

Introduction to Statistics

Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics

Isabelle Dupanloup (isabelle.dupanloup@sib.swiss) and Rachel Marcone (rachel.jeitziner@sib.swiss)

8th-11th February 2021

A possible experiment

195 adults treated with treatment A 800 adults with flu





605 adults treated with treatment B

Drug A works on 41 people out of a sample of 195. Drug B works on 351 people in a sample of 605. Are the two drugs comparable?

Introduction to hypothesis testing

Guideline for using statistics in biology

- 1. Specify the biological question of interest.
- 2. Put the question in the form of a biological null hypothesis and alternate hypothesis.
- 3. Put the question in the form of a **statistical null hypothesis** and **alternate hypothesis**.
- 4. Determine which **variables** are relevant to the question and what kind of variable each one is.
- 5. **Design an experiment** that controls or randomizes the **confounding variables**.
- 6. Based on the number of variables, the kinds of variables, the expected fit to the parametric assumptions, and the hypothesis to be tested, **choose the best statistical test to use**.
- 7. If possible, do a **power analysis** to determine a good sample size for the experiment.
- 8. Do the experiment.
- **9. Examine the data** (explore variation and check if the assumptions of the statistical test you chose (primarily normality and homoscedasticity for tests of measurement variables) are met (if it doesn't, choose a more appropriate test)).
- **10. Apply the statistical test** you chose, and **interpret** the results.
- **11.** Communicate your results effectively.

A possible experiment

195 adults treated with treatment A



800 adults with flu



351 adults treated with treatment B

Drug A works on 41 people out of a sample of 195. Drug B works on 351 people in a sample of 605. Are the two drugs comparable?

Comparison of 2 proportions one option: Z test

State the null hypothesis and alternate hypothesis.

H0: the proportions are the same.

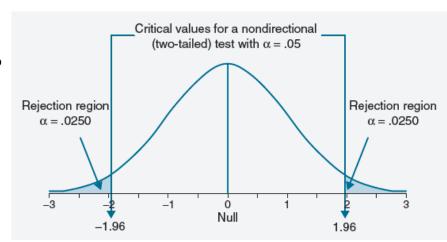
H1: the proportions are different.

Choose an alpha level.

$$alpha = 0.05$$

- Find the critical value of z using the standard normal distribution.
- Calculate the z test statistic.
- Compare the test statistic to the critical z value and decide if you should support or reject the null hypothesis.

8.99 > 1.96, so we can reject the null hypothesis.



$$z_t = \frac{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2}{\hat{\sigma}_D} = 8.99$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{D} = \sqrt{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})\left(\frac{1}{n_{1}} + \frac{1}{n_{2}}\right)}$$

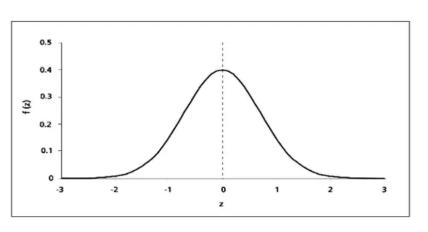
$$\hat{p} = \frac{n_{1}\hat{p}_{1} + n_{2}\hat{p}_{2}}{n_{1} + n_{2}}$$

How to judge whether a difference is significant?

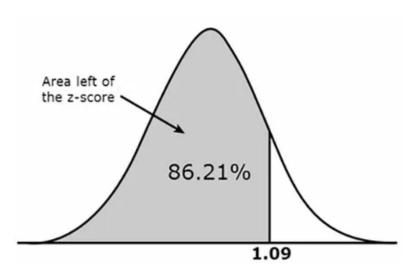
- The p-value is the probability of getting a result that is as or more extreme than the observed result, assuming that the null hypothesis is true.
- A p-value is not the probability that the null hypothesis is correct.
- A p-value is **not** the probability of making an error.

How to judge whether a difference is significant?

- A predefined significance level (α) is defined, typically 0.05 or 0.01
- The value of the test statistic which correspond to the significance level is calculated or *often* read in tables.
- If the observed test statistic is above the threshold, we reject the null hypothesis.



| z | .00 | .01 | .02 | .03 | .04 | .05 | .06 | .07 | .08 | .09 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 0.0 | .5000 | .5040 | .5080 | .5120 | .5160 | .5199 | .5239 | .5279 | .5319 | .5359 |
| 0.1 | .5398 | .5438 | .5478 | .5517 | .5557 | .5596 | .5636 | .5675 | .5714 | .5753 |
| 0.2 | .5793 | .5832 | .5871 | .5910 | .5948 | .5987 | .6026 | .6064 | .6103 | .6141 |
| 0.3 | .6179 | .6217 | .6255 | .6293 | .6331 | .6368 | .6406 | .6443 | .6480 | .6517 |
| 0.4 | .6554 | .6591 | .6628 | .6664 | .6700 | .6736 | .6772 | .6808 | .6844 | .6879 |
| 0.5 | .6915 | .6950 | .6985 | .7019 | .7054 | .7088 | .7123 | .7157 | .7190 | .7224 |
| 0.6 | .7257 | .7291 | .7324 | .7357 | .7389 | .7422 | .7454 | .7486 | .7517 | .7549 |
| 0.7 | .7580 | .7611 | .7642 | .7673 | .7704 | .7734 | .7764 | .7794 | .7823 | .7852 |
| 0.8 | .7881 | .7910 | .7939 | .7967 | .7995 | .8023 | .8051 | .8078 | .8106 | .8133 |
| 0.9 | .8159 | .8186 | .8212 | .8238 | .8264 | .8289 | .8315 | .8340 | .8365 | .8389 |
| 1.0 | .8413 | .8438 | .8461 | .8485 | .8508 | .8531 | .8554 | .8577 | .8599 | (.8621 |
| 1.1 | .8643 | .8665 | .8686 | .8708 | .8729 | .8749 | .8770 | .8790 | .8810 | .8830 |
| 1.2 | .8849 | .8869 | .8888 | .8907 | .8925 | .8944 | .8962 | .8980 | .8997 | .9015 |
| 1.3 | .9032 | .9049 | .9066 | .9082 | .9099 | .9115 | .9131 | .9147 | .9162 | .9177 |
| 1.4 | .9192 | .9207 | .9222 | .9236 | .9251 | .9265 | .9279 | .9292 | .9306 | .9319 |
| 1.5 | .9332 | .9345 | .9357 | .9370 | .9382 | .9394 | .9406 | .9418 | .9429 | .9441 |
| 1.6 | .9452 | .9463 | .9474 | .9484 | .9495 | .9505 | .9515 | .9525 | .9535 | .9545 |
| 1.7 | .9554 | .9564 | .9573 | .9582 | .9591 | .9599 | .9608 | .9616 | .9625 | .9633 |
| 1.8 | .9641 | .9649 | .9656 | .9664 | .9671 | .9678 | .9686 | .9693 | .9699 | .9706 |
| 1.9 | .9713 | .9719 | .9726 | .9732 | .9738 | .9744 | .9750 | .9756 | .9761 | .9767 |
| 2.0 | .9772 | .9778 | .9783 | .9788 | .9793 | .9798 | .9803 | .9808 | .9812 | .9817 |
| 2.1 | .9821 | .9826 | .9830 | .9834 | .9838 | .9842 | .9846 | .9850 | .9854 | .9857 |
| 2.2 | .9861 | .9864 | .9868 | .9871 | .9875 | .9878 | .9881 | .9884 | .9887 | .9890 |
| 2.3 | .9893 | .9896 | .9898 | .9901 | .9904 | .9906 | .9909 | .9911 | .9913 | .9916 |
| 2.4 | .9918 | .9920 | .9922 | .9925 | .9927 | .9929 | .9931 | .9932 | .9934 | .9936 |
| 2.5 | .9938 | .9940 | .9941 | .9943 | .9945 | .9946 | .9948 | .9949 | .9951 | .9952 |
| 2.6 | .9953 | .9955 | .9956 | .9957 | .9959 | .9960 | .9961 | .9962 | .9963 | .9964 |
| 2.7 | .9965 | .9966 | .9967 | .9968 | .9969 | .9970 | .9971 | .9972 | .9973 | .9974 |
| 2.8 | .9974 | .9975 | .9976 | .9977 | .9977 | .9978 | .9979 | .9979 | .9980 | .9981 |
| 2.9 | .9981 | .9982 | .9982 | .9983 | .9984 | .9984 | .9985 | .9985 | .9986 | .9986 |
| 3.0 | .9987 | .9987 | .9987 | .9988 | .9988 | .9989 | .9989 | .9989 | .9990 | .9990 |
| 3.1 | .9990 | .9991 | .9991 | .9991 | .9992 | .9992 | .9992 | .9992 | .9993 | .9993 |
| 3.2 | .9993 | .9993 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9995 | .9995 | .9995 |
| 3.3 | .9995 | .9995 | .9995 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9997 |
| 3.4 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9998 |



How to judge whether a difference is significant?

- If "p<0.05", we don't know if it is 0.049 (barely significant) or 0.00000001 (extremely significant)
- Computers can now calculate exact p-values, which should be reported.
- "p<0.05" remains a magical threshold for many scientists

Two-sided test versus one-sided test

 Two-sided, nondirectional, two-tailed hypothesis tests (H1: ≠)

H0: the proportions are the same: p1 = p2H1: the proportions are different: $p1 \neq p2$

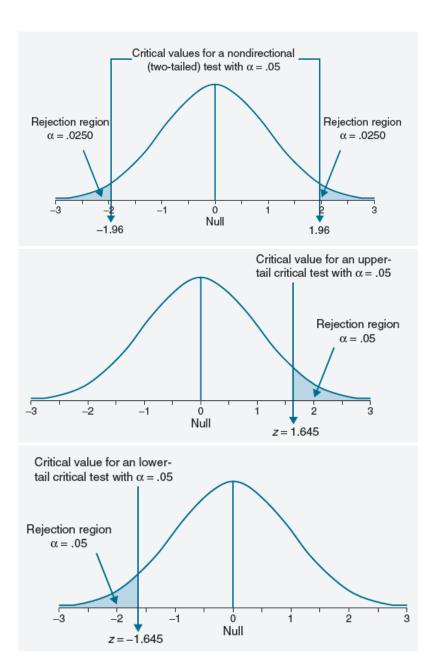
 One-sided, directional, upper-tail hypothesis tests (H1: >)

H0: the proportions are the same: p1 = p2H1: p1 is larger than p2: p1 > p2

 One-sided, directional, lower-tail hypothesis tests (H1: >)

H0: the proportions are the same: p1 = p2

H1: p1 is smaller than p2: p1 < p2



Difference between two-samples and two-sided tests

- A two-samples test is a hypothesis test for answering questions about means for two different populations. Data are collected from two random samples of independent observations.
- A two-sided test (or two-tailed test) is a hypothesis test in which the values for rejecting the null hypothesis are in both tails of the probability distribution
- The choice between a one-sided test and a two-sided test is determined by the purpose of the investigation or prior information

Pitfalls in hypothesis testing

- Even if a result is 'statistically significant', it can still be due to chance.
- Conversely, if a result is not statistically significant, it may be only because you do not have enough data (lack of power)
- A test of significance does not say how important the difference is, or what caused it (Is H0 incorrect? Was an assumption violated? Were you unlucky?)
- Using a significance level transforms a complicated, real-world problem, into a simple dichotomous question.

Statistical significance is not the same as practical importance.

Published: 14 December 2008

Six new loci associated with body mass index highlight a neuronal influence on body weight regulation

the GIANT Consortium

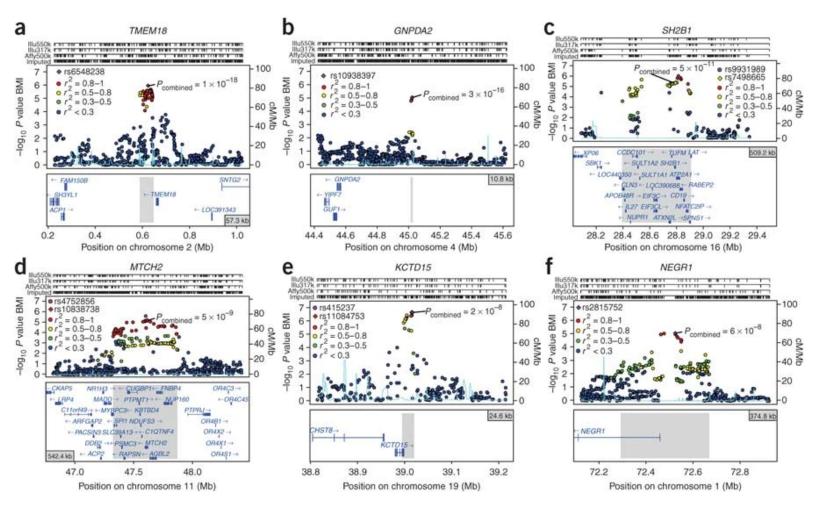
Nature Genetics 41, 25–34(2009) | Cite this article

1034 Accesses | 43 Altmetric | Metrics

Abstract

Common variants at only two loci, FTO and MC4R, have been reproducibly associated with body mass index (BMI) in humans. To identify additional loci, we conducted meta-analysis of 15 genome-wide association studies for BMI (n > 32,000) and followed up top signals in 14 additional cohorts (n > 59,000). We strongly confirm FTO and MC4R and identify six additional loci ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$): TMEM18, KCTD15, GNPDA2, SH2B1, MTCH2 and NEGR1 (where a 45-kb deletion polymorphism is a candidate causal variant). Several of the likely causal genes are highly expressed or known to act in the central nervous system (CNS), emphasizing, as in rare monogenic forms of obesity, the role of the CNS in predisposition to obesity.

Statistical significance is not the same as practical importance



8 SNPs (6 discovered in the study) significantly associated with BMI.

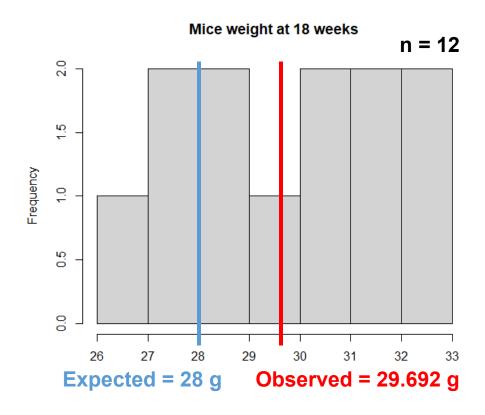
They correspond to a change of 173–954 g in weight per allele in adults who are 160–180 cm tall

The most widely used tests try to answer questions about the *location* of the center of the data (e.g. mean or median).

We have data about mice for which a gene was knocked out.

Question:

Is their weight different from the mean weight of the mice lab population (e.g. 28 g)?



H0: the mean of the mice weight in our sample is equal to 28

H1: the mean of the mice weight in our sample is not equal to 28

To perform this hypothesis test, we can use a one-sample t-test.

The most commonly used of all tests (80-90% of all papers?)

Main assumptions:

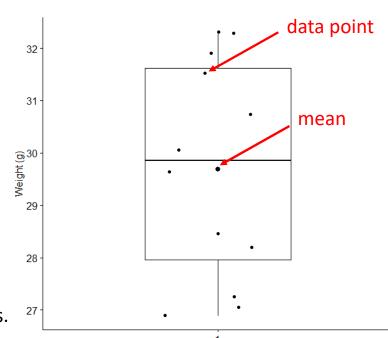
- The data are continuous.
- The data are independent.
- The sample data have been randomly sampled from a population.
- No significant outliers in the data
- Normality: the data should be approximately normally distributed

Main assumptions:

No significant outliers in the data

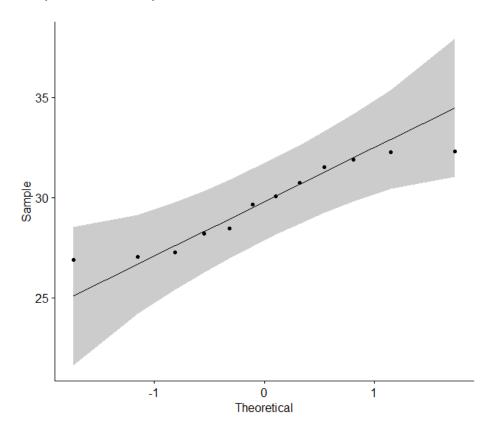
Values above Q3 + 1.5xIQR or below Q1 - 1.5xIQR are considered as outliers. Q1 and Q3 are the first and third quartile, respectively. IQR is the interquartile range (IQR = Q3 - Q1).

```
> Q1 <- quantile(weight$weight, probs = 0.25)
> Q3 <- quantile(weight$weight, probs = 0.75)
> IOR <- 03-01</pre>
```



Main assumptions:

Normality: the data should be approximately normally distributed



Test-statistic (Student's t-statistic):

$$T = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sqrt{S^2/n}}$$

where

- $-\bar{x}$ is the average of the observations (29.692g)
- $-\mu$ is the mean weight of the mice lab population (28g)
- S is the (estimated) standard deviation (2.081g)
- n is the number of observations (12)

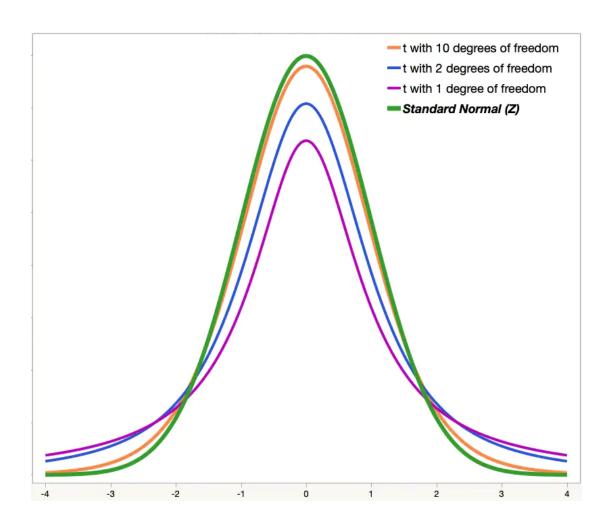
The t-distribution

The t-distribution describes the standardized distances of sample means to the population mean when the population standard deviation is not known, and the observations come from a normally distributed population.

The t-distribution is similar to a normal distribution.

- Like the normal distribution, the t-distribution has a smooth shape.
- Like the normal distribution, the t-distribution is symmetric.
- Like a standard normal distribution (or z-distribution), the t-distribution has a mean of zero.
- The t-distribution is defined by the degrees of freedom. These are related to the sample size.
- The t-distribution is most useful for small sample sizes, when the population standard deviation is not known, or both.
- As the sample size increases, the t-distribution becomes more similar to a normal distribution.

The t-distribution

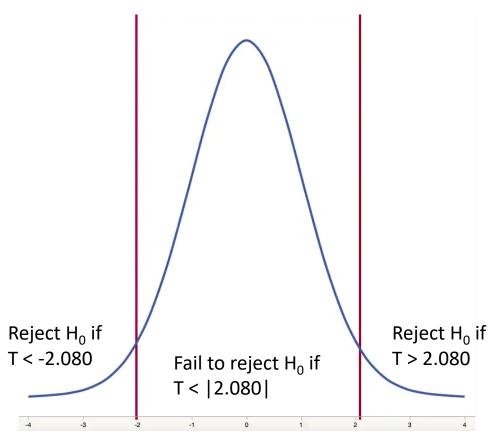


two-tailed test

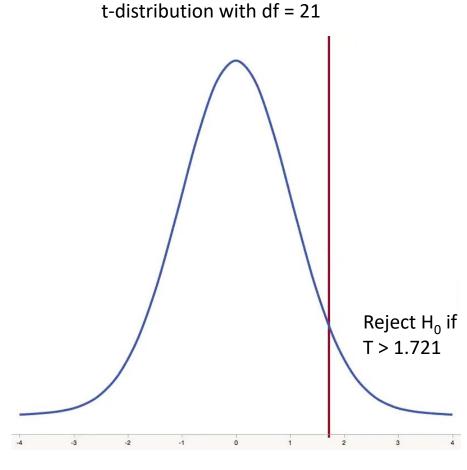
The t-distribution

one-tailed test

t-distribution with df = 21



$$t_{n-1,1-\alpha/2} = t_{21,0.975} = 2.080$$



$$t_{n-1,1-\alpha} = t_{21,0.95} = 1.721$$

0

6.965

4.541

3.747

2.896

2.821

3.250

2.262

2.228

1.093

11 0.697

1.372

1.812

.0005

.001

636.620

31.599

12.924

8.610

5.041

4.781

4.587

4.437

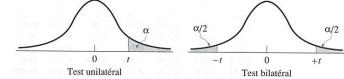
```
> t.test(weight$weight, mu = 28)
                               One Sample t-test
data: weight$weight
t = 2.8162, df = 11, p-value = 0.01678
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 28
95 percent confidence interval:
 28.36953 31.01366
sample estimates:
                                                                                           0
                                                                                        Test unilatéral
                                                                                                              Test bilatéral
mean of x
                                                                                             Seuil de signification pour le test unilatéral
 29.69159
                                                                                    .25
                                                                                             .15
                                                                                                 .10
                                                                                                          .025
                                                                                             Seuil de signification pour le test bilatéral
                                                                                    .50
                                                                                    1.000
                                                                                        1.376
                                                                                            1.963
                                                                                                3.078
                                                                                                     6.314
                                                                                                         12.706
                                                                                                              31.821
                                                                                                          4.303
                                                                                   0.765
                                                                                            1.250
                                                                                                          3.182
                                                                                    0.741
                                                                                        0.941
                                                                                            1.190
                                                                                                 1.533
                                                                                                     2.132
                                                                                    0.727
                                                                                        0.920
                                                                                            1.156
                                                                                                 1.476
                                                                                                     2.015
                                                                                    0.718
                                                                                        0.906
                                                                                                          2.306
```

```
> t.test(weight$weight, mu = 28)
                                                                     T = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sqrt{S^2/n}}
                       One Sample t-test
data: weight$weight
t = 2.8162, df = 11, p-value = 0.01678
                                                                     df = n - 1
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 28
95 percent confidence interval:
 28.36953 31.01366
sample estimates:
                                                       Pr \{-2.201 < T < 2.201\} = 0.95
mean of x
 29.69159
                                             Pr \{-2.201 < \frac{x - \mu}{\sqrt{S^2/n}} < 2.201\} = 0.95
                     Pr { \overline{x} -2.201\sqrt{S^2/n} < \mu < \overline{x} +2.201\sqrt{S^2/n} } = 0.95
```

> t.test(weight\$weight, mu = 28, alternative="greater")
One Sample t-test

sample estimates:
mean of x
29.69159

Pr {
$$\mu > \overline{x}$$
 -1.796 $\sqrt{S^2/n}$ } = 0.95

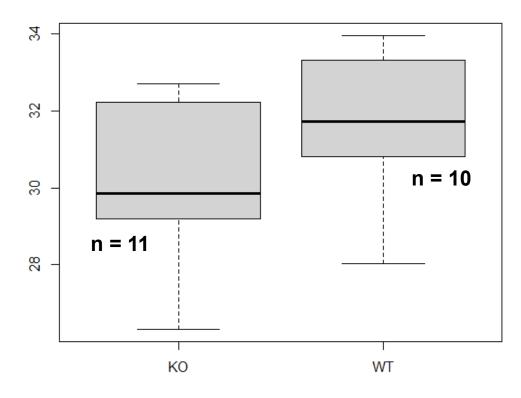


| | | Seuil de signification pour le test unilatéral | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--|--|--|
| | .25 | .20 | .15 | .10 | .05 | .025 | .01 | .005 | .0005 | | | |
| dl | Seuil de signification pour le test bilatéral | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | .50 | .40 | .30 | .20 | .10 | .05 | .02 | .01 | .001 | | | |
| 1 | 1.000 | 1.376 | 1.963 | 3.078 | 6.314 | 12.706 | 31.821 | 63.657 | 636,620 | | | |
| 2 | 0.816 | 1.061 | 1.386 | 1.886 | 2.920 | 4.303 | 6.965 | 9.925 | 31.599 | | | |
| 3 | 0.765 | 0.978 | 1.250 | 1.638 | 2.353 | 3.182 | 4.541 | 5.841 | 12,924 | | | |
| 4 | 0.741 | 0.941 | 1.190 | 1.533 | 2.132 | 2.776 | 3.747 | 4.604 | 8.610 | | | |
| 5 | 0.727 | 0.920 | 1.156 | 1.476 | 2.015 | 2.571 | 3.365 | 4.032 | 6.869 | | | |
| 6 | 0.718 | 0.906 | 1.134 | 1.440 | 1.943 | 2.447 | 3.143 | 3.707 | 5.959 | | | |
| 7 | 0.711 | 0.896 | 1.119 | 1.415 | 1.895 | 2.365 | 2.998 | 3,499 | 5.408 | | | |
| 8 | 0.706 | 0.889 | 1.108 | 1.397 | 1.860 | 2.306 | 2.896 | 3.355 | 5.041 | | | |
| 9 | 0.703 | 0.883 | 1.100 | 1.383 | 1.833 | 2.262 | 2.821 | 3.250 | 4.781 | | | |
| 10 | 0.700 | 0.879 | 1.093 | 1.372 | 1.812 | 2.228 | 2.764 | 3.169 | 4.587 | | | |
| 11 | 0.697 | 0.876 | 1.088 | 1.363 | 1.796 | 2.201 | 2.718 | 3.106 | 4.437 | | | |

We have data about mice for which a gene was knocked out (KO), as well as control mice (WT) **Question:**

Is there a significant difference between the average weight of these two groups?

Mice weight at 18 weeks



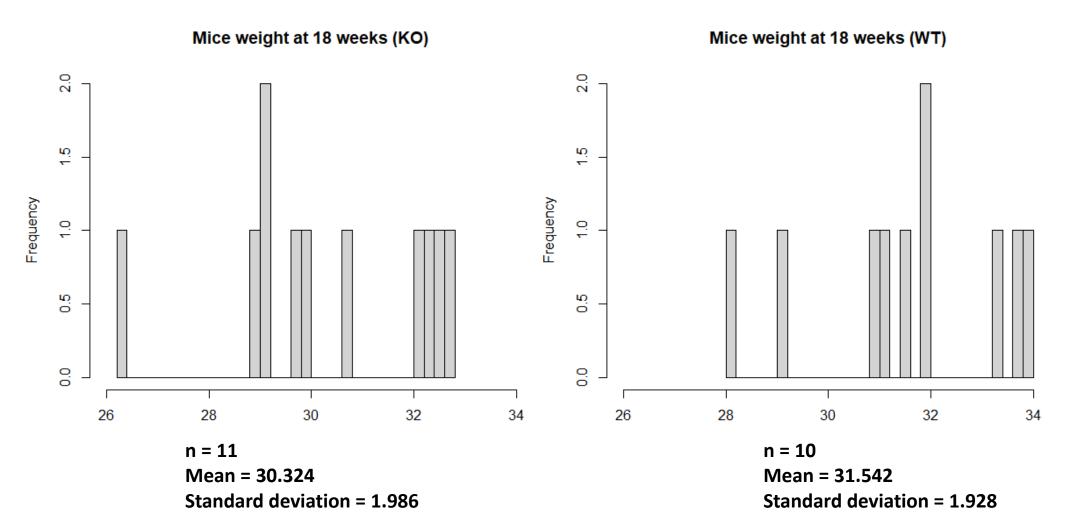
H0: the mean of the two groups is the same

H1: the mean of the two groups is different

To perform this hypothesis test, we can use a two-sample t-test.

Main assumptions:

- Data values must be independent.
- Data in each group must be obtained via a random sample from the population.
- Data in each group are **normally** distributed.
- Data values are continuous.
- The variances for the two independent groups are equal.



Test-statistic (Student's t-statistic):

$$T = \frac{\overline{x_1} - \overline{x_2}}{\sqrt{S_p^2(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2})}}$$

where

- $-\overline{x_1}$ is the average of the observations for WT mice (30.324g)
- $-\overline{x_2}$ is the average of the observations for KO mice (31.542g)
- $-S_p^2$ is the (estimated) pooled variance

$$S_p^2 = \frac{((n_1 - 1)S_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_2^2)}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$$

```
> t.test(KO_WT$weight ~ KO_WT$genotype)
                    Welch Two Sample t-test
data: KO_WT$weight by KO_WT$genotype
t = -1.4261, df = 18.905, p-value = 0.1702
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
```

-3.0078465 0.5705536 sample estimates:

mean in group KO mean in group WT 30.32366 31,54231

| | Seuil de signification pour le test unilatéral | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| | .25 | .20 | .15 | .10 | .05 | .025 | .01 | .005 | .0005 | | | | |
| | | Seuil de signification pour le test bilatéral | | | | | | | | | | | |
| dl | .50 | .40 | .30 | .20 | .10 | .05 | .02 | .01 | .001 | | | | |
| 1 | 1.000 | 1.376 | 1.963 | 3.078 | 6.314 | 12.706 | 31.821 | 63.657 | 636,620 | | | | |
| 2 | 0.816 | 1.061 | 1.386 | 1.886 | 2.920 | 4.303 | 6.965 | 9.925 | 31.599 | | | | |
| 3 | 0.765 | 0.978 | 1.250 | 1.638 | 2.353 | 3.182 | 4.541 | 5.841 | 12.924 | | | | |
| 4 | 0.741 | 0.941 | 1.190 | 1.533 | 2.132 | 2.776 | 3.747 | 4.604 | 8.610 | | | | |
| 5 | 0.727 | 0.920 | 1.156 | 1.476 | 2.015 | 2.571 | 3.365 | 4.032 | 6.869 | | | | |
| 6 | 0.718 | 0.906 | 1.134 | 1.440 | 1.943 | 2.447 | 3.143 | 3.707 | 5.959 | | | | |
| 7 | 0.711 | 0.896 | 1.119 | 1.415 | 1.895 | 2.365 | 2.998 | 3,499 | 5.408 | | | | |
| 8 | 0.706 | 0.889 | 1.108 | 1.397 | 1.860 | 2.306 | 2.896 | 3.355 | 5.041 | | | | |
| 9 | 0.703 | 0.883 | 1.100 | 1.383 | 1.833 | 2.262 | 2.821 | 3.250 | 4.781 | | | | |
| 10 | 0.700 | 0.879 | 1.093 | 1.372 | 1.812 | 2.228 | 2.764 | 3.169 | 4.587 | | | | |
| 11 | 0.697 | 0.876 | 1.088 | 1.363 | 1.796 | 2.201 | 2.718 | 3.106 | 4 437 | | | | |

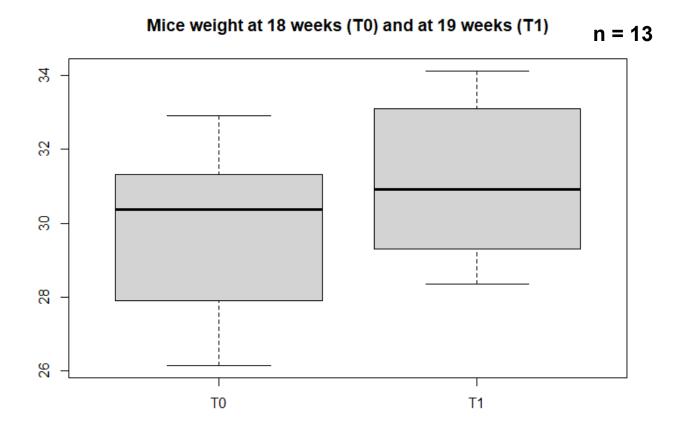
```
> t.test(KO_WT$weight ~ KO_WT$genotype)
                    Welch Two Sample t-test
data: KO_WT$weight by KO_WT$genotype
t = -1.4261, df = 18.905, p-value = 0.1702
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -3.0078465 0.5705536
sample estimates:
mean in group KO mean in group WT
        30.32366
                         31.54231
```

```
> t.test(KO_WT$weight ~ KO_WT$genotype, var.equal = T)
      Two Sample t-test
data: KO_WT$weight by KO_WT$genotype
t = -1.4239, df = 19, p-value = 0.1707
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -3.0099018 0.5726089
sample estimates:
mean in group KO mean in group WT
        30.32366
                        31,54231
                                                  df = n_1 + n_2 - 2
```

We have data about mice at two different time points (T_0 and T_1)

Question:

Is there a significant difference between the average weight of these mice at these two time points?



H0: the mean of the differences is zero

H1: the mean of the differences is not zero

To perform this hypothesis test, we can use a paired t-test.

Main assumptions:

- Subjects must be independent. Measurements for one subject do not affect measurements for any other subject.
- Each of the paired measurements must be obtained from the same subject.
- The measured differences are **normally** distributed.

Paired t-test

- In the two-sample t-test, we compared two samples of unrelated data points
- If the data between the two samples is paired, that is, each point x_i in the first sample correspond to a point y_i in the second sample, we can do a paired t-test
- Equivalent to testing if the difference between the pairs is significantly different from zero.
- More powerful than the two-sample t-test because we provide more information (the pairing) to the test

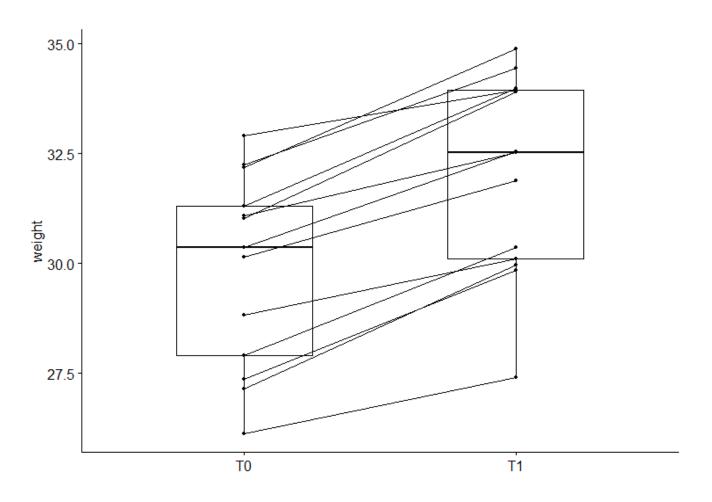
Two-sample t-test

```
> t.test(T0_T1$weight_T0,T0_T1$weight_T1)
      Welch Two Sample t-test
data: T0_T1$weight_T0 and T0_T1$weight_T1
t = -2.3758, df = 23.97, p-value = 0.02585
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -3.8996244 - 0.2738217
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
 29.89671 31.98343
```

Paired t-test

```
> t.test(T0_T1$weight_T0,T0_T1$weight_T1, paired = T)
         Paired t-test
 data: T0_T1$weight_T0 and T0_T1$weight_T1
 t = -11.537, df = 12, p-value = 7.491e-08
 alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
 95 percent confidence interval:
  -2.480824 -1.692622
 sample estimates:
 mean of the differences
                 -2.086723
T = \frac{\bar{X} - \bar{Y}}{S_D / \sqrt{n}} \quad S_D = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - y_i)^2 - \frac{(\sum (x_i - \bar{y_i}))^2}{n}}{n-1}} \quad df = n-1
```

The right data visualization for paired data



Multiple testing

Type I and type II errors

| Decision / «Truth» | H0 true | H1 true |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Do not reject H0 | Correct decision 1-α | Incorrect decision Type II error β |
| Reject H0 | Incorrect decision Type I error α | Correct decision 1-β |

$$\alpha = P(Type\ I\ error)$$
 $\beta = P(Type\ II\ error)$

Why Multiple Testing Matters

If we perform *m* hypothesis tests, what is the probability of at least 1 false positive?

$$P(Type\ I\ error) = \alpha$$

 $P(not \ making \ Type \ I \ error) = 1 - \alpha$

 $P(not \ making \ Type \ I \ error \ in \ m \ tests) = (1 - \alpha)^m$

 $P(making \ at \ least \ 1 \ Type \ I \ error \ in \ m \ tests) = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^m$

Probability of false positives increases with number of tests

| Number of tests | Probability that at least one event is significant just by chance | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 0.050 | | |
| 2 | 0.097 | | |
| 3 | 0.142 | | |
| 4 | 0.185 | | |
| 5 | 0.226 | | |
| 10 | 0.401 | | |
| 20 | 0.641 | | |
| 50 | 0.923 | | |
| 100 | 0.994 | | |

 $P(at \ least \ one \ significant \ result) = 1 - (1 - 0.05)^{number \ of \ tests}$

Counting errors

Assume we are testing $H^1, H^2, ..., H^m$

 m_0 = # of true hypotheses R = # of rejected hypotheses

| | Null | Alternative | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| | True | True | Total |
| Not Called Significant | U | <i>T</i> | m - R |
| Called Significant | V | s | R |
| | m_0 | <i>m-m</i> ₀ | m |

V = # Type I errors [false positives]

What Does Correcting for Multiple Testing Mean?

- Adjusting p-values for the number of hypothesis tests performed means controlling the Type I error rate
- Very active area of statistics many different methods have been described
- Different Approaches To Control Type I Errors:
 - Family-wise error rate (FEWR): the probability of at least one type I error $FEWR = P(V \ge 1) \le \alpha$
 - False discovery rate (FDR) is the expected proportion of Type I errors among the rejected hypotheses

$$FDR = E\left(\frac{V}{R}\right) \le \alpha$$

Bonferroni correction controls FWER

- Significance threshold = α/m
- Bonferroni correction tends to be too conservative

$$P(at \ least \ one \ significant \ result) = 1 - (1 - \frac{0.05}{20})^{20} = 0.0488$$

It assumes that all tests are independent of each other. In practical applications, that
is often not the case. Depending on the correlation structure of the tests, the
Bonferroni correction could be extremely conservative, leading to a high rate of false
negatives.

Holm's method controls FWER

- To control FWER at level α =0.05:
 - 1. Order the unadjusted p-values: $p_1 \le p_2 \le .. \le p_m$
 - 2. The step-down Holm adjusted p-values are

$$\widetilde{p_j} = \min[(m-j+1). p_j, 1]$$

3. The point here is that we don't multiply every p_i by the same factor m

if
$$m=1000$$
: $\widetilde{p_1}=1000$. p_1 , $\widetilde{p_2}=999$. p_2 , ..., $\widetilde{p_m}=1$. p_m

FWER or FDR?

- FWER is appropriate when you want to guard against ANY false positives
- However, in many cases (particularly in genomics) we can live with a certain number of false positives
- In these cases, the more relevant quantity to control is the false discovery rate (FDR)

Benjamini Hochberg controls FDR

- To control FDR at level δ =0.05:
 - 1. Order the unadjusted p-values: $p_1 \le p_2 \le ... \le p_m$
 - 2. Find the test with the highest rank, j, for which the p value, p_j , is less than equal to $\frac{j}{m} \times \delta$

Controlling the FDR at δ = 0.05

3. Declare the tests of rank 1, 2, .., j as significant

| Rank (j) | P-value | (j/m)× δ | Reject H ₀ ? |
|----------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 0.0008 | 0.005 | 1 |
| 2 | 0.009 | 0.010 | 1 |
| 3 | 0.165 | 0.015 | 0 |
| 4 | 0.205 | 0.020 | 0 |
| 5 | 0.396 | 0.025 | 0 |
| 6 | 0.450 | 0.030 | 0 |
| 7 | 0.641 | 0.035 | 0 |
| 8 | 0.781 | 0.040 | 0 |
| 9 | 0.900 | 0.045 | 0 |
| 10 | 0.993 | 0.050 | 0 |

Multiple testing correction in R: p.adjust

p.adjust {stats} R Documentation Adjust P-values for Multiple Comparisons Description Given a set of p-values, returns p-values adjusted using one of several methods. Usage p.adjust(p, method = p.adjust.methods, n = length(p)) p.adjust.methods # c("holm", "hochberg", "hommel", "bonferroni", "BH", "BY", # "fdr", "none") Arguments р numeric vector of p-values (possibly with NAs). Any other R object is coerced by as.numeric. method correction method, a character string. Can be abbreviated. n number of comparisons, must be at least length (p); only set this (to non-default) when you know what you are doing!

Multiple testing correction

| • | x | baseMean [‡] | log2FoldChange [‡] | IfcSE | stat [‡] | pvalue [‡] |
|----|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | ENSMUSG0000000001 | 1200.3945707 | -0.0148535315 | 0.09208117 | -0.161309114 | 0.8718499450 |
| 2 | ENSMUSG0000000028 | 26.6663265 | -0.0411264150 | 0.40057975 | -0.102667235 | 0.9182270789 |
| 3 | ENSMUSG0000000031 | 21.4444727 | 0.0426268105 | 0.51792967 | 0.082302314 | 0.9344063142 |
| 4 | ENSMUSG0000000037 | 52.3910190 | -0.4151892308 | 0.30340015 | -1.368454265 | 0.1711699284 |
| 5 | ENSMUSG00000000049 | 3,4930947 | -0.0136930701 | 1.10102747 | -0.012436629 | 0.9900772616 |
| 6 | ENSMUSG0000000056 | 835.3274881 | 0.1064909330 | 0.08664733 | 1.229015714 | 0.2190659145 |
| 7 | ENSMUSG0000000058 | 446.2751056 | 0.1683537754 | 0.11789673 | 1.427976594 | 0.1532985955 |
| 8 | ENSMUSG00000000078 | 412.0205179 | -0.1306807947 | 0.11359624 | -1.150397147 | 0.2499803346 |
| 9 | ENSMUSG0000000085 | 774.8375178 | -0.0217666588 | 0.09468269 | -0.229890586 | 0.8181767921 |
| 10 | ENSMUSG00000000088 | 1449.9781814 | 0.1003037335 | 0.08810335 | 1.138478125 | 0.2549208881 |

