Tests for Differences

Introduction to Quantitative Ecology
Fall 2016

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Group evaluations

1. *t-tests* are used to test for differences between what?
2. When do you need to use the *U-test*?
3. If sample a has $n_a = 10$ samples, and sample b has $n_b = 10$ samples, then what is the degrees of freedom?
4. Conducting a statistical test of differences using a t-test, you get a p-value or $p = 0.02$. Using a 5% significance level, what would you conclude?
5. Would a large or a small *t-statistic* be more likely to indicate a significant difference between the means of two samples, and why?

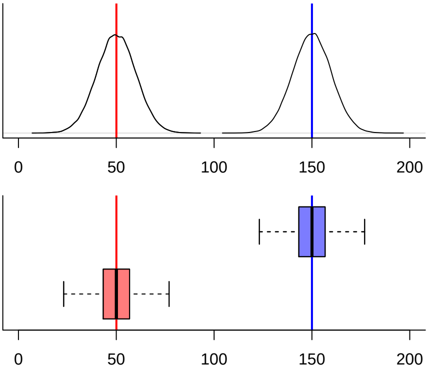
Tests for differences

?

Tests for differences

Often we want to know if two of more samples are different

- are the sample *means* different?
- are the sample *medians* different?
- are the differences *statistically significant*?



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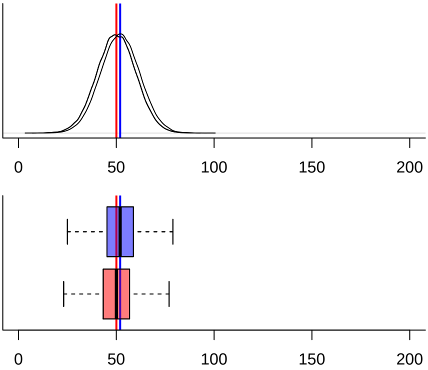

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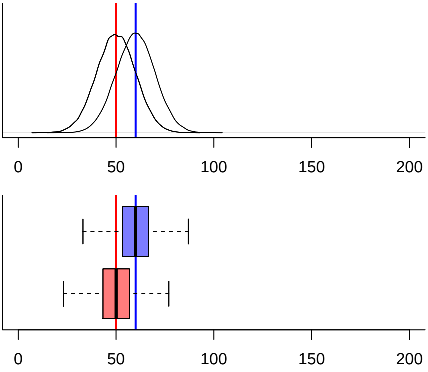

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- are the sample *medians* different?
- are the differences *statistically significant*?

To determine the significance of differences between **two**, we need a statistical test

- *t-test*
- *U-test*

Differences: t-test

Purpose:

- compare the means of two samples (say a and b)

Assumptions:

- both samples normally distributed
- both samples have equal variances

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- t: the t-statistic
- $\bar{x}$: sample mean
- s: sample standard deviation
- n: sample size

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- if $\sqrt{\frac{s_a^2}{n_a} + \frac{s_b^2}{n_b}}$ is large, then t is ????

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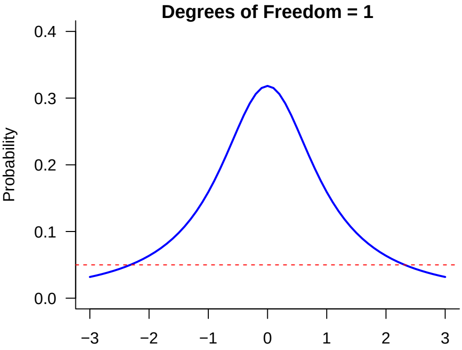
- if $\sqrt{\frac{s_a^2}{n_a} + \frac{s_b^2}{n_b}}$ is large, then t is small

Differences: t-test

Understanding the *t-distribution*:



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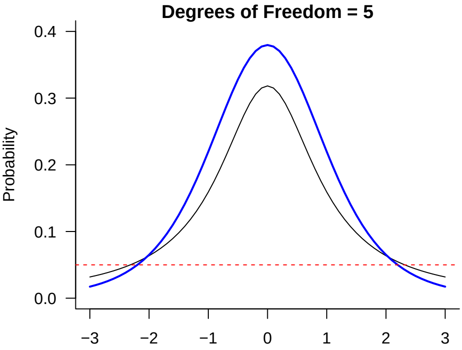

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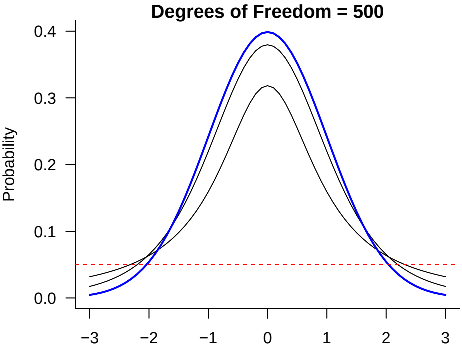

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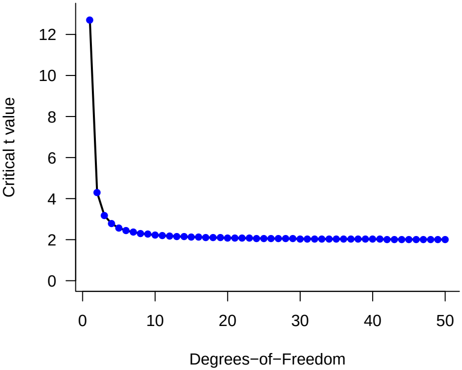
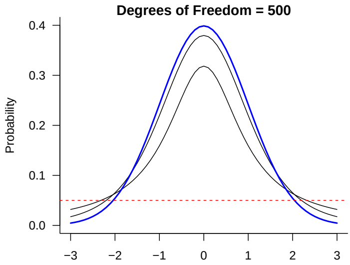
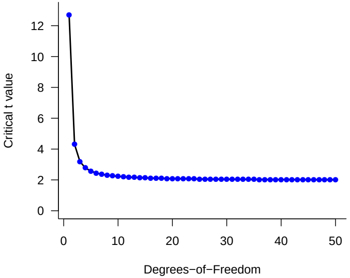


Differences: t-test

Understanding the *t-distribution*:

- whether a difference is significant depends on:
  - the *t-statistic*
  - degrees-of-freedom $(n_a - 1 + n_b - 1)$
- larger *t-statistics* more likely to be significant





Differences: t-test

Understanding the *p-value*:

- *p-value* is the probability of observing a *t-statistic* as high as we did by chance
- if *p-value* is lower than significance level (e.g. 5%):
  - difference is significant
  - reject the null hypothesis
  - accept the alternative hypothesis

Differences: t-test

Which *t-test*?

- standard *t-test*
  - compare two independent samples
  - both normally distributed
  - equal (similar) variances
  - samples sizes can be the same or not

$$t = \frac{|\bar{x}_a - \bar{x}_b|}{\sqrt{\frac{s_a^2}{n_a} + \frac{s_b^2}{n_b}}}$$

- t: the t-statistic
- $\bar{x}$: sample mean
- s: sample standard deviation
- n: sample size

Differences: paired t-test

Sometimes samples are not independent

- compare pairs of samples
  - e.g., before-after
  - e.g., north-south
  - e.g., left-right
- both normally distributed
- equal (similar) variances
- samples sizes *must* be the

Differences: paired t-test

Which *t-test*?

- paired *t-test*
  - compare pairs of samples
  - both normally distributed
  - equal (similar) variances
  - samples sizes *must* be the

$$t = \frac{\bar{D}}{\sqrt{\frac{s_D^2}{n}}}$$

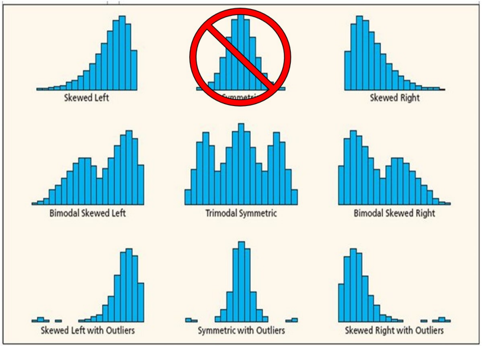
- t: the t-statistic
- $\bar{D}$: mean of the *differences*
- s: standard deviation of the *differences*
- n: number of *paired* samples

Differences: U-test

?

Differences: U-test

- compare two samples
- both *not* normally distributed
- based on *median*, *range*, and *ranks*
- rank all values as one sample, calculate group rank sums R
- calculate a U-value, a measure of overlap



Differences: U-test

- compare two samples
- both or differences *not* normally distributed
- based on *median*, *range*, and *ranks*
- rank all values as one sample, calculate group rank sums R
- calculate a U-value, a measure of overlap

$$U_a = n_a \times n_b + \frac{n_a(n_a + 1)}{2} - R_a$$

$$U_b = n_b \times n_a + \frac{n_b(n_b + 1)}{2} - R_b$$

- n_a: number of samples in sample a
- n_b: number of samples in sample b
- R_a: sum of the ranks of values in a
- R_b: sum of the ranks of values in b

Differences: U-test

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$$U_a = n_a \times n_b + \frac{n_a(n_a + 1)}{2} - R_a$$

$$U_b = n_b \times n_a + \frac{n_b(n_b + 1)}{2} - R_b$$

- smallest is used to find the p-value
- unlike the t-statistic, lower U-values are more likely to be significant

Differences: Wilcoxon matched-pairs test

- both or differences *not* normally distributed
- based on ranked *differences*
  - first calculate the differences
  - second rank the differences
  - 0's not ranked
- sum and compare +ve and -ve ranks

$$W^+ = \sum R^+$$

$$W^- = \sum R^-$$

- W^+: the Wilcoxon test statistic for positive differences
- W^+: the Wilcoxon test statistic for negative differences
- R^+: the sum of the ranks of positive differences
- R^+: the sum of the ranks of negative differences

Differences: Wilcoxon matched-pairs test

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- based on ranked *differences*
  - first calculate the differences
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- sum and compare +ve and -ve ranks

$$W^+ = \sum R^+$$

$$W^- = \sum R^-$$

- smallest is used to find the p-value
- lower W-values are more likely to be significant

Group Assignment

Using the whale count data, compare the differences between first and second abundance guesstimates using first `excel` and then `R`.

Submit a single written group report that outlines the following points:

1. state the null and alternative hypotheses being tested
2. the reason for choosing the statistical test you used
3. a summary of the results:
   - degrees-of-freedom, test statistic, p-values (at 5% level)?
   - did you accept or reject the null hypothesis?
   - is there a difference?
4. conduct the analysis in `R` and `excel` and submit:
   - a written report of points 1, 2 and 3 as **PDF**
   - an `excel` workbook showing your results
   - a saved `R` file showing results