Difference in Means of Two Normal Distributions, Variances Unknown

Case 2: $\sigma_1^2 \neq \sigma_2^2$

$$T_0^* = \frac{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2 - (\mu_1 - \mu_2)}{\sqrt{\dfrac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \dfrac{S_2^2}{n_2}}} \tag{10-15}$$

is distributed approximately as t with degrees of freedom given by

$$v = \frac{\left(\dfrac{S_1^2}{n_1} + \dfrac{S_2^2}{n_2}\right)^2}{\dfrac{(S_1^2/n_1)^2}{n_1 - 1} + \dfrac{(S_2^2/n_2)^2}{n_2 - 1}} \tag{10-16}$$

Example

Arsenic concentration in public drinking water supplies is a potential health risk. An article in the *Arizona Republic* (Sunday, May 27, 2001) reported drinking water arsenic concentrations in parts per billion (ppb) for 10 metropolitan Phoenix communities and 10 communities in rural Arizona. The data follow:

Metro Phoenix ($\bar{x}_1 = 12.5, s_1 = 7.63$)	Rural Arizona ($\bar{x}_2 = 27.5, s_2 = 15.3$)
Phoenix, 3	Rimrock, 48
Chandler, 7	Goodyear, 44
Gilbert, 25	New River, 40
Glendale, 10	Apachie Junction, 38
Mesa, 15	Buckeye, 33
Paradise Valley, 6	Nogales, 21
Peoria, 12	Black Canyon City, 20
Scottsdale, 25	Sedona, 12
Tempe, 15	Payson, 1
Sun City, 7	Casa Grande, 18

Example (Continued)

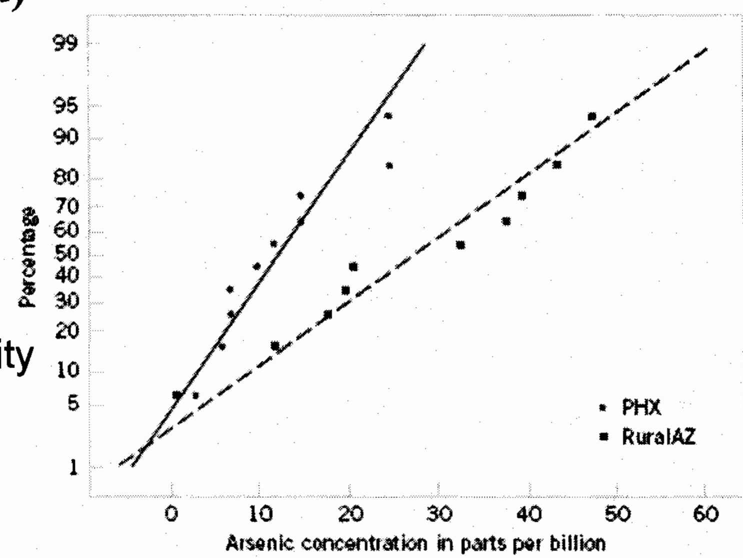

Figure Normal probability plot of the arsenic concentration data.

$$X_1 \propto \mu_1 + \sigma_1 Z$$

$$X_2 \propto \mu_2 + \sigma_2 Z$$

If $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2$, then $X_1 \,/\!/\, X_2$

Example (Continued)

We wish to determine if there is any difference in mean arsenic concentrations between metropolitan Phoenix communities and communities in rural Arizona. Figure 10-3 shows a normal probability plot for the two samples of arsenic concentration. The assumption of normality appears quite reasonable, but since the slopes of the two straight lines are very different, it is unlikely that the population variances are the same.

Applying the eight-step procedure gives the following:

1. The parameters of interest are the mean arsenic concentrations for the two geographic regions, say μ_1 and μ_2, and we are interested in determining whether $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0$.
2. H_0: $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0$, or H_0: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$
3. H_1: $\mu_1 \neq \mu_2$
4. $\alpha = 0.05$ (say)

Example (Continued)

5. The test statistic is

$$t_0^* = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2 - 0}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}}$$

6. The degrees of freedom on t_0^* are found from Equation 10-16 as

$$v = \frac{\left(\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}\right)^2}{\frac{(s_1^2/n_1)^2}{n_1 - 1} + \frac{(s_2^2/n_2)^2}{n_2 - 1}} = \frac{\left[\frac{(7.63)^2}{10} + \frac{(15.3)^2}{10}\right]^2}{\frac{[(7.63)^2/10]^2}{9} + \frac{[(15.3)^2/10]^2}{9}} = 13.2 \simeq 13$$

Therefore, using $\alpha = 0.05$, we would reject H_0: $\mu_1 = \mu_2$ if $t_0^* > t_{0.025,13} = 2.160$ or if $t_0^* < -t_{0.025,13} = -2.160$

Example (Continued)

7. Computations: Using the sample data we find

$$t_0^* = \frac{\bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}} = \frac{12.5 - 27.5}{\sqrt{\frac{(7.63)^2}{10} + \frac{(15.3)^2}{10}}} = -2.77$$

8. Conclusions: Because $t_0^* = -2.77 < t_{0.025,13} = -2.160$, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is evidence to conclude that mean arsenic concentration in the drinking water in rural Arizona is different from the mean arsenic concentration in metropolitan Phoenix drinking water. Furthermore, the mean arsenic concentration is higher in rural Arizona communities. The P-value for this test is approximately $P = 0.016$.

P-value $= 2P(t < -2.77) = 2\,pt(-2.77, 13) = 0.016$.