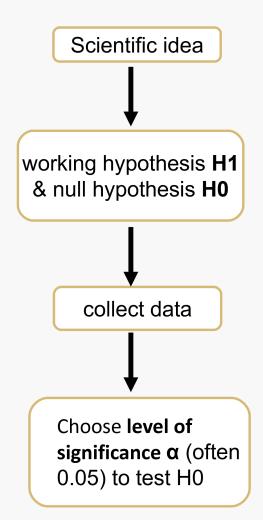
Statistical tests

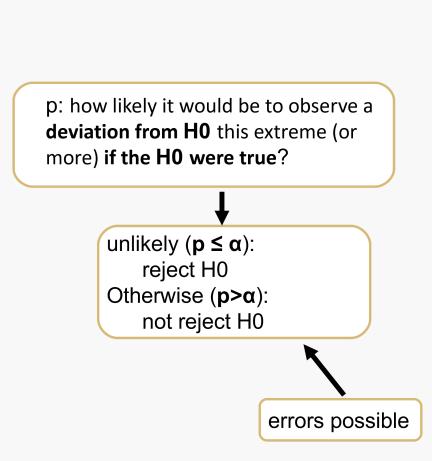
Day 3 - Introduction to Data Analysis with R

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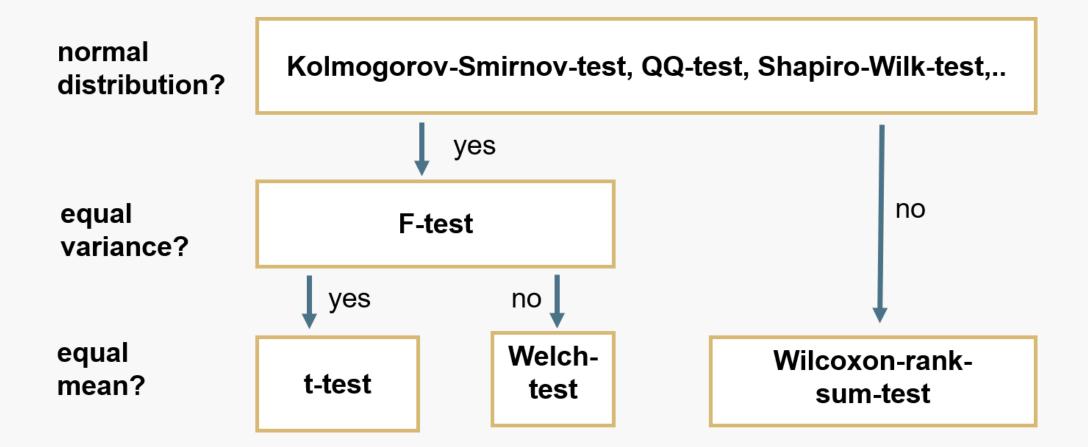
October 11, 2025

General approach





Overview of tests



Tests for normal distribution

Test for normal distribution

There are various tests and the outcome might differ!

Shapiro-Wilk-Test

- How much does variance of observed data differ from normal distribution
- Specific test only for normal distribution
- High power, also for few data points

Visual tests: QQ-Plot

- Quantiles of observed data plotted against quantiles of normal distribution
- Scientist has to decide if normal or not

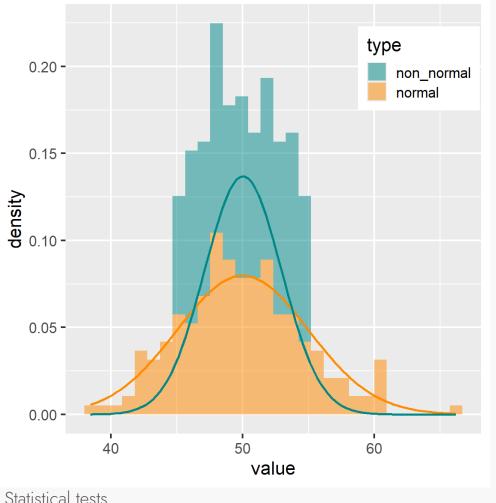
The data

A tibble with two variables: normal and non_normal

Expand to reproduce the data

▶ Code to generate histogram

```
mydata
#> # A tibble: 200 × 2
      normal non normal
       <dbl>
                  <dbl>
                   54.9
       47.2
                  46.4
       48.8
       57.8
                  54.1
       50.4
                  50.8
       50.6
                  49.0
       58.6
                  49.5
                  52.1
       52.3
                  45.8
        43.7
                  48.4
        46.6
                   51.8
        47.8
#> # i 190 more rows
```



Shapiro-Wilk-Test

H_0 : Data does not differ from a normal distribution

```
shapiro.test(mydata$normal)
#>
#> Shapiro-Wilk normality test
#>
#> data: mydata$normal
#> W = 0.99076, p-value = 0.2298
```

- W: test statistic
- ullet p: probability to observe data with this level of deviation from normality (or more) if H_0 was true
 - probability is high -> no reason to doubt normality assumption

The data does **not deviate significantly** from a normal distribution (Shapiro-Wilk-Test, W = 0.991, p = 0.23).

```
shapiro.test(mydata$non_normal)
#>
#> Shapiro-Wilk normality test
#>
#> data: mydata$non_normal
#> W = 0.95114, p-value = 2.435e-06
```

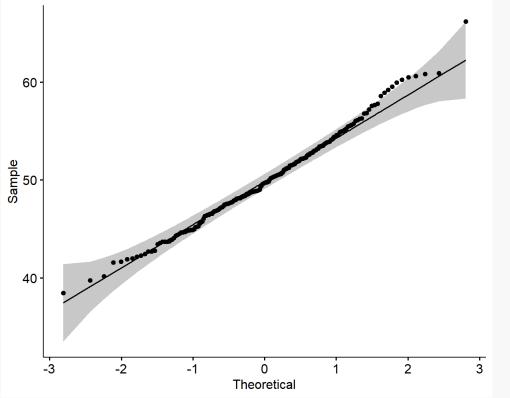
The data **deviates significantly** from a normal distribution (Shapiro-Wilk-Test, W = 0.95, p < 0.001).

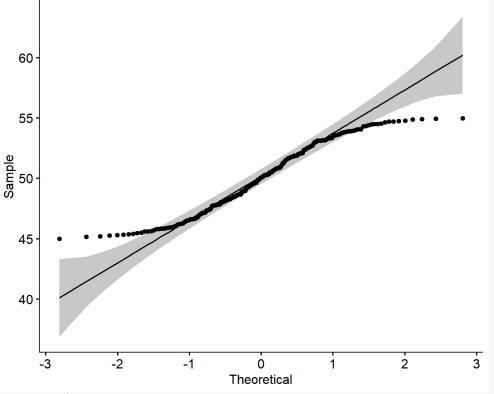
Visual test with QQ-Plot

Points should match the straight line. Small deviations are okay.

```
# ggplot(
# mydata,
# aes(sample = normal)
# ) +
# stat_qq() +
# stat_qq_line()
ggpubr::ggqqplot(mydata$normal)
```

```
# ggplot(
# mydata,
# aes(sample = non_normal)
# ) +
# stat_qq() +
# stat_qq_line()
ggpubr::ggqqplot(mydata$non_normal)
```





Tests for equal variance

The data

Counts of insects in agricultural units treated with different insecticides.

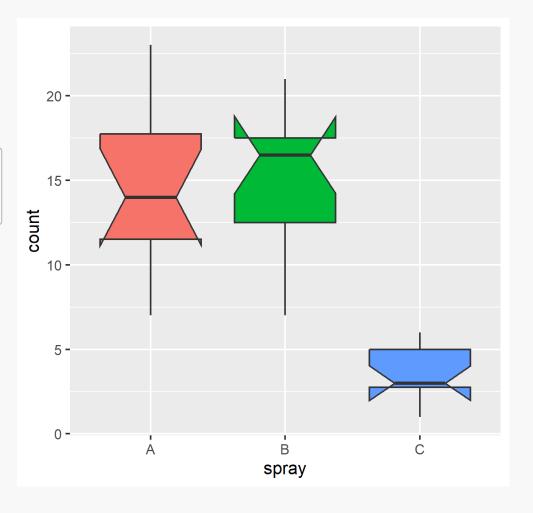
Expand to reproduce the data

▶ Code to generate boxplot

Compare treatments A, B and C:

Create subsets before: count variable for each treatment as a vector

```
TreatA <- filter(InsectSprays, spray == "A")$count
TreatB <- filter(InsectSprays, spray == "B")$count
TreatC <- filter(InsectSprays, spray == "C")$count</pre>
```



Test for equal variance

First, test for normal distribution!

F-Test

- Normal distribution of groups
- Calculates ratio of variances (if equal, ratio = 1)
- p: How likely is this (or a more extreme) ratio of variances if the variances were truly equal?

Levene test

- Non-normal distribution of groups
- Compare difference between data sets with difference within data sets

Test for equal variance

First, test for normal distribution

```
shapiro.test(TreatA)
#>
   Shapiro-Wilk normality test
#>
#> data: TreatA
\#> W = 0.95757, p-value = 0.7487
shapiro.test(TreatB)
#>
   Shapiro-Wilk normality test
#>
#> data: TreatB
\#> W = 0.95031, p-value = 0.6415
shapiro.test(TreatC)
#>
   Shapiro-Wilk normality test
#>
#> data: TreatC
\#> W = 0.92128, p-value = 0.2967
```

Result: All 3 treatments are normally distributed.

F-Test

H_0 : Variances do not differ between groups

```
var.test(TreatA, TreatB)

#>

#> F test to compare two variances

#>

#> data: TreatA and TreatB

#> F = 1.2209, num df = 11, denom df = 11, p-value = 0.7464

#> alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1

#> 95 percent confidence interval:

#> 0.3514784 4.2411442

#> sample estimates:

#> ratio of variances

#> 1.22093
```

- F: test statistics, ratio of variances (if F = 1, variances are equal)
- df: degrees of freedom of both groups
- ullet p-value: probability to observe this (or more extreme) F if H_0 was true

Variances of sprays A & B don't differ significantly (F-Test, $F_{11,11} = 1.22$, p = 0.75)

F-Test

H_0 : Variances do not differ between groups

```
var.test(TreatA, TreatC)
#>
#> F test to compare two variances
#>
#> data: TreatA and TreatC
#> F = 7.4242, num df = 11, denom df = 11, p-value = 0.002435
#> alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
#> 95 percent confidence interval:
#> 2.137273 25.789584
#> sample estimates:
#> ratio of variances
#> 7.424242
```

Variances of sprays A & C differ significantly (F-Test, $F_{11,11} = 7.42$, p = 0.002)

Test for equal means

Test for equal means

t-test

- Normal distribution AND equal variance
- Compares if mean values are within range of standard error of each other
- p: How likely is this (or more extreme) difference between means if the population means were truly equal?

Welch-Test (corrected t-test)

Normal distribution but unequal variance

Wilcoxon rank sum test

- Non-normal distribution and unequal variance
- Compares rank sums of the data
- Non-parametric

t-test

 H_0 : The samples do not differ in their mean

Treatment A and B: normally distributed and equal variance

```
t.test(TreatA, TreatB, var.equal = TRUE)

#>

#> Two Sample t-test

#>

#> data: TreatA and TreatB

#> t = -0.45352, df = 22, p-value = 0.6546

#> alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0

#> 95 percent confidence interval:

#> -4.643994 2.977327

#> sample estimates:

#> mean of x mean of y

#> 14.50000 15.33333
```

- t: test statistics (t = 0 means equal means)
- df: degrees of freedom of t-statistics
- ullet p-value: how likely is this extreme of a difference if H_0 was true?

The means of spray A and B don't differ significantly (t = -0.45, df = 22, p = 0.66)

Welch-Test

 H_0 : The samples do not differ in their mean

Treatment A and C: normally distributed and non-equal variance

```
t.test(TreatA, TreatC, var.equal = FALSE)

#>

#> Welch Two Sample t-test

#>

#> data: TreatA and TreatC

#> t = 7.5798, df = 13.91, p-value = 2.655e-06

#> alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0

#> 95 percent confidence interval:

#> 7.885546 14.114454

#> sample estimates:

#> mean of x mean of y

#> 14.5 3.5
```

The means of spray A and C do differ significantly (t = 7.58, df = 13.9, p < 0.001)

Wilcoxon-rank-sum Test

 H_0 : The samples do not differ in their mean

We don't need the Wilcoxon test to compare treatment A and B, but for the sake of an example:

```
wilcox.test(TreatA, TreatB)
#>
#> Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction
#>
#> data: TreatA and TreatB
#> W = 62, p-value = 0.5812
#> alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
```

The means of spray A and B do not differ significantly (W = 62, p = 0.58)

Paired values

Are there pairs of data points?

Example: samples of invertebrates across various rivers before and after sewage plants.

- For each plant, there is a pair of data points (before and after the plant)
- Question: Is the change (before-after) significant

Use paired = TRUE in the test.

```
t.test(TreatA, TreatB, var.equal = TRUE, paired = TRUE)
t.test(TreatA, TreatB, var.equal = FALSE, paired = TRUE)
wilcox.test(TreatA, TreatB, paired = TRUE)
```

Careful: your treatment vector both have to have the same order

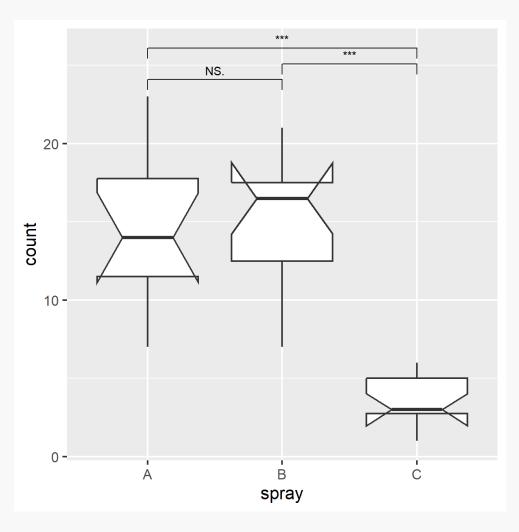
Plot test results with ggsignif

The ggsignif package offers a geom_signif() layer that can be added to a ggplot to annotate significance levels

```
# install.packages("ggsignif")
library(ggsignif)
```

Plot test results with geom_signif()

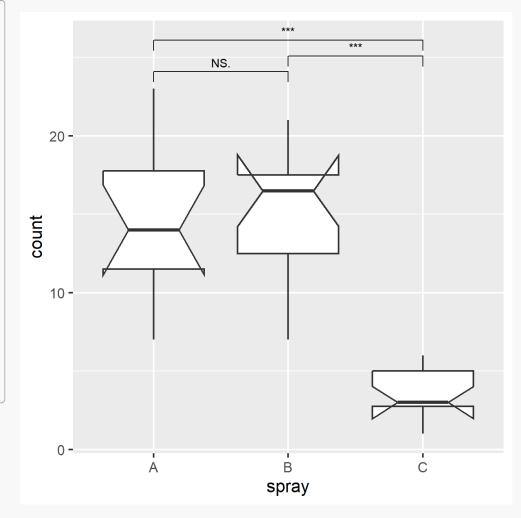
```
1 ggplot(
     InsectSprays,
     aes(x = spray, y = count)
 4
     geom boxplot(notch = TRUE) +
     geom signif(
       comparisons = list(
         c("A", "B"),
       c("B", "C"),
       c("A", "C")
10
11
12
       map signif level = TRUE,
13
       y position = c(23, 24, 25)
14
```



By default, a Wilcoxon test is performed

Plot test results with geom_signif()

```
ggplot(
      InsectSprays,
      aes(x = spray, y = count)
 4
      geom_boxplot(notch = TRUE) +
 5
 6
      geom signif(
        comparisons = list(
          c("A", "B"),
         c("B", "C"),
       c("A", "C")
10
11
       test = "t.test",
12
       test.args = list(
13
14
         var.equal = TRUE
15
16
       map signif level = TRUE,
       y_{position} = c(23, 24, 25)
17
18
```

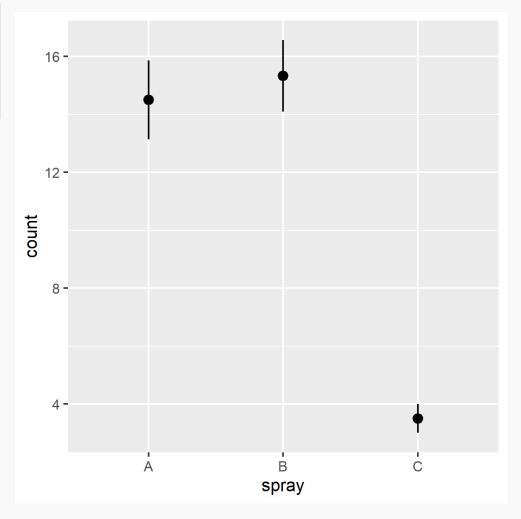


- test: run specific test
- test.args: pass additional arguments in a list
- ?geom_signif for more options

Another way to plot the results is to plot mean and standard error of the mean:

```
1 ggplot(
2   InsectSprays,
3   aes(x = spray, y = count)
4 ) +
5   stat_summary()
```

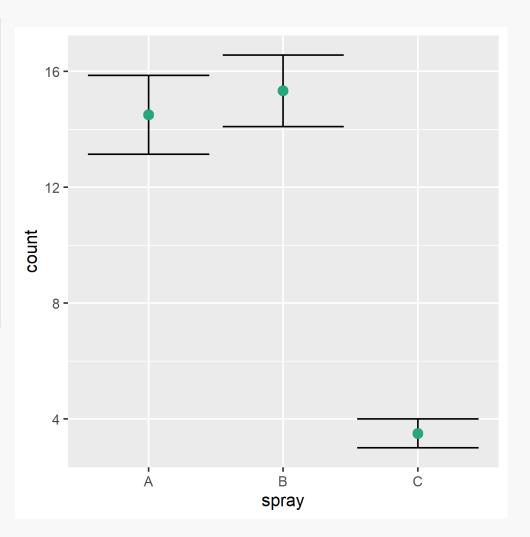
 By default stat_summary adds mean and standard error of the mean as pointrange



Another way to plot the results is to plot mean and standard error of the mean:

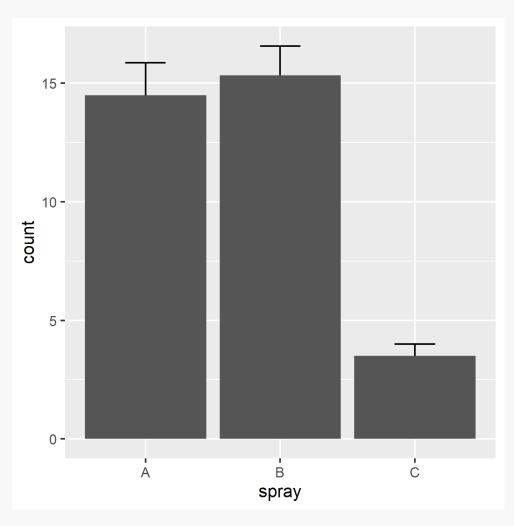
```
ggplot(
      InsectSprays,
      aes(x = spray, y = count)
      stat summary(
       fun.data = mean se,
        geom = "errorbar"
      stat summary(
       fun = mean,
10
       geom = "point",
11
       color = "#28a87d",
12
       size = 4
13
14
```

- Inside stat_summary, define summary function
 - fun.data for errorbars, fun.y for points (e.g. mean)



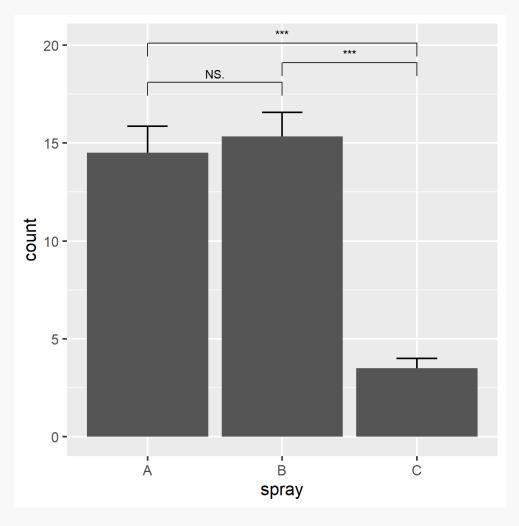
Another way to plot the results is to plot mean and standard error of the mean:

```
ggplot(
     InsectSprays,
     aes(x = spray, y = count)
     stat summary(
       fun.data = mean se,
       geom = "errorbar",
       width = 0.3
      ) +
10
     stat summary(
11
       fun = mean,
12
       geom = "bar",
        size = 4
13
14
```



Just like before, you can also add a **geom_signif** to a barplot:

```
1 ggplot(
     InsectSprays,
     aes(x = spray, y = count)
 4 ) +
     stat summary(
       fun.data = mean se,
       geom = "errorbar",
       width = 0.3
      ) +
10
     stat summary(
11
      fun = mean,
       geom = "bar"
12
13
14
     ggsignif::geom signif(
       comparisons = list(
15
         c("A", "B"),
16
       c("B", "C"),
17
         c("A", "C")
18
19
       test = "t.test",
20
21
       map_signif_level = TRUE,
       y position = c(17, 18, 19)
22
23
```



Now you

Task 1 (45 min)

Statistical tests

Find the task description here