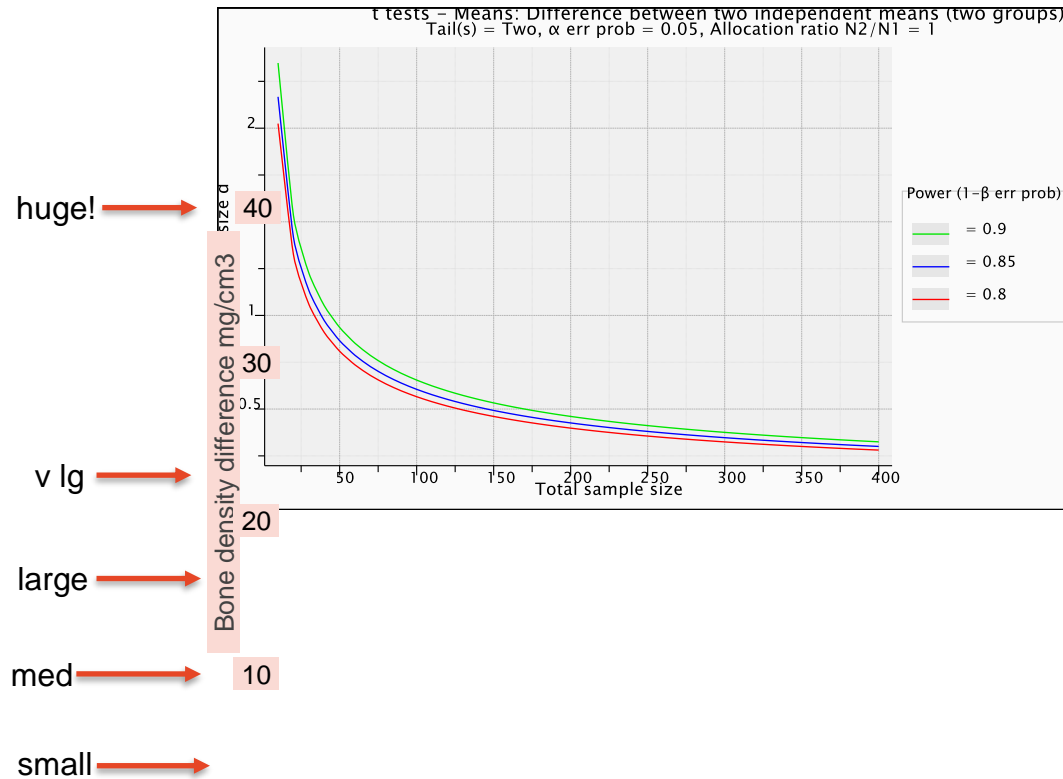
with  from  in steps of

and  at

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

X-Y Plot: sample size vs effect size (sensitivity)



Effect size shown  
assuming SD = 20

# 1. Difference between 2 means

## Example: Chicken Welfare – Bone density

X-Y Plot: sample size vs effect size (sensitivity)

### Customise plot in EXCEL

If you aren't happy with the G\*Power plot, select the data from the Table tab and paste it into Excel (or your favourite plotting program).



GPower - Plot

File Edit View

Graph Table

t tests - Means: Difference between two independent groups (two-tailed)

Tail(s) = Two,  $\alpha$  err prob = 0.05, Allocation ratio = 1.00

| #  | Total sample size | Power (1- $\beta$ err prob) = 0.8 | Power (1- $\beta$ err prob) = 0.85 | Power (1- $\beta$ err prob) = 0.9 |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|    |                   | Effect size d                     | Effect size d                      | Effect size d                     |
| 1  | 10.0000           | 2.02444                           | 2.16752                            | 2.34795                           |
| 2  | 20.0000           | 1.32495                           | 1.41736                            | 1.53369                           |
| 3  | 30.0000           | 1.05980                           | 1.13359                            | 1.22644                           |
| 4  | 40.0000           | 0.909129                          | 0.972389                           | 1.05199                           |
| 5  | 50.0000           | 0.808708                          | 0.864966                           | 0.935757                          |
| 6  | 60.0000           | 0.735621                          | 0.786789                           | 0.851171                          |
| 7  | 70.0000           | 0.679351                          | 0.726601                           | 0.786054                          |
| 8  | 80.0000           | 0.634299                          | 0.678413                           | 0.733919                          |
| 9  | 90.0000           | 0.597169                          | 0.638700                           | 0.690955                          |
| 10 | 100.000           | 0.565882                          | 0.605236                           | 0.654752                          |
| 11 | 110.000           | 0.539050                          | 0.576537                           | 0.623705                          |
| 12 | 120.000           | 0.515707                          | 0.551570                           | 0.596694                          |
| 13 | 130.000           | 0.495156                          | 0.529589                           | 0.572915                          |
| 14 | 140.000           | 0.476881                          | 0.510044                           | 0.551770                          |
| 15 | 150.000           | 0.460492                          | 0.492514                           | 0.532806                          |
| 16 | 160.000           | 0.445684                          | 0.476677                           | 0.515673                          |
| 17 | 170.000           | 0.432219                          | 0.462275                           | 0.500093                          |
| 18 | 180.000           | 0.419905                          | 0.449105                           | 0.485845                          |
| 19 | 190.000           | 0.408587                          | 0.437000                           | 0.472750                          |
| 20 | 200.000           | 0.398138                          | 0.425824                           | 0.460660                          |
| 21 | 210.000           | 0.388452                          | 0.415464                           | 0.449452                          |
| 22 | 220.000           | 0.379440                          | 0.405825                           | 0.439024                          |
| 23 | 230.000           | 0.371027                          | 0.396828                           | 0.429291                          |
| 24 | 240.000           | 0.363150                          | 0.388403                           | 0.420177                          |
| 25 | 250.000           | 0.355755                          | 0.380493                           | 0.411620                          |
| 26 | 260.000           | 0.348794                          | 0.373048                           | 0.403566                          |
| 27 | 270.000           | 0.342226                          | 0.366023                           | 0.395966                          |
| 28 | 280.000           | 0.336015                          | 0.359381                           | 0.388781                          |
| 29 | 290.000           | 0.330131                          | 0.353088                           | 0.381973                          |
| 30 | 300.000           | 0.324546                          | 0.347114                           | 0.375510                          |
| 31 | 310.000           | 0.319235                          | 0.341434                           | 0.369365                          |
| 32 | 320.000           | 0.314176                          | 0.336023                           | 0.363512                          |
| 33 | 330.000           | 0.309351                          | 0.330862                           | 0.357929                          |
| 34 | 340.000           | 0.304741                          | 0.325932                           | 0.352595                          |
| 35 | 350.000           | 0.300331                          | 0.321216                           | 0.347493                          |
| 36 | 360.000           | 0.296108                          | 0.316698                           | 0.342606                          |
| 37 | 370.000           | 0.292058                          | 0.312367                           | 0.337920                          |
| 38 | 380.000           | 0.288169                          | 0.308208                           | 0.333421                          |
| 39 | 390.000           | 0.284432                          | 0.304211                           | 0.329097                          |
| 40 | 400.000           | 0.280836                          | 0.300365                           | 0.324937                          |

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

The Mann-Whitney U test is a non-parametric version of the t-test for a difference in means. It is based on ranks. (also called Wilcoxon rank sum)

This is used when the data are not approximately normally distributed, or the underlying distribution is not normal.

Often used for ordinal data from surveys.

The values of the two groups are combined and ranked. The values are then divided back into the groups and the mean of the assigned ranks for each group is calculated and compared.

The test doesn't use the information about the size of the effect.

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey



You want to measure happiness using the Lyubomirsky & Lepper scale. Each item response ranges from 1 (unhappy) to 7 (happy). The score is the sum of 4 items, so the range is 4~28.

A pilot study on two groups produced the following results that can be used for the power calculation.

|     | Values |         | Ranks  |         |
|-----|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|     | Single | Married | Single | Married |
|     | 12     | 20      | 3      | 1       |
|     | 11     | 15      | 4      | 2       |
|     | 10     | 9       | 5      | 6       |
|     | 6      | 8       | 8      | 7       |
| Avg | 9.8    | 13.0    | 5      | 4       |
| SD  | 2.6    | 5.6     |        |         |

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### **Example: Happiness Survey**

You want to apply it to different groups of people (eg single vs married) to see if there is a difference in scores.

What is a meaningful difference?

Let's suppose that a minimum difference of 4 points (average of 1 pt difference per item) is the smallest effect size of interest.



## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey

So, what are our first 4 steps?

|         |  |                  |
|---------|--|------------------|
| Step 1: | Determine experiment type and statistical test | Mann-Whitney     |
| Step 2: | Set $\alpha$ and $1 - \beta$                   | 0.05 and 0.8     |
| Step 3: | Set the smallest effect size of interest       | 4 points         |
| Step 4: | Estimate the variance                          | SD1=2.6, SD2=5.6 |

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey

Sample size calculation

#### Heuristic method

“Do the calculations as if performing the corresponding parametric test (i.e. the t-test), then add 15% to the sample size.

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey

- Tests>Means>Two Independent Groups
- Click “Determine” (different SDs so use  $n1 = n2$ )
- Enter expected means (use 9.5 and 13.5, equates to 4pt diff)
- Enter SDs from pilot study ( $SD1 = 2.6$ ,  $SD2 = 5.6$ )

Type of power analysis  
A priori: Compute required sample size – given  $\alpha$ , power, and effect size

Input Parameters

Tail(s) Two

Determine => Effect size d 0.9162174

$\alpha$  err prob 0.05

Power ( $1 - \beta$  err prob) 0.8

Allocation ratio N2/N1 1

Output Parameters

Noncentrality parameter  $\delta$  ?

Critical t ?

Df ?

Sample size group 1 ?

Sample size group 2 ?

Total sample size ?

Actual power ?

☐  $n1 \neq n2$

Mean group 1 0

Mean group 2 1

SD  $\sigma$  within each group 0.5

☒  $n1 = n2$

Mean group 1 9.5

Mean group 2 13.5

SD  $\sigma$  group 1 2.6

SD  $\sigma$  group 2 5.6

Calculate Effect size d 0.9162174

Calculate and transfer to main window

Close

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey

- Check  $\alpha$ ,  $1 - \beta$ , two tails, allocation ratio=1.
- Calculate sample size.  $N=20$  per group
- Add 15%.  $N=20 \times 1.15 = 23$

| Input Parameters |                               | Output Parameters |                                  |           |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Determine =>     | Tail(s)                       | Two               | Noncentrality parameter $\delta$ | 2.8973338 |
|                  | Effect size d                 | 0.9162174         | Critical t                       | 2.0243942 |
|                  | $\alpha$ err prob             | 0.05              | Df                               | 38        |
|                  | Power ( $1 - \beta$ err prob) | 0.8               | Sample size group 1              | 20        |
|                  | Allocation ratio N2/N1        | 1                 | Sample size group 2              | 20        |
|                  |                               | Total sample size | 40                               |           |
|                  |                               | Actual power      | 0.8060552                        |           |

Calculated results

## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Theoretical approach

Statistical procedures can be compared according to their efficiency.

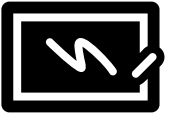
One test is more efficient than another if it requires fewer observations to obtain a given result.

The relative efficiency of two tests is the ratio of their efficiencies.

With smaller sample numbers, parametric tests are often more efficient than non-parametric tests although they approach equal efficiency with larger sample sizes.

The Asymptotic Relative Efficiency (ARE) is the limit of the relative efficiencies as the sample size increases. It can be calculated or set and is used in the sample size calculation, along with the effect size.

It can be shown that the minimum ARE for these two tests is 0.864.



## 2. Difference between 2 means (Mann-Whitney)

### Example: Happiness Survey

- Under “Tests” select “Means” and then the option:
- “Two independent groups: Wilcoxon (non-parametric)”
- Use the same values as before:
- Two tails,  $\alpha=0.05$  and Power=0.80, group means and SDs.
- Select Parent distribution = “min ARE”
- Calculate sample size >> N=23 per group

| Input Parameters    |                             | Output Parameters                |            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Tail(s)             | Two                         | Noncentrality parameter $\delta$ | 2.8880475  |
| Parent distribution | min ARE                     | Critical t                       | 2.0248452  |
| Determine =>        | Effect size d               | Df                               | 37.7440000 |
|                     | $\alpha$ err prob           | Sample size group 1              | 23         |
|                     | Power (1- $\beta$ err prob) | Sample size group 2              | 23         |
|                     | Allocation ratio N2/N1      | Total sample size                | 46         |
|                     |                             | Actual power                     | 0.8034207  |

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### Example: Happiness survey

The survey scores could also be analysed as proportions by considering how many report a value above a threshold (say  $>14$  means “happy”)

Singles group  $P1$  = proportion of subjects respond “happy”

Married group  $P2$  = proportion of subjects respond “happy”

Effect size: Say we want to find a minimum difference in proportions of  $P1 - P2 = 0.1$  What sample size is required?

- Set  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $1 - \beta = 0.8$ , two tails
- Allocation ratio  $N2/N1 = 1$
- We also need to estimate the two proportions. Let's first assume that there will be maximum variance ( $p = 0.50$ )
- Try using  $P1 = 0.55$  and  $P2 = 0.45$

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### Example: Happiness survey

What are our first 4 steps this time?

|         |  |                        |
|---------|--|------------------------|
| Step 1: | Determine experiment type and statistical test | z-test for proportions |
| Step 2: | Set $\alpha$ and $1 - \beta$                   | 0.05 and 0.8           |
| Step 3: | Set the smallest effect size of interest       | 0.10                   |
| Step 4: | Estimate the variance                          | P1=0.55, P2=0.45       |

Note: The variance estimate comes from the proportion estimates.

$$\text{Variance} = p(1-p)$$



### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### Example: Happiness survey

We need 392 subjects per group to achieve Power=0.80

That's a lot of happy/unhappy people!

| Test family  |             | Statistical test  |           |
|--|-------------|---|-----------|
| z tests  |             | Proportions: Difference between two independent proportions |           |
| Type of power analysis   |             |   |           |
| A priori: Compute required sample size – given $\alpha$ , power, and effect size |             |   |           |
| Input Parameters   |             | Output Parameters   |           |
|  | Tail(s) Two | Critical z  |           |
| Proportion p2  | 0.45        | Sample size group 1   | 392       |
| Proportion p1  | 0.55        | Sample size group 2   | 392       |
| $\alpha$ err prob  | 0.05        | Total sample size   | 784       |
| Power (1 – $\beta$ err prob)   | 0.8         | Actual power  | 0.8007410 |
| Allocation ratio N2/N1   | 1           |   |           |

Calculated results

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### Example: Happiness survey

**Step 6:** Suppose the proportion of subjects responding “happy” is expected to be higher, around 90%.

Try using  $P_1=0.85$   
and  $P_2=0.95$

|  |      |   |           |
|--|------|---|-----------|
| Test family  |      | Statistical test  |           |
| z tests  |      | Proportions: Difference between two independent proportions |           |
| Type of power analysis   |      |   |           |
| A priori: Compute required sample size – given $\alpha$ , power, and effect size |      |   |           |
| Input Parameters   |      | Output Parameters   |           |
| Tail(s)  | Two  | Critical z  | 1.9599640 |
| Proportion p2  | 0.95 | Sample size group 1   | 141       |
| Proportion p1  | 0.85 | Sample size group 2   | 141       |
| $\alpha$ err prob  | 0.05 | Total sample size   | 282       |
| Power ( $1-\beta$ err prob)  | 0.8  | Actual power  | 0.8025450 |
| Allocation ratio N2/N1   | 1    |   |           |

Calculated  
results

Now we only need 141 subjects per group

Note the difference in sample sizes corresponding to the different proportion estimates. Remember the variance of the proportion parameter [ $\text{var}=p(1-p)$ ] is at a maximum at 0.5 and gets smaller close to zero and one.

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

G\*Power provides a total of 4 options for power calculations for proportions with independent groups:

- Inequality, z-test (used in Happiness intervention example)
- Inequality, Fisher's Exact test
- Inequality, Unconditional exact
- Inequality with offset, Unconditional exact

The Fisher's Exact test should be used when sample sizes are going to be small (say  $n_1p_1 \leq 5$  or  $n_2p_2 \leq 5$ )

– Let's try the Fisher's Exact for the Happiness example

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### Example: Happiness survey

**Step 6:** Use the Fisher's Exact test to get the sample size with

$P_1=0.85$  and  $P_2=0.95$

Fisher's Exact suggests 151 subjects per group.

Not quite the same result as the z-test, but note that the actual alpha is 0.024 rather than 0.05.

|  |                             |   |  |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Test family  |                             | Statistical test  |  |
| Exact  |                             | Proportions: Inequality, two independent groups (Fisher's exact test) |  |
| Type of power analysis   |                             |   |  |
| A priori: Compute required sample size - given $\alpha$ , power, and effect size |                             |   |  |
| Input Parameters   |                             |   |  |
| Determine =>   | Tail(s)                     | Two   |  |
|  | Proportion p1               | 0.85  |  |
|  | Proportion p2               | 0.95  |  |
|  | $\alpha$ err prob           | 0.05  |  |
|  | Power ( $1-\beta$ err prob) | 0.8   |  |
|  | Allocation ratio N2/N1      | 1   |  |
| Output Parameters  |                             |   |  |
| Sample size group 1  |                             | 151   |  |
| Sample size group 2  |                             | 151   |  |
| Total sample size  |                             | 302   |  |
| Actual power   |                             | 0.8005824   |  |
| Actual $\alpha$  |                             | 0.0243675   |  |

### 3. Difference between 2 proportions

#### **Example: Happiness survey**

#### **Step 6: Explore scenarios**

- When considering various scenarios, look for value estimates that provide a conservative power estimate.
- In this example proportions centred around 0.5 represent the most conservative estimate. This gives the largest sample size estimate.
- This principle may also be applied to the study design as well. For example powering your study for a non-parametric test is conservative (Mann-Whitney instead of t-test).

# Power Analysis for other designs

## **G\*Power scope**

G\*Power includes methods to calculate power and sample size for a wide variety of design scenarios, eg

- ANOVA
- Correlation
- Linear Regression
- Logistic Regression

Refer to the manual for details

## Effect Sizes for other designs

### Effect size for ANOVA

G\*Power uses the standardised effect size; Cohen's  $f$  is related to the partial eta squared

$$\eta^2 = \frac{f^2}{(1 + f^2)}$$

Partial eta squared is often reported in the ANOVA table output

**Effect size for other designs:** Use a wide variety of effect size measures

# Power Analysis for other designs

## From simple designs to complex designs

So far we have considered power analysis for simple designs where the mathematical calculations are tractable and rely on a limited set of assumptions regarding the data to be obtained.

As design complexity increases, it becomes more difficult or perhaps impossible to find an analytical solution to calculate power.

When no formula exists:

- First option – determine sample size for a simplified version of the study design and extrapolate this to the more complex design
- Second option – Use a simulation method (that does not rely on formulae)



# Power Analysis for other designs

## **G\*Power limitations**

G\*Power does not do everything!

Use G\*Power for simple to moderately complex designs including where simplification of the design can yield an approximate solution.

Switch to simulation methods for complex study designs where analysis of a simplified design is not sufficiently rigorous.

# Power Analysis – by simulation

## Simulation based power estimation

- Simulate (many) data sets
- Analyse each data set and test for statistical significance
- Calculate the proportion of significant p values

$$Power = \frac{\text{significant simulations}}{\text{all simulations}}$$

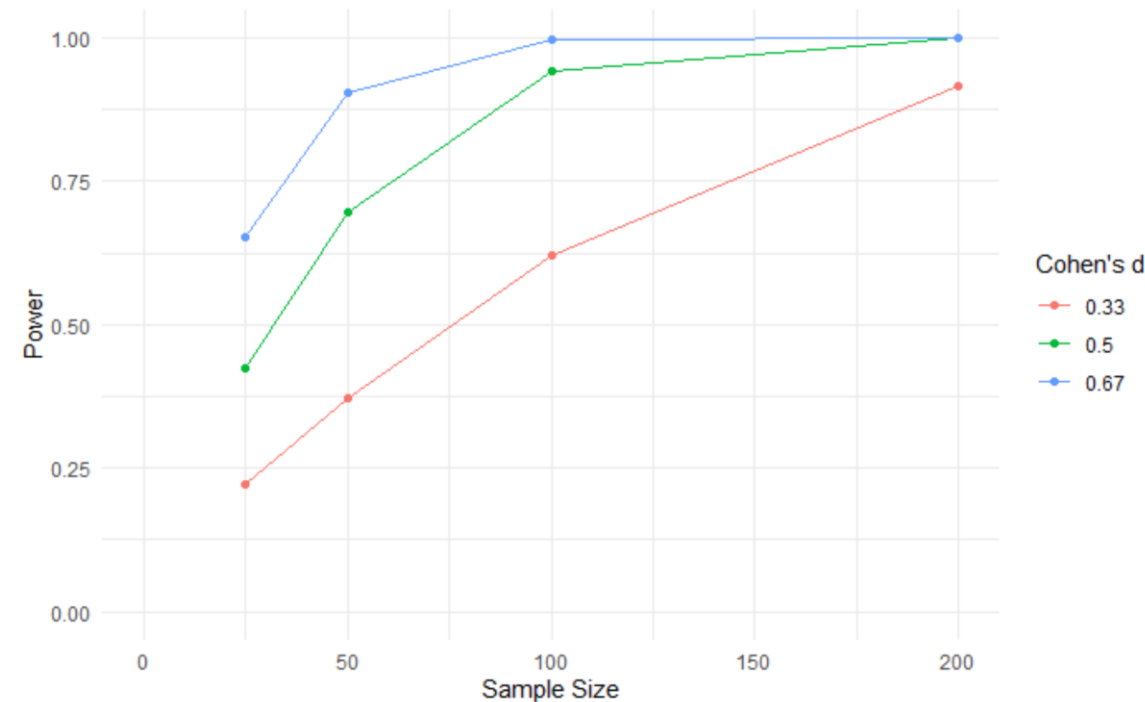
- The ‘trick’ is to set the parameters of the simulation in a sensible, realistic way

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13428-021-01546-0>

# Power Analysis – by simulation

## Example 1: Chicken Welfare - bone density (difference between 2 means)

- Simulation in R using package “paramtest”
- Results for this simple simulation will be very similar to those obtained from G\*Power.
- See R Markdown files for details



# Software for Power Analysis

## Free and Open Source software

- R /R Studio:
  - Base R has functions covering basic proportions, t-tests, etc.
  - Package “pwr” has 9 functions covering proportions, t-tests, ANOVA, chi-square and correlations
  - Package “epiR” has 23 functions covering many statistics including AUC, sensitivity and specificity
  - Package “paramtest” basic power calculations by simulation
  - Package “mixedpower” for generalised linear mixed models
  - Package “simr” simulation based power calculations for mixed models
- Online calculators such as [www.powerandsamplesize.com](http://www.powerandsamplesize.com) and <https://sample-size.net/>
- G\*Power is a dedicated (free) program
- Make your own in Excel! (for example see Lakens, D. (2013). Calculating and reporting effect sizes to facilitate cumulative science: A practical primer for t-tests and ANOVAs. Frontiers in Psychology, 4:863. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2013.00863)

# Software for Power Analysis

## Proprietary \$\$ software

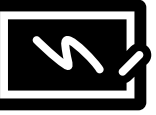
- Packages such as STATA, SPSS and SAS include a calculator
- GraphPad have “StatMate” separate to Prism
- PASS by NCSS dedicated software esp. for medical research



## Power calculation references

- **G\*Power** <http://www.psychologie.hhu.de/arbeitsgruppen/allgemeine-psychologie-und-arbeitspsychologie/gpower.html>
- **NCSS PASS Statistical software** <https://www.ncss.com/software/pass/>
- **Causal Evaluation** <https://www.causalevaluation.org/power-analysis.html>
- **Epi Tools for disease prevalence (by AUSVET)**  
<http://epitools.ausvet.com.au/content.php?page=SampleSize>
- **Demidenko (Dartmouth) for logistic regression**  
<https://www.dartmouth.edu/~eugened/power-samplesize.php>
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH – USA) for cluster randomised trials**  
<https://researchmethodsresources.nih.gov/SampleSizeCalculator.aspx>
- **UCSF Clinical and Translational science institute** (Survival for clinical research) <http://www.sample-size.net/sample-size-survival-analysis/>
- **Lakens, D. Open Science Framework** <https://osf.io/ixGcd/>

# Power Analysis – library references



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# Further Assistance at Sydney University

## SIH

- [Statistical Consulting website](#): containing our workshop slides and our favourite external resources (including links for learning R and SPSS)
- [Hacky Hour](#) an informal monthly meetup for getting help with coding or using statistics software
- 1on1 Consults can be requested [on our website](#) (click on the big red 'contact us' link)

## SIH Workshops

- Create your own custom programmes tailored to your research needs by attending more of our Statistical Consulting workshops. Look for the statistics workshops on [our training page](#).
- [Other SIH workshops](#)
- [Sign up to our mailing list](#) to be notified of upcoming training

## Other

- Open Learning Environment (OLE) courses
- [Linkedin Learning](#)



# A reminder: Acknowledging SIH



All University of Sydney resources are available to Sydney researchers **free of charge**. The use of the SIH services including the Artemis HPC and associated support and training warrants acknowledgement in any publications, conference proceedings or posters describing work facilitated by these services.

*The continued acknowledgment of the use of SIH facilities ensures the sustainability of our services.*

## **Suggested wording for use of workshops and workflows:**

*“The authors acknowledge the Statistical workshops and workflows provided by the Sydney Informatics Hub, a Core Research Facility of the University of Sydney.”*

# End of Workshop

- Thank you for your interest and attention
- Questions and comments welcome
- We appreciate your feedback via the on-line survey

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