# IndianaUniversity University Information Technology Services

# Comparing Group Means: T-tests and One-way ANOVA Using Stata, SAS, R, and SPSS\*

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\* The citation of this document should read: "Park, Hun Myoung. 2009. Comparing Group Means: T-tests and One-way ANOVA Using STATA, SAS, R, and SPSS. Working Paper. The University Information Technology Services (UITS) Center for Statistical and Mathematical Computing, Indiana University." http://www.indiana.edu/~statmath/stat/all/ttest

This document summarizes the methods of comparing group means and illustrates how to conduct t-tests and one-way ANOVA using Stata 11, SAS 9.2, R, and SPSS 17.

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## 1. Introduction

T-tests and analysis of variance (ANOVA) are widely used statistical methods to compare group means. For example, the independent sample t-test enables you to compare annual personal income between rural and urban areas and examine the difference in the grade point average (GPA) between male and female students. Using the paired t-test, you can also compare the change in outcomes before and after a treatment is applied.

For a t-test, the mean of a variable to be compared should be substantively interpretable. Technically, the left-hand side (LHS) variable to be tested should be interval or ratio scaled (continuous), whereas the right-hand side (RHS) variable should be binary (categorical). The t-test can also compare the proportions of binary variables. The mean of a binary variable is the proportion or percentage of success of the variable. When sample size is large, t-tests and z-test for comparing proportions produce almost the same answer.

## 1.1 Background of the T-test: Key Assumptions

The t-test assumes that samples are randomly drawn from normally distributed populations with unknown population variances. If such assumption cannot be made, you may try nonparametric methods. The variables of interest should be *random variables*, whose values change randomly. A constant such as the number of parents of a person is not a random variable. In addition, the occurrence of one measurement in a variable should be independent of the occurrence of others. In other word, the occurrence of an event does not change the probability that other events occur. This property is called *statistical independence*. Time series data are likely to be statistically dependent because they are often autocorrelated.

T-tests assume *random sampling* without any selection bias. If a researcher intentionally selects some samples with properties that he prefers and then compares them with other samples, his

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If population variances are known, you may try the z-test with  $\sigma^2$ ; you do not need to estimate variances.

inferences based on this non-random sampling are neither reliable nor generalized. In an experiment, a subject should be randomly assigned to either the control or treated group so that two groups do not have any systematic difference except for the treatment applied. When subjects can decide whether or not to participate (non-random assignment), however, the independent sample t-test may under- or over-estimate the difference between the control and treated groups. In this case of self-selection, the propensity score matching and treatment effect model may produce robust and reliable estimates of mean differences.

Standard Normal Distribution

Rimodal Distribution

Figure 1. Comparing the Standard Normal and a Bimodal Probability Distributions

Another, yet closely related to random sampling, key component is *population normality*. If this assumption is violated, a sample mean is no longer the best measure (unbiased estimator) of central tendency and t-test will not be valid. Figure 1 illustrates the standard normal probability distribution on the left and a bimodal distribution on the right. Even if the two distributions have the same mean and variance, we cannot say much about their mean difference.

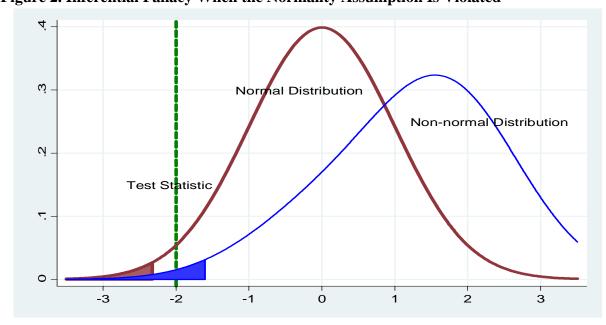


Figure 2. Inferential Fallacy When the Normality Assumption Is Violated

The violation of normality becomes more problematic in the *one-tailed test* than the *two-tailed* one (Hildebrand et al. 2005: 329). Figure 2 shows how the violation influences *statistical inferences*.<sup>2</sup> The left red curve indicates the standard normal probability distribution with its 1 percent one-tailed rejection region on the left. The blue one is for a non-normal distribution with the blue 1 percent *rejection region* (critical region). The test statistic indicated by a vertical green line falls in the rejection region of the skewed non-normal distribution but does not in the red shaded area of the standard normal distribution. If the populations follow such a non-normal distribution, the one-tailed t-test based on the normality does not mistakenly reject the null hypothesis.

Due to the Central Limit Theorem, the normality assumption is not as problematic as imagined in the real world. The Theorem says that the distribution of a sample mean (e.g.,  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$ ) is approximately normal when its sample size is sufficiently large. When  $n_1 + n_2 \ge 30$ , in practice, you do not need to worry too much about normality.

When sample size is small and normality is questionable, you might draw a histogram, P-P plot, and Q-Q plots or conduct the Shapiro-Wilk W (N<=2000), Shapiro-Francia W (N<=5000), Kolmogorov-Smirnov D (N>2000), and Jarque-Bera tests. If the normality assumption is violated, you might try such nonparametric methods as the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test, Kruscal-Wallis Test, or Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test.

## 1.2 T-test and Analysis of Variance

The t-test can be conducted on a one sample, paired samples, and independent samples. The one sample t-test checks if the population mean is different from a hypothesized value (oftentimes zero). If you have two samples, which are not independent but paired, you need to compute differences of individual matched pairs. A typical example is outcome measurements of pre- and post- treatment. The paired t-test examines if the mean of the differences (effect of treatment) is discernable from zero (no effect). Therefore, the underlying methods of one-sample t-test and paired t-test are in fact identical.

If two samples are taken from different populations and their elements are not paired, the independent sample t-test compares the means of two samples.<sup>3</sup> In a GPA data set of male and female students, for example, the GPA of the first male student is nothing to do with that of the first female student. When two samples have the same population variance, the independent samples t-test uses the pooled variance when computing standard error.<sup>4</sup> Otherwise, individual variances need to be used instead in computation, and degrees of freedom should be approximated. The folded F test is used to evaluate the equality of two variances. In both cases,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A statistical inference in general follows five steps: (1) formulating the null and research hypothesis (one-tailed or two-tailed), (2) choosing a (subjective) significance level ( $\alpha$ ) or forming rejection regions, (3) computing the (objective) test statistic or its p-value, (4) comparing the test statistic with the critical value or the p-value with the significance level, (5) finally draw a conclusion (reject or do not reject the null hypothesis).

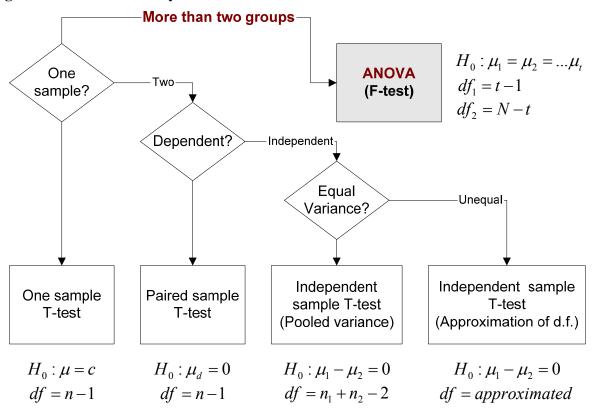
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Hildebrand et al. (2005: 361) call it the independence of "between samples" and differentiate it from the independence of "within samples," which is the statistical independence of observations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The folded form F test examines if two samples have an equal variance in a statistical sense.

the null hypothesis is two samples have the same mean. Figure 3 illustrates these four types of t-tests and one way ANOVA.

While the independent sample t-test is limited to comparing the means of two groups, the one-way ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) can compare more than two groups. ANOVA use F statistic to test if all groups have the same mean. Therefore, the t-test is considered a special case of the one-way ANOVA. When comparing means of two groups (one degree of freedom), the t statistic is the square root of the F statistic of ANOVA (F=t²). But DO NOT be confused with the folded F test for examining the equality of the two variances.

Figure 3. T-tests and Analysis of Variance



These analyses do not necessarily posit any causal relationship between the left-hand and right-hand side variables. Whether data are balanced does not matter in the t-test and one-way ANOVA. Table 1 compares the independent sample t-test and one-way ANOVA.

Table 1. Comparison between the Independent Sample T-test and One-way ANOVA

	<b>E</b>	<u>r</u>
	Independent Sample T-test	One-way ANOVA
LHS (Dependent)	Interval or ratio variable	Interval or ratio variable
RHS (Independent)	Binary variable	Categorical variable
Null Hypothesis	$\mu_1 = \mu_2$	$\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 \ldots$
Prob. Distribution	T distribution	F distribution
Sample size	Balanced/unbalanced	Balanced/unbalanced

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> When the number of observations varies across groups, we call it unbalanced data

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## 1.3 Software Issues: Stata, SAS, R, and SPSS

Stata has the .ttest(or .ttesti) command to conduct t-tests. The .anova and .oneway commands perform one-way ANOVA. Stata also has .prtest(or .prtesti) to compare proportions of binary variables. The immediate commands .ttesti and .prtesti are useful when only aggregated information (i.e., the number of observations, means or proportions, and standard deviations) is available.

In SAS, the TTEST procedure conducts various t-tests and the UNIVARIATE and MEANS procedures have options for the one sample t-test. SAS also has the ANOVA, GLM, and MIXED procedures for the one-way ANOVA. The ANOVA procedure can handle balanced data only, while the GLM and MIXED can analyze both balanced and unbalanced data. However, whether or not data are balanced does not matter in the t-test and one-way ANOVA.

R is a free software package distributed under the GNU General Public License (http://www.r-project.org). In R, t.test() supports various t-tests using various options. paired=T is for paired t-test; var.equal=F is for independent sample t-test with unequal variances; mu= specify the mean difference other than zero. var.test() conducts the folded F test to examine the equality of population variances. lm() and glm() respectively fit linear (regression) models and generalized linear models.

SPSS has T-TEST, ONEWAY, GLM (or UNIANOVA), and MIXED commands for the t-test and one-way ANOVA. Table 2 summarizes related Stata commands, SAS procedures, R, and SPSS commands.

Table 2	Dalatad Da	ocedures and	1 Camana	da in Ctata	CACD	and CDCC
I anie /	- Keisted Pr	oceaures an	i i ammar	iac in Stata	SAS K	and SPSS

	Stata 11	SAS 9.2	R	SPSS 17
Normality Test	.swilk	UNIVARIATE	> shapiro.test()	EXAMINE
<b>3</b>	.sfrancia			
Equal Variance Test	.oneway	TTEST	<pre>&gt; var.test()</pre>	T-TEST
Nonparametric Method	.ksmirnov	NPAR1WAY	<pre>&gt; ks.test()</pre>	NPAR TESTS
1	.kwallis		<pre>&gt; kruscal.test()</pre>	
T-test	.ttest	TTEST	<pre>&gt; t.test()</pre>	T-TEST
	.ttesti	MEANS		
ANOVA	.anova	ANOVA	> lm()	ONEWAY
*	.oneway			
$GLM^*$		GLM; MIXED	> glm()	GLM; MIXED
<b>Comparing Proportions</b>	.prtest	FREQ	<pre>&gt; prop.test()</pre>	
7 · 8 · 1 · · ·	.prtesti			
Data Arrangement	Long and wide	Long form	Long and wide	Long form

<sup>\*</sup> The Stata .glm command (generalized linear model) is not used for t-tests.

## 1.4 Data Arrangement

Figure 4 contrasts two types of data arrangement. The long form data arrangement has a variable to be tested and a grouping variable to classify groups (0 or 1). The wide form

arrangement, appropriate especially for paired samples, lists two variables to be tested. The two variables in this type are not, however, necessarily paired.

SAS and SPSS require the long form data arrangement for the independent sample t-test and the wide form arrangement for the paired t-test. Accordingly, data may need to be manipulated properly before conducting t-test with these software packages. In contrast, Stata can handle both data arrangement types flexibly using options. It is generally recommended that data are arranged in the wide form arrangement when using Stata. Notice that the numbers of observations across groups are not necessarily equal (balanced).

Figure 4. Data Arrangement for the T-test

Variable	Group
х	0
x	0
x	0
x	0
У	1
У	1
У	1

Long Form

Variable1	Variable2
X	Y
x	У
x	У
x	

Wide Form

## 2. One sample T-Test

Suppose we obtain n measurements  $y_I$  through  $y_n$  that were randomly selected from a normally distributed population with unknown parameters  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ . One example is the SAT scores of 100 undergraduate students who were randomly chosen.

The one sample t-test examines whether the unknown population mean  $\mu$  differs from a hypothesized value c. This is the null hypothesis of the one sample t-test,  $H_0: \mu = c$ . The t statistic is computed as follows.

$$t = \frac{\overline{y} - c}{s_{\overline{y}}} \sim t(n - 1)$$

where y is a variable to be tested,  $\overline{y} = \frac{\sum y_i}{n}$  is the mean of y,  $s^2 = \frac{\sum (y_i - \overline{y})^2}{n-1}$  is the variance

of y,  $s_{\overline{y}} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$  is the standard error of  $\overline{y}$ , and n is the number of observations. The t statistic

follows Student's t probability distribution with *n-1* degrees of freedom (Gosset 1908).

Here we are testing if the population mean of the death rate from lung cancer is 20 per 100,000 people at the .01 significance level. The null hypothesis of this two-tailed test is  $H_0$ :  $\mu = 20$ .

## 2.1 One Sample T-test in Stata

The .ttest command conducts various forms of t-tests in Stata. For the one sample test, the command requires that a hypothesized value be explicitly specified. The level() option is to specify a confidence level as a percentage; if omitted, 95 percent by default is assumed. Note that the 99 percent confidence level is equivalent to the .01 significance level.

## . ttest lung=20, level(99)

One-sample t test

Variable | Obs Mean Std. Err. Std. Dev. [99% Conf. Interval]

lung | 44 19.65318 .6374133 4.228122 17.93529 21.37108

mean = mean(lung)

Ho: mean = 20 degrees of freedom = 43

Ha: mean < 20 Ha: mean != 20 Ha: mean > 20

Pr(T < t) = 0.2946 Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.5892 Pr(T > t) = 0.7054

Stata first lists the descriptive statistics of the variable lung. The mean and standard deviation of the 44 observations are 19.6532 and 4.2281, respectively. The standard error is .6374 = 4.2281 / sqrt(44) and the 99 percent confidence interval of the mean is  $\bar{y} \pm t_{\alpha/2} s_{\bar{y}} = 19.6532 \pm 2.695 * .6374$ , where the 2.695 is the critical value of the two-tailed test with 43 (=44-1)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The hypothesized value c is commonly set to zero.

degrees of freedom at the .01 significance level. Finally, the t statistic is -.5441 = (19.6532-20) / .6374.

There are three t-tests at the bottom of the output above. The first and third are one-tailed tests, whereas the second is the two-tailed test. The first p-value .2946, for example, is for one-tailed test for the *research hypothesis*  $H_a$ :  $\mu < 20$ . Since this test is two tailed, you should read the second p-value for the *null hypothesis*  $H_0$ :  $\mu = 20$ .

The t statistic of -.5441 and its large p-value of .5892 do not reject the null hypothesis that the population mean of the death rate from lung cancer is 20 at the .01 level. The average death rate may be 20 per 100,000 people (p<.5892). Notice that the hypothesized value 20 falls into the 99 percent confidence interval 17.9353-21.3711.

If you just have aggregated data (i.e., the number of observations, mean, and standard deviation of a sample), use the .ttesti command to replicate the t-test above. The hypothesized value 20 is specified at the end of the summary statistics. You may not omit the level(99) option.

```
. ttesti 44 19.65318 4.228122 20, level(99)
(output is skipped)
```

## 2.2 One Sample T-test Using the SAS TTEST Procedure

The TTEST procedure conducts various types of t-tests in SAS. The H0 option specifies a hypothesized value, and ALPHA indicates a significance level. If omitted, zero and the .05 level by default are assumed. Let us first declare a library using the LIBNAME statement. A SAS data set is read though a SAS library, which is an alias of the collection of SAS data sets.<sup>7</sup>

```
LIBNAME masil 'c:\data\sas';
```

The LIBNAME statement defines a library masil directing to c:\data\sas.

DATA=masil.smoking in the following TTEST statement tells SAS to read the data set smoking in the masil library.

```
PROC TTEST H0=20 ALPHA=.01 DATA=masil.smoking;
VAR lung;
RUN;
```

The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

		Lower CL		Upper CL	Lower CL		Upper CL	
Variable	N	Mean	Mean	Mean	Std Dev	Std Dev	Std Dev	Std Err
lung	44	17.935	19.653	21.371	3.2994	4.2281	5.7989	0.6374

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> SAS Enterprise Guide enables users to read SAS data sets without declaring SAS libraries. This Microsoft Windows application provides a handy point-and-click interface and thus makes SAS more like SPSS.

T-Tests							
Variable	DF	t Value	Pr >  t				
luna	43	-0.54	0.5892				

The TTEST procedure reports descriptive statistics followed by the two-tailed t-test. The small t statistic does not reject the null hypothesis of the population mean 20 at the .01 level (p<.5892). If you have a summary data set containing the values of a variable lung and their frequencies, say count, use the FREQ statement.

```
PROC TTEST H0=20 ALPHA=.01 DATA=masil.smoking;
   VAR lung;
   FREQ count;
RUN;
(output is skipped)
```

## 2.3 One Sample T-test Using the SAS UNIVARIATE and MEANS Procedures

The SAS UNIVARIATE and MEANS procedures also perform the one sample t-test. The UNIVARIATE procedure is basically designed to produces a variety of descriptive statistics of a variable. Its MUO option tells the procedure to perform a t-test using the hypothesized value specified. VARDEF=DF specifies a divisor (degrees of freedom) used in computing the variance (standard deviation). The NORMAL option examines if the variable is normally distributed.

## PROC UNIVARIATE MU0=20 VARDEF=DF NORMAL ALPHA=.01 DATA=masil.smoking; VAR lung; RUN;

Moments						
N	44	Sum Weights	44			
Mean	19.6531818	Sum Observations	864.74			
Std Deviation	4.22812167	Variance	17.8770129			
Skewness	-0.104796	Kurtosis	-0.949602			
Uncorrected SS	17763.604	Corrected SS	768.711555			
Coeff Variation	21.5136751	Std Error Mean	0.63741333			

The UNIVARIATE Procedure Variable: lung

Loca	ation	Variability	
Mean Median Mode	19.65318 20.32000	Std Deviation Variance Range	4.22812 17.87701 15.26000
		Interquartile Range	6.53000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The VARDEF=N uses N as a divisor, while VARDEF=WDF specifies the sum of weights minus one (SAS 2005).

Tests for Location: Mu0=20

Test	-S1	tatistic-	p Valu	ue
Student's t	t	-0.5441	Pr >  t	0.5892
Sign	M	1	Pr >=  M	0.8804
Signed Rank	S	-36.5	Pr >=  S	0.6752

## Tests for Normality

Test	Sta	tistic	p Value		
Shapiro-Wilk	W	0.967845	Pr < W	0.2535	
Kolmogorov-Smirnov	D	0.086184	Pr > D	>0.1500	
Cramer-von Mises	W-Sq	0.063737	Pr > W-Sq	>0.2500	
Anderson-Darling	A-Sq	0.382105	Pr > A-Sq	>0.2500	

## Quantiles (Definition 5)

Quantile	Estimate
100% Max	27.270
99%	27.270
95%	25.950
90%	25.450
75% Q3	22.815
50% Median	20.320
25% Q1	16.285

## Quantiles (Definition 5)

Quantile	Estimate
10%	14.110
5%	12.120
1%	12.010
0% Min	12.010

## Extreme Observations

Lowe	st	Highes	t
Value	0bs	Value	0bs
12.01	39	25.45	16
12.11	33	25.88	1
12.12	30	25.95	27
13.58	10	26.48	18
14.11	36	27.27	8

In the beginning of the output above, you may see the summary statistics such as N (44), mean(19.6532), variance (17.8770), skewness (-.1048), and kurtosis (-.9496). The third block

of the output entitled as "Tests for Location: Mu0=20" reports the t statistic and its p-value. The fourth block entitled as "Tests for Normality" contains several statistics of the normality test. Since N is less than 2,000, you should read the Shapiro-Wilk W, which suggests that lung is normally distributed (p<.2535).

The MEANS procedure performs the one sample t-test using the T and PROBT options, which respectively request the two-tailed t statistic and its p-value. The CLM option produces the confidence interval (or upper and lower limits). The MEAN, STD, and STDERR respectively print the sample mean, standard deviation, and standard error.

```
PROC MEANS MEAN STD STDERR T PROBT CLM VARDEF=DF ALPHA=.01 DATA=masil.smoking; VAR lung; RUN:
```

The MEANS Procedure

#### Analysis Variable : lung

Mean	Std Dev	Std Error	t Value	Pr >  t	Lower 99% CL for Mean	Upper 99% CL for Mean
19.6531818	4.2281217	0.6374133	30.83	<.0001	17.9352878	21.3710758

The MEANS procedure does not, however, have an option to specify a hypothesized value other than zero. Thus, the null hypothesis here is that the population mean of death rate from lung cancer is zero. The t statistic is 30.83 = (19.6532-0) / .6374 and the corresponding p-value is less than .0001. The large t statistic and small p-value reject the null hypothesis at the .01 significance level. The average death rate from lung cancer is not zero but much larger than zero. The confidence interval remains unchanged as long as the same significance level is used.

## 2.4 One Sample T-test in R

In R, it seems a bit cumbersome for beginners to import and manipulate data. read.table() reads an ASCII text file into a data frame (data set) and attach() makes it easy to use column names as variable names without a data frame name. The following commands read data from 34 through 78 lines in smoking.txt, store them into a data frame, df, and then create a binary variable, smoke, in a data frame, df, by setting to1 if cigar is greater than 23.77 and 0 otherwise. Once attach(df) is executed, R treats df\$smoke and smoke equivalent.

R's t.test() has various options that make it easy to conduct t-tests. The following command conducts one sample t-test with the null hypothesis of population mean 20 at the .01 significance level (.99 confidence level). The small t statistic indicates that the population mean of lung cancer is 20 at the .01 level.

#### > t.test(lung, mu=20, conf.level=.99)

```
One Sample t-test

data: lung
t = -0.5441, df = 43, p-value = 0.5892
alternative hypothesis: true mean is not equal to 20
99 percent confidence interval:
17.93529 21.37108
sample estimates:
mean of x
19.65318
```

## 2.5 One Sample T-test in SPSS

SPSS has the T-TEST command for t-tests. First, open the SPSS syntax editor by clicking File—New—Syntax consecutively. The /TESTVAL subcommand specifies the value with which the sample mean is compared, whereas /VARIABLES lists the variables to be tested. Like Stata, SPSS specifies a confidence level rather than a significance level in the /CRITERIA=CI() subcommand.

```
T-TEST
/TESTVAL = 20
/VARIABLES = lung
/CRITERIA = CI(.99).
```

Alternatively, you may click Analyze→ Compare Means→ One-Sample T Test and then provide variables to be compared. All SPSS output is skipped in this document.

SPSS reports the mean difference from the hypothesized value (-.34682=19.6532-20) and its confidence interval. Do not be fooled by the misleading label "Sig. (2-tailed)"; it is a simply p-value.

## **One-Sample Statistics**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Deaths per 100k population from lung cancer	44	19.6532	4.22812	.63741

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Many SPSS users prefer point-and-clicking to writing commands in the SPSS syntax editor. Although convenient and easy to use, the point-and-click approach is not recommended since you cannot trace what you have done.

## **One-Sample Test**

	Test Value = 20					
	99% Confiden of the Diffe					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
Deaths per 100k population from lung cancer	544	43	.589	34682	-2.0647	1.3711

## 3. Paired T-test: Dependent Samples

T-tests compare the means of two samples. Two variables may or may not be independent. When each element of a sample is matched to its corresponding element of the other sample, two samples are paired. This paired t-test examines the mean of individual differences of paired measurements and thus is appropriate for pre-post situations. Suppose we want to investigate the effectiveness of a new medicine on lung cancer by checking patients before and after they took the medicine.

The paired t-test is based on the pairwise differences in values of matched observations of two samples,  $d_i = y_{1i} - y_{2i}$ . The difference of matched pairs is treated as a variable; the logic of the paired t-test and one sample t-test is identical.

$$t_{\overline{d}} = \frac{\overline{d} - D_0}{s_{\overline{d}}} \sim t(n-1) \text{, where } \overline{d} = \frac{\sum d_i}{n}, \ s_d^2 = \frac{\sum (d_i - \overline{d})^2}{n-1}, \text{ and } s_{\overline{d}} = \frac{s_d}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

The null hypothesis is that the population mean of individual differences of paired observations is  $D_0$  (zero unless explicitly specified),  $H_0: \mu_d = D_0$ . If the null hypothesis is rejected, there must be a significant difference (effect) between two samples (pre and post outcomes).

## 3.1 Paired T-test in Stata

In Stata, you need to list two variables separated by an equal sign. The level(95) option can be omitted. Stata presents summary statistics of two variables and then conducts the paired t-test using the differences of matched pairs. The post mean 186.1944 is 10.1667 larger than 176.0278 before a treatment. But the standard deviation 32.6019 of the difference is also large.

## . ttest pre=post0, level(95)

Paired	t	test

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
pre post0	36 36	176.0278 186.1944	6.529723 7.826777	39.17834 46.96066	162.7717 170.3052	189.2838 202.0836
diff	36	-10.16667	5.433655	32.60193	-21.19757	.8642387
	(diff) = me (diff) = 0	an(pre - post	t0)	degrees	t : of freedom :	= -1.8711 = 35
	(diff) < 0 ) = 0.0349		: mean(diff) [  >  t ) =			(diff) > 0 ) = 0.9651

The t statistic is -1.8711 = (-10.1667-0) / 5.4337. The degrees of freedom is 35 = 36 - 1. The p-value of .0697 indicates a marginal significance but does not reject the null hypothesis at the .05 level. The treatment does not seem effective. The 95 percent confidence interval of the population mean is  $-10.16667 \pm 2.03 * 5.433655$ , where 2.03 is the critical value of the .05 level and 35 degrees of freedom.

Alternatively, you may first compute the difference of each pair of the two variables, and then conduct the one sample t-test. You may specify a hypothesized value other than zero in this approach.<sup>10</sup>

```
. gen d=pre-post0
. ttest d=0
(output is skipped)
```

## 3.2 Paired T-test in SAS

In the SAS TTEST procedure, you have to use the PAIRED statement instead of VAR. The following is the simple example of the PAIRED statement.

```
PROC TTEST DATA=masil.drug;
PAIRED pre*post0;
RUN;
```

The PAIRED statement provides various ways of comparing variables using asterisk (\*) and colon (:) operators. The asterisk requests comparisons between each variable on the left with each variable on the right. The colon requests comparisons between the first variable on the left and the first on the right, the second on the left and the second on the right, and so forth. Consider the following examples.

```
PROC TTEST DATA=masil.drug;
   PAIRED pro:post0;
   PAIRED (a b)*(c d); /* Equivalent to PAIRED a*c a*d b*c b*d; */
   PAIRED (a b):(c d); /* Equivalent to PAIRED a*c b*c; */
   PAIRED (a1-a10)*(b1-b10);
RUN;
```

The first PAIRED statement is the same as PAIRED pre\*post0. The second and the third PAIRED statements contrast differences between asterisk and colon operators. <sup>11</sup> The hyphen (– ) operator in the last statement indicates at through at and bt through bt0. Take a look at the following example of a paired t-test in SAS.

```
PROC TTEST H0=0 DATA=masil.drug;
  PAIRED (pre)*(post0-post1);
RUN;
```

The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

		Lower CL		Upper CL	Lower CL		Upper CL	
Difference	N	Mean	Mean	Mean	Std Dev	Std Dev	Std Dev	Std Err
pre - postO	36	-21.2	-10.17	0.8642	26.443	32.602	42.527	5.4337
pre - post1	36	-30.43	-20.39	-10.34	24.077	29.685	38.723	4.9475

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> In Stata, the hypothesized value is fixed to zero in paired and independent sample t-tests.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Any text between /\* and \*/ is considered a comment and thus ignored when SAS executes that part.

I-lests						
Difference	DF	t Value	Pr >  t			
pre - postO	35	-1.87	0.0697			
pre - post1	35	-4.12	0.0002			

The TTEST procedure presents descriptive statistics of the differences of paired observations. The small t statistic of -1.87 does not reject the null hypothesis of no difference between pre and post0 at the .05 significance level. However, -4.12 (= -20.39 / 4.9475) for the difference between pre and post1 rejects the null hypothesis and suggests a significant effect of the treatment (p<.0002).

In order to use the UNIVARIATE and MEANS procedures, the differences of matched pairs of two variables should be computed in advance.

```
DATA masil.drug2;
SET masil.drug;
d1 = pre - post0;
d2 = pre - post1;
RUN;

PROC UNIVARIATE MUO=0 VARDEF=DF NORMAL; VAR d1 d2; RUN;
PROC MEANS MEAN STD STDERR T PROBT CLM; VAR d1 d2; RUN;
PROC TTEST ALPHA=.05; VAR d1 d2; RUN;
(output is skipped)
```

## 3.3 Paired T-test in R

paired=T conducts the paired t-test in R. The result is similar to that of one sample t-test.

```
> t.test(pre, post, mu=0, paired=T)
```

## 3.4 Paired T-test in SPSS

In SPSS, you need to list paired variables in the PAIRS subcommand. You may click Analyze→ Compare Means→ Paired-Samples T Test and then provide paired variables to be compared.

```
T-TEST
/PAIRS = pre post0
/CRITERIA = CI(.95).
```

## 4. Comparing Independent Samples with Equal Variances

This section discusses the most typical form of t-test that compares the means of two independent random samples  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ . They are independent in the sense that they are drawn from different populations and each element of one sample is not paired (linked to) with its corresponding element of the other sample.

An example is the death rate from lung cancer between heavy cigarette consuming states and light consuming states. Since each state is either a heavy or light consumer, observations of two groups are not linked. The typical null hypothesis of the independent sample t-test is that the mean difference of the two groups is zero,  $H_0: \mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0$ .

## 4.1 F test for Equal Variances

T-tests assume that samples are randomly drawn from normally distributed populations with unknown parameters. In addition to these random sampling and normality assumptions, you should check the equal variance assumption when examining the mean difference of two independent samples. The population variances of the two groups  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\sigma_2^2$  need to be equal in order to use the pooled variance. Otherwise, the t-test is not reliable due to the incorrect variance and degrees of freedom used.

In practice, unequal variances of two independent samples are less problematic when two samples have the same number of observations (balanced data) (Hildebrand et al. 2005: 362). The problem will be critical if one sample has a larger variance and a much smaller sample size compared to the other (362).

The folded form F-test is commonly used to examine whether two populations have the same variance,  $H_0: \sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2$ . The F statistic is

$$\frac{s_L^2}{s_S^2} \sim F(n_L - 1, n_S - 1)$$

where L and S respectively indicate groups with larger and smaller sample variances.

The SAS TTEST procedure and SPSS T-TEST command conduct the F-test for equal variances. SAS reports the folded form F statistic, whereas SPSS computes Levene's weighted F statistic. In Stata, the .oneway command performs the Bartlett's chi-squared test for equal variances.

The following is an example of the F-test using the .oneway command. The chi-squared statistic of .1216 (p<.727) does not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances at the .05 significance level. Two samples appear to have the equal variance. The F statistic of 28.85 in the ANOVA table indicates a significant mean difference in the death rate from lung cancer

<sup>12</sup> 
$$E(\overline{y}_1 - \overline{y}_2) = \mu_1 - \mu_2$$
,  $Var(\overline{y}_1 - \overline{y}_2) = \frac{\sigma_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{\sigma_2^2}{n_2} = \sigma^2 \left(\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}\right)$  when  $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2 = \sigma^2$ 

between heavy cigarette consuming states and light consumers (p<.0000). Do not be confused with the two different F statistics.

#### . oneway lung smoke

Source	Analysis SS	of Var	riance MS	म	Prob > F
Between groups	313.031127	1	313.031127	28.85	0.0000
Within groups	455.680427	42	10.849534		
Total	768.711555	43	17.8770129		

Bartlett's test for equal variances: chi2(1) = 0.1216 Prob>chi2 = 0.727

## 4.2 Overview of the Independent Sample T-test

If the null hypothesis of equal variances is not rejected, the pooled variance  $s_{pool}^2$  can be used. The pooled variance consists of individual sample variances weighted by the number of observations of the two groups. The null hypothesis of the independent sample t-test is  $H_0: \mu_1 - \mu_2 = D_0$  and the degrees of freedom are  $n_1 + n_2 - 2 = (n_1 - 1) + (n_2 - 1)$ . The t statistic is computed as follows.

$$t = \frac{(\overline{y}_1 - \overline{y}_2) - D_0}{s_{pool}} \sim t(n_1 + n_2 - 2)$$
where  $s_{pool}^2 = \frac{\sum (y_{1i} - \overline{y}_1)^2 + \sum (y_{2j} - \overline{y}_2)^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2} = \frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$ .

When the equal variance assumption is violated, the t-test needs to use individual variances in the approximate t and the degrees of freedom. This test may be called the unequal variance t-test (Hildebrand et al. 2005: 363). Notice that the approximation below is based both on the number of observations and variances of two independent samples. The approximate t is

$$t' = \frac{\overline{y}_1 - \overline{y}_2 - D_0}{\sqrt{\frac{s_1^2}{n_1} + \frac{s_2^2}{n_2}}} \sim t(df_{Satterthwaite})$$

where 
$$df_{Satterthwaite} = \frac{(n_1 - 1)(n_2 - 1)}{(n_1 - 1)(1 - c)^2 + (n_2 - 1)c^2}$$
 and  $c = \frac{s_1^2/n_1}{s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2}$ 

In case of unequal variances, the t-test requires the approximation of the degrees of freedom (Satterthwaite 1946; Welch 1947; Cochran and Cox 1992; SAS 2005; Stata 2007). Among several approximation methods, Satterthwaite's approximation is commonly used. Note that the approximation is a real number, not necessarily an integer. SAS, Stata, and SPSS all compute

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 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  In SAS, you may set a specific value of  $D_0$  to other than zero but may not in Stata and SPSS, which do not have such an option in the .ttest and T-TEST commands.

Satterthwaite's approximation of the degrees of freedom. In addition, the SAS TTEST procedure reports the Cochran-Cox's approximation and the Stata .ttest command provides Welch's approximation as well.

This section discusses the independent sample t-test when the samples have an equal variance. The t-test for the samples with unequal variances is discussed in the next section.

## 4.3 Independent Sample T-test in Stata

In the .ttest command, you have to specify a grouping variable using the by option. This command presents summary statistics of individual samples, the combined, and the difference of paired observations. Here you need to pay attention to the first two lines of the summary. Light cigarette consuming states (smoke=0) have a smaller mean (16.9859) and standard deviation (3.1647) than heavy consuming states. Both groups have the same sample size of 22.

#### . ttest lung, by(smoke) level(95)

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Group		Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
0   1	22 22	16.98591 22.32045	.6747158 .7287523	3.164698 3.418151	15.58276 20.80493	18.38906 23.83598
combined	+   44 +	19.65318	.6374133	4.228122	18.36772	20.93865
diff		-5.334545	.9931371		-7.338777	-3.330314
	iff < 0 ) = 0.0000	Pr(	Ha: diff !=   T   >  t ) = 0			iff > 0 ) = 1.0000

Let us first check the equal variance. The F statistic is  $1.1666 = \frac{s_L^2}{s_S^2} = \frac{3.4182^2}{3.1647^2} \sim F(21,21)$ . The

degrees of freedom of the numerator and denominator are 21 (=22-1). The p-value .7273 is virtually the same as that of Bartlett's test in 4.1 and does not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances. <sup>14</sup> Thus, the independent sample t-test can use the pooled variance as follows.

$$t = \frac{(16.9859 - 22.3205) - 0}{s_{pool}\sqrt{\frac{1}{22} + \frac{1}{22}}} = -5.3714 \sim t(22 + 22 - 2)$$
$$s_{pool}^2 = \frac{(22 - 1)3.1647^2 + (22 - 1)3.4182^2}{22 + 22 - 2} = 10.8497$$

The t statistic -5.3714 is large sufficiently to reject the null hypothesis of no mean difference between two groups (p<.0000). Light cigarette consuming states have a lower average death

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> In Stata, run .di Ftail(21,21, 1.1665892)\*2 to get the two-tailed p-value.

rate from lung cancer than the heavy counterparts. Notice that the F statistic of 28.85 in section 4.1 is t squared =  $(-5.3714)^2$ .

If only aggregated data of the two variables are available, use the .ttesti command, the immediate form of .ttest, and list the number of observations, mean, and standard deviation of the two variables.

#### . ttesti 22 16.98591 3.164698 22 22.32045 3.418151, level(95)

Suppose the data set is arranged in the wide form of Figure 3 so that one variable heavy has data for heavy cigarette consuming states and the other light for light consuming states. You have to use the unpaired option to indicate that two variables are not paired. A grouping variable here is not necessary.

## . ttest heavy=light, unpaired

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
Heavy Light	22   22	22.32045 16.98591	.7287523 .6747158	3.418151 3.164698	20.80493 15.58276	23.83598 18.38906
combined	+   44 +	19.65318	.6374133	4.228122	18.36772	20.93865
diff		5.334545	.9931371		3.330313	7.338777
diff =	= mean(heavy = 0	) - mean(li	ght)	degrees	t of freedom	0.0711
	iff < 0 ) = 1.0000	Pr(	Ha: diff != T  >  t ) = 0			iff > 0 ) = 0.0000

Since the variable order is reversed here, the summary statistics of heavy cigarette consumers are displayed first and t statistic has the opposite sign. However, this outcome leads to the same conclusion. The large test statistic of 5.3714 rejects the null hypothesis at the .05 level; heavy cigarette consuming states on average have a higher average death rate from lung cancer than light consumers.

The unpaired option is very useful since it enables you to conduct a t-test without additional data manipulation. You need to use the unpaired option to compare two variables, say leukemia and kidney, as independent samples in Stata.<sup>15</sup>

## . ttest leukemia=kidney, unpaired

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Variable	Mean	Std. Err.	. [95% Conf	. Interval]
leukemia kidney	6.829773 2.794545	.0962211	6.635724 2.636731	7.023821 2.95236

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> In SAS and SPSS, however, you have to stack up two variables and generate a grouping variable before performing the independent sample t-test.

```
combined | 88 4.812159 .2249261 2.109994 4.365094 5.259224

diff | 4.035227 .1240251 3.788673 4.281781

diff = mean(leukemia) - mean(kidney) t = 32.5356

Ho: diff = 0 degrees of freedom = 86

Ha: diff < 0 Ha: diff != 0 Ha: diff > 0

Pr(T < t) = 1.0000 Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0000 Pr(T > t) = 0.0000
```

The average death rate from leukemia cancer is 6.8298, which is about 4 higher than the average rate from kidney cancer. But we want to know if there is any statistically significant difference in the population means of two death rates. The F 1.5119 = (.6382589^2) / (.5190799^2) and its p-value (=.1794) do not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances. The large t statistic 32.5356 rejects the null hypothesis that average death rates from leukemia and kidney cancers have the same mean at the .05 level; the average death rate from leukemia cancer is higher than that from kidney cancer.

## 4.4 Independent Sample T-test in SAS

The TTEST procedure by default examines the hypothesis of equal variances, and then provides t statistics for both cases. The procedure by default reports Satterthwaite's approximation for the degrees of freedom. SAS requires that a data set is arranged in the first type of Figure 3 for the independent sample t-test; a variable to be tested is classified by a grouping variable, which should be specified in the CLASS statement. You may specify a hypothesized value other than zero using the HO option. <sup>16</sup>

```
PROC TTEST HO=0 ALPHA=.05 DATA=masil.smoking;
CLASS smoke;
VAR lung;
RUN;
```

TTEST displays summary statistics of two samples and then reports the results of the t-test and F-test. First, look at the last block of the output entitled as "Equality of Variances." The labels "Num DF" and "Den DF" are respectively numerator's and denominator's degrees of freedom.

The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

Variable smoke		N	Lower CL Mean	Mean	Upper CL Mean	Lower CL Std Dev		Upper CL Std Dev
lung lung	0 1	22 22		16.986 22.32	18.389 23.836		3.1647 3.4182	4.5226 4.8848

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> For example, H0=-5 influences the t statistic -.3368 = [(16.98591-22.32045)-(-5)] / sqrt(10.8497\*(1/22+1/22)) and its p-value of .7379. Other statistics remain unchanged. Therefore, you do not reject the null hypothesis of 5 difference in average death rates and conclude that heavy cigarette consuming states have the 5 larger average death rate than light consumers. This conclusion is consistent with the t-test with H0=0.

lung	Diff (1-2	2)	-7.339	-5.335	-3.33	2.7159	3.2939	4.1865
Statistics								
	Var	riable smoke		Std Err	Minimu	m Maxim	um	
	lur	ng	0	0.6747	12.0	1 25.	45	
	lur	•	1	0.7288	12.1	1 27.	27	
	lur	ng Diff (1	-2)	0.9931				
			1	-Tests				
	Variable	Method	Var	ances	DF	t Value	Pr >  t	
	lung	Pooled	Equ	ıal	42	-5.37	<.0001	
	lung	Satterthwaite		qual	41.8	-5.37	<.0001	
Equality of Variances								
	Variabl	Le Method	Num	DF De	n DF F	Value	Pr > F	
	lung	Folded F		21	21	1.17	0.7273	

The small F statistic 1.17 and its large p-value do not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.7273). The t-test uses the pooled variance, thus you need to read the line labeled as "Pooled"; otherwise, read the lines of "Satterthwaite" and "Cochran." The large t -5.37 and its p-value .0001 reject the null hypothesis. Heavy cigarette consuming states have a higher average death rate from lung cancer than light consuming states.

If you have a summary data set with the values of variables lung and their frequency count, specify the count variable in the FREQ statement.

```
PROC TTEST DATA=masil.smoking;
CLASS smoke;
VAR lung;
FREQ count;
RUN;
```

Now, let us compare the death rates from leukemia and kidney by stacking up two variables into one and generating a grouping variable. The following DATA step reshapes the data set from the second type of Figure 3 to the first type. The new variable rate contains death rates and leu\_kid identifies groups.

```
DATA masil.smoking2;
   SET masil.smoking;
   rate = leukemia; leu_kid ='Leukemia'; OUTPUT;
   rate = kidney; leu_kid ='Kidney'; OUTPUT;
   KEEP leu_kid rate;
RUN;

PROC TTEST COCHRAN DATA=masil.smoking2;
   CLASS leu_kid;
   VAR rate;
RUN;
```

0.1794

TTEST presents summary statistics and then conducts the t-test and F-test. The F 1.51 does not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances at the .05 level (p<.1794). Accordingly, you have to read the t statistic and p-value in the line labeled as "pooled." The t -32.54 is large sufficiently to reject the null hypothesis (p<.0001). In this example, the violation of the equal variance assumption does not make any difference in t statistic and p-value. Note that Cochran approximation for the degrees of freedom is generated by the COCHRAN option in the TTEST statement.

The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

Variable	leu_kid	Lower CL N Mean	Mean	Upper CL Mean	Lower CL Std Dev	Std Dev	Upper CL Std Dev	Std Err
rate rate rate	Kidney Leukemia Diff (1-2)	44 2.6367 44 6.6357 -4.282	2.7945 6.8298 -4.035	2.9524 7.0238 -3.789	0.4289 0.5273 0.5063	0.5191 0.6383 0.5817	0.6577 0.8087 0.6838	0.0783 0.0962 0.124
T-Tests								
	Variable	Method	Varia	nces	DF t V	alue P	r >  t	
	rate	Pooled	Equal		86 -3	2.54	<.0001	
	rate	Satterthwaite	Unequ	al 8	2.6 -3	2.54	<.0001	
	rate	Cochran	Unequ	al	43 -3	2.54	<.0001	
Equality of Variances								
	Variabl	e Method	Num DF	Den D	F F Val	ue Pr	> F	

## 4.5 Independent Sample T-test in R

rate

In R, var.test() conduct F test to compare variance of two groups. The F value is too small to reject the null hypothesis of the equal variance.

43 43 1.51

#### > var.test(lung[smoke==1],lung[smoke==0])

```
F test to compare two variances

data: lung[smoke == 1] and lung[smoke == 0]
F = 1.1666, num df = 21, denom df = 21, p-value = 0.7273
alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
    0.4843455 2.8098353
sample estimates:
ratio of variances
    1.166590
```

Folded F

Alternatively, you may run the following command. The 4 in brackets means fourth column (lung cancer) in the data frame af.

```
> var.test(df[smoke==1,][,4],df[smoke==0,][,4])
```

In t.test(), you need to specify that two variances are equal using var.equal=T. Tilde  $\sim$  is use to separate a group variable from the variable to be compared.

#### > t.test(lung~smoke, var.equal=T, conf.level=.95)

```
Two Sample t-test

data: lung by smoke

t = -5.3714, df = 42, p-value = 3.164e-06

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

95 percent confidence interval:

-7.338777 -3.330314

sample estimates:

mean in group 0 mean in group 1

16.98591 22.32045
```

Let us see what if two population variances were not equal. var.equal=F produces the Welch approximation of degrees of freedom.

## > t.test(lung~smoke, var.equal=F, conf.level=.95)

```
Welch Two Sample t-test

data: lung by smoke
t = -5.3714, df = 41.753, p-value = 3.214e-06
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
-7.339128 -3.329963
sample estimates:
mean in group FALSE mean in group TRUE
16.98591
22.32045
```

If data are arranged in the wide form, where heavy and light are lung cancer rates of heavy and light smokers, the syntax will be a bit different.

#### > var.test(heavy, light)

```
F test to compare two variances

data: heavy and light
F = 1.1666, num df = 21, denom df = 21, p-value = 0.7273
alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
0.4843455 2.8098353
sample estimates:
ratio of variances
1.166590
```

You should add one option paired=F to indicate two variables are not paired. The results of the long and wide forms are identical.

#### > t.test(light, heavy, var.equal=T, paired=F mu=0)

```
Two Sample t-test

data: light and heavy

t = -5.3714, df = 42, p-value = 3.164e-06

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

```
95 percent confidence interval:
-7.338777 -3.330314
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
16.98591 22.32045
```

When comparing two variables in the wide arrangement form, paired=F must be specified. The folded F test below does not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances. The t test rejects the null hypothesis and suggests that two cancer rates have different means at the .05 level.

```
> var.test(leukemia, kidney)
        F test to compare two variances
data: leukemia and kidney
F = 1.5119, num df = 43, denom df = 43, p-value = 0.1794
alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
 0.8249702 2.7708448
sample estimates:
ratio of variances
          1.511907
> t.test(leukemia, kidney, var.equal=T, paired=F)
        Two Sample t-test
data: leukemia and kidney
t = 32.5356, df = 86, p-value < 2.2e-16
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 3.788673 4.281781
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
```

## 4.6 Independent Sample T-test in SPSS

In the T-TEST command, you need to provide a grouping variable in the /GROUP subcommand. The Levene's F statistic of .0000 does not reject the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.995). You may click Analyze— Compare Means— Independent-Samples T Test and then provide variables to be compared and a grouping variable with specific values specified.

```
T-TEST
/GROUPS = smoke(0 1)
/VARIABLES = lung
/CRITERIA = CI(.95).
```

6.829773 2.794545

The second table below has two parts: one for equal variance test and the other for t-test. - 5.33455 is the difference between two group means (16.9859-22.3205). Again read p-values from columns labeled "Sig." and "Sig. (2-tailed)."

## **Group Statistics**

1 for those whose cigarette				
consumption is larger than				Std. Error
the median	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean

Deaths per 100k 0	0	22	16.9859	3.16470	.67472
lung cancer 1	1	22	22.3205	3.41815	.72875

#### **Independent Samples Test**

	for Ed	ne's Test quality of iances	t-test for Equality of Means							
					Sig. (2-	Mean	Std Error	Interva	nfidence I of the rence	
	F	Sig.	Т	df	tailed)	Difference	Std. Error Difference	Upper	Lower	
Equal variances assumed	.000	.995	-5.371	42	.000	-5.33455	.99314	-7.3388	-3.33031	
Equal variances not assumed			-5.371	41.75	.000	-5.33455	.99314	-7.3391	-3.32996	

Table 3 compares the independent sample t-test under the equal variance assumption using three statistical software packages. For testing the assumption of equal variances, Stata, SAS, R, and SPSS respectively report the Bartlett's test (chi-squared), the folded form F test, and Levene's F test. Despite different test statistics in Stata and SAS, their p-values are almost the same. Stata and SAS respectively produce Welch's and Cochran-Cox's approximations of the degrees of freedom in addition to the Satterthwaite's approximation. Four software packages report the same result. It is not surprising that t and approximate t (t') are the same because two population variances are equal.

Table 3. T-test for Independent Samples with Equal Variances (Lung Cancer)

	Stata 11	SAS 9.2	R	SPSS 17
T	-5.3714	-5.37	-5.3714	-5.371
	(<.0000)	(<.0001)	(<.0001)	
Degrees of Freedom (DF)	42	42	42	42
Equal Variance Test (F-Test)	.1216	1.17	1.17	.0000
Equal variance rest (1 rest)	(<.727)	(<.7273)	(<.7273)	(<.995)
$T^{*}$	-5.3714	-5.37	-5.3714	-5.371
Satterthwaite DF*	41.7532	41.8	41.753	41.753
Satter in watte D1	(<.0000)	(<.0001)	(<.0001)	(<.0001)
Cochran-Cox/Welch DF*	43.7296	21	N/A	N/A
Cochian Con Weich Di	(<.0000)	(<.0001)		

<sup>\*</sup> These statistics for unequal variances are provided only for comparison.

## 5. Comparing Independent Samples with Unequal Variances

If the assumption of equal variances is violated, you have to compute the approximate t using individual sample variances instead of the pooled variance. It is also necessary to obtain the Satterthwaite's, Cochran-Cox's (SAS), or Welch's (Stata) approximation of the degrees of freedom. However, the null hypothesis remains unchanged. This section compares mean death rates from kidney cancer between the west/south areas and the east/north counterparts.

## 5.1 Independent Sample T-test in Stata

Let us check equality of variances using the .oneway command. The tabulate option produces a table of summary statistics of the groups. The west and south areas (west=1) have a lower average death rate of 2.6183 but a larger standard deviation of .5984 than the east and north counterparts.

#### . oneway kidney west, tabulate

west		mary of kidne Std. Dev.	y Freq.
0	3.006 2.6183333	.3001298 .59837219	20 24
Total	2.7945455	.51907993	44

Analysis of Variance									
Source	SS	df	MS	F	Prob > F				
Between groups Within groups	1.63947758 9.94661333	1 42	1.63947758 .236824127	6.92	0.0118				
Total	11.5860909	43	.269443975						

Bartlett's test for equal variances: chi2(1) = 8.6506 Prob>chi2 = 0.003

The chi-squared 8.6506 of the Bartlett's test rejects the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.003). The folded F statistic is 3.9749=.59837219^2/.3001298^2 with 23 and 19 degrees of freedom, which also rejects the null hypothesis (p<.0034). Therefore, the approximate t is computed using individual variances.

$$t' = \frac{3.006 - 2.6183}{\sqrt{\frac{.3001^2}{20} + \frac{.5984^2}{24}}} = 2.78187,$$

$$c = \frac{s_1^2/n_1}{s_1^2/n_1 + s_2^2/n_2} = \frac{.3001^2/20}{.3001^2/20 + .5984^2/24} = .2318, \text{ and}$$

$$df_{Satterthwaite} = \frac{(n_1 - 1)(n_2 - 1)}{(n_1 - 1)(1 - c)^2 + (n_2 - 1)c^2} = \frac{(20 - 1)(24 - 1)}{(20 - 1)(1 - .2318)^2 + (24 - 1).2318^2} = 35.1071$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> In Stata, run .di Ftail(23,19, 3.974885)\*2 to get the p-value.

The approximate t of 2.7819 rejects the null hypothesis of no difference in mean death rates between the two areas (p<.0086). The c is .2318 and Satterthwaite's approximation of the degrees of freedom is 35.1071.

In Stata, you have to use the unequal option in the .ttest command to perform the t-test for two independent samples with unequal variances.

## . ttest kidney, by(west) unequal level(95)

Two-sample t test with unequal variances

Group	0bs		Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
0 1	20 24	3.006 2.618333	.1221422	.5983722	2.865535 2.365663	3.146465 2.871004
combined	44	2.794545		.5190799		
diff	_	.3876667	.139365		.1047722	.6705611
diff =	= mean(0) = 0	- mean(1)		te's degrees	t :	= 2.7817
	iff < 0 ) = 0.9957	Pr(	Ha: diff !=			iff > 0 ) = 0.0043

The approximate t 2.7817 and Satterthwaite's approximation 35.1098, due to the rounding error, are slight different from what is manually computed above. Notice that the 2.7817 is the square root of the F statistic 6.92 of the .oneway output above. If you want to get Welch's approximation, use the welch as well as unequal options; without the unequal option, welch is ignored.

## . ttest kidney, by(west) unequal welch

Two-sample t test with unequal variances

Group		Mean			•	· · · -	
0	20	3.006 2.618333	.0671111	.3001298	2.865535 2.365663	3.146465	
combined	44	2.794545			2.636731	2.95236	
diff		.3876667			.1050824	.6702509	
	lff < 0 = 0.9957		Ha: diff != T  >  t ) =			iff > 0 ) = 0.0043	

Satterthwaite's approximation is slightly smaller than Welch's 36.2258. Again, these approximations are not integers, but real numbers. The approximate t 2.7817 remains unchanged, but the p-value becomes slightly smaller due to the different approximation used.

http://www.indiana.edu/~statmath

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  In Stata, run . di (1-ttail(35.1071, -2.78187))\*2 to get the p-value.

However, both tests reject the null hypothesis of equal population means at the .05 level. The north and east areas have larger average death rates from kidney cancer than the south and west.

For aggregated data, again use the .ttesti command with the necessary options.

```
. ttesti 20 3.006 .3001298 24 2.618333 .5983722, unequal welch
```

As mentioned earlier, the unpaired option of the .ttest command directly compares two variables without data manipulation. The option treats the two variables arranged in the second type of data arrangement in Figure 3 as being independent of each other. The following example compares the average death rates from bladder and kidney cancers using the both unpaired and unequal options.

## . ttest bladder=kidney, unpaired unequal welch

Two-sample t test with unequal variances

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]	
bladder   kidney	44 44	4.121136 2.794545	.1454679 .0782542	.9649249 .5190799	3.827772 2.636731	4.4145 2.95236	
combined	88	3.457841	.1086268	1.019009	3.241933	3.673748	
diff		1.326591			.9968919	1.65629	
diff = mean(bladder) - mean(kidney) $t = 8.03$ Ho: diff = 0 Welch's degrees of freedom = 67.03							
	lff < 0 0 = 1.0000	Pr( :	Ha: diff != [		iff > 0 ) = 0.0000		

The death rate from bladder cancer has larger mean (4.1211) and standard deviation (.9649) than that from kidney cancer. Their variances do not appear equal. The F 3.4556 = (.9649249^2) / (.5190799^2) rejects the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.0001). Accordingly, the approximate t is computed with the degrees of freedom are approximated as well. If the welch option is omitted in the .ttest above, Satterthwaite's degrees of freedom 65.9643 will be produced instead.

For aggregated data, again, use the .ttesti command without the unpaired option.

```
. ttesti 44 4.121136 .9649249 44 2.794545 .5190799, unequal welch level(95)
```

The approximate t 8.0312 is very large and rejects the null hypothesis of equal average death rates (p<.0000). The death rate from bladder cancer appears to have a larger population mean than the rate from kidney cancer.

## 5.2 Independent Sample T-test in SAS

The TTEST procedure reports statistics for both cases of equal and unequal variances. The COCHRAN option adds the Cochran-Cox's approximation of the degrees of freedom to the output.

```
PROC TTEST COCHRAN DATA=masil.smoking;
CLASS west;
VAR kidney;
RUN;
```

#### The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

Variabl	e s_west		N L	ower CL Mean	Mean	Upper Cl Mea	L Lower C n Std De	L v Std Dev	Upper CL Std Dev
kidney		0	20	2.8655		3.146			0.4384
kidney		1	24	2.3657	2.6183	2.87	1 0.465	1 0.5984	0.8394
kidney	Diff (1-	2)		0.0903	0.3877	0.68	0.401	3 0.4866	0.6185
	Variable west Std Err					Minim	um Maxi	mum	
	kidney 0 0.00				0.0671	2.3	34 3	.62	
	ki	dney		1	0.1221	1.9	1.59 4.32		
	ki	dney	Diff (	(1-2)	0.1473				
				_					
				٦	T-Tests				
	Variable	Metho	d	Var	riances	DF	t Value	Pr >  t	
	kidney	Poole	d	Equ	ıal	42	2.63	0.0118	
	kidney	Satte	rthwait	te Une	equal	35.1	2.78	0.0086	
	kidney	Cochr	an	Une	equal		2.78	0.0109	
				of Vari	ances				
	Variab	le M	ethod	Num	DF De	n DF	F Value	Pr > F	
	kidney	F	olded F	=	23	19	3.97	0.0034	

The F 3.97 rejects the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.0034). Thus, individual sample variances are used to compute the approximate t and the approximation of the degrees of freedom needs to be used in statistical inferences. In the above output, Cochran-Cox's approximation is not defined since sample sizes are not equal. The t' 2.78 is large enough to reject the null hypothesis of the same population death rate (p<.0086). If you mistakenly read the smaller t statistic 2.63 for the pooled variance (p<.0118), you might not reject the null hypothesis at the .01 level.

Now, let us compare the average death rates from bladder and kidney cancers that are arranged in the second type of Figure 3. We need to reshape the data set first to make it into the first data arrangement type.

```
DATA masil.smoking3;
   SET masil.smoking;
   rate = bladder; bla_kid ='Bladder'; OUTPUT;
   rate = kidney; bla kid ='Kidney'; OUTPUT;
```

```
KEEP bla_kid rate;
RUN;
```

The CLASS statement specifies a categorical variable (grouping variable) bla\_kid and the new variable rate contains both death rates from bladder and kidney cancers. Unlike the Stata .ttest command, the SAS TTEST procedure allows you to specify a hypothesized value other than zero.

```
PROC TTEST COCHRAN HO=O DATA=masil.smoking3;
CLASS bla_kid;
VAR rate;
RUN;
```

The TTEST Procedure

#### Statistics

Variable	bla_kid	N	Lower CL Mean	Mean	Upper CL Mean	Lower CL Std Dev	Std Dev	Upper CL Std Dev	Std Err
rate rate rate	Bladder Kidney Diff (1-2)	44 44	3.8278 2.6367 0.9982	4.1211 2.7945 1.3266	4.4145 2.9524 1.655	0.7972 0.4289 0.6743	0.9649 0.5191 0.7748	1.2226 0.6577 0.9107	0.1455 0.0783 0.1652

T - T	ests	6
-------	------	---

Variable	Method	Variances	DF	t Value	Pr >  t
rate	Pooled	Equal	86	8.03	<.0001
rate	Satterthwaite	Unequal	66	8.03	<.0001
rate	Cochran	Unequal	43	8.03	<.0001

## Equality of Variances

Variable	Method	Num DF	Den DF	F Value	Pr > F
rate	Folded F	43	43	3.46	<.0001

The 3.46 of the F test rejects the null hypothesis of equal variances (p<.0001). The t statistic 8.03 for the case of unequal variances is large and rejects the null hypothesis of the same population mean at the .01 level. The population means of the two death rates are different. Interestingly, these t statistics in this case happen to be same regardless whether the variances are equal or not. However, the degrees of freedom vary across approximation methods. Remember the Welch's approximation in Stata is 67.0324.

## 5.3 Independent Sample T-test in R

Let us first test if two population variances are equal. A large F 3.9749 rejects the null hypothesis that kidney cancer rates of west and east regions have different variances (p<.0034). SAS and R conduct the same folded F test with the same result.

```
> var.test(kidney[west==1],kidney[west==0])
```

```
F test to compare two variances

data: kidney[west == 1] and kidney[west == 0]
F = 3.9749, num df = 23, denom df = 19, p-value = 0.003404
alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
    1.612668 9.438230
sample estimates:
ratio of variances
    3.974885
```

Now, conduct the t-test using var.equal=F. A bit large t-test statistic reject the null hypothesis that means of kidney cancer rates are not equal at the .05 level (p<.0086). The approximation of degrees of freedom is 35.11.

#### > t.test(kidney~west, var.equal=F, conf.level=.95)

```
Welch Two Sample t-test

data: kidney by west
t = 2.7817, df = 35.11, p-value = 0.008641
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
    0.1047722 0.6705611
sample estimates:
mean in group FALSE mean in group TRUE
    3.006000 2.618333
```

If the population variances are equal, the result is slightly different. The null hypothesis is rejected at the .05 level, but not rejected at the .01 level.

#### > t.test(kidney~west, var.equal=T, conf.level=.95)

```
Two Sample t-test

data: kidney by west
t = 2.6311, df = 42, p-value = 0.01185
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
    0.09032386   0.68500947
sample estimates:
mean in group FALSE mean in group TRUE
    3.006000   2.618333
```

If data arranged in the wide form, you may use following syntaxes. Two cancer rates have different variances (F=3.4556, p<.0000) and t-test ends up rejecting the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative hypothesis that means of two cancer rates are not equal (t=8.0312, p<.0000).

#### > var.test(bladder, kidney)

```
F test to compare two variances

data: bladder and kidney
F = 3.4556, num df = 43, denom df = 43, p-value = 8.733e-05
alternative hypothesis: true ratio of variances is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
1.885522 6.332942
sample estimates:
```

```
ratio of variances 3.455561
```

## > t.test(bladder, kidney)

```
Welch Two Sample t-test

data: bladder and kidney
t = 8.0312, df = 65.964, p-value = 2.337e-11
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
0.9967938 1.6563880
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
4.121136 2.794545
```

## 5.4 Independent Sample T-test in SPSS

Like SAS, SPSS reports t statistics for both cases of equal and unequal variances. Levene's F 5.466 rejects the null hypothesis of equal variances at the .05 level (p<.024). Other statistics are the same as those of SAS.

```
T-TEST
/GROUPS = west(0 1)
/VARIABLES = kidney
/CRITERIA = CI(.95).
```

Table 4 summarizes the independent sample t-test in Stata, SAS, and SPSS. These software packages respectively report the Bartlett's test, the folded form F test, and Levene's F test. Despite different test statistics in Stata and SAS, their p-values are almost same. Stata and SAS additionally produce Welch's and Cochran-Cox's approximations of the degrees of freedom, respectively. The significant difference in population variances produces different t and t' and requires approximations of the degrees of freedom.

While the t' 2.7817 rejects the null hypothesis at the .01 level, the t statistic of 2.6311 do not. Heavy cigarette consuming states have a higher average death rate from kidney cancer than the light counterparts. If you mistakenly read the latter, you may reach a misleading conclusion at the .01 level.

**Table 4. T-test for Independent Samples with Unequal Variances (Kidney Cancer)** 

	Stata 11	SAS 9.2	R	SPSS 17
T statistic*	2.6311	2.63	2.6311	2.631
1 3,000	(<.0118)	(<.0118)	(<.0119)	(<.012)
Degrees of Freedom (DF) $^*$	42	42	42	42
Equal Variance Test (F-Test)	8.6506	3.97	3.9749	5.466
Equal variance rest (1 rest)	(<.003)	(<.0034)	(<.0034)	(<.024)
Approximate T (T')	2.7817	2.78	2.7817	2.782
Satterthwaite DF	35.1098	35.1	35.11	35.110
Satter this waite Di	(<.0086)	(<.0086)	(<.0086)	(<.009)
Cochran-Cox/Welch DF	36.2258		N/A	N/A
Country Cong (Voich B)	(<.0085)	(<.0109)		

<sup>\*</sup> These statistics for equal variances are provided only for comparison.

## 6. Comparison Using the One-way ANOVA, GLM, and Regression

The t-test is a special case of the one-way ANOVA. ANOVA examines mean differences using the F statistic, whereas the t-test reports the t statistic. Therefore, the t-test and one-way ANOVA produces the same answer. The linear regression model, often called ordinary least squares (OLS), reports the mean difference as the coefficient of the dummy variable (grouping variable). This section suggests that the t-test, one-way ANOVA, GLM, and linear regression present essentially the same thing in different ways.

For comparison, let us first replicate the independent sample t-test for death rates from lung cancer presented in 4.3. The *x* and *y* respectively denote light and heavy cigarette consuming states.

#### . ttesti 22 16.98591 3.164698 22 22.32045 3.418151

				-	
Two-sample	+	teat	$\tau_{A7}$ 1 $\pm$ $h$	eanal	Wariances
IWO Dampic	_		W T CII	cquar	Val Talleeb

	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
x y	22 22	16.98591 22.32045	.6747159 .7287522	3.164698 3.418151	15.58276 20.80493	18.38906 23.83597
combined	44	19.65318	.6374131	4.22812	18.36771	20.93865
diff		-5.33454	.9931371		-7.338772	-3.330308
diff =	= mean(x) =	- mean(y)		degrees	t of freedom	= -5.3714 = 42
	iff < 0 ) = 0.0000	Pr(	Ha: diff !=			iff > 0 ) = 1.0000

## **6.1 One-way ANOVA**

In SAS, ANOVA procedure performs ANOVA on balanced data.<sup>19</sup> The CLASS statement specifies categorical variables and the MODEL statement specifies a variable to be compared and a grouping variable in an equation form.

```
PROC ANOVA DATA=masil.smoking;
CLASS smoke;
MODEL lung=smoke;
RUN;
```

The ANOVA Procedure

Dependent Variable: lung

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model Error	1 42	313.0311273 455.6804273	313.0311273 10.8495340	28.85	<.0001

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Unbalanced data do not matter in the t-test and one-way ANOVA.

Corrected Total		43 768.7115545						
	R-Square	Coet	ff Var	Root	MSE	lung Me	an	
	0.407215	16	.75995	3.293	863	19.653	318	
Source		DF	Anova	SS	Mean S	quare	F Value	Pr > F
smoke		1	313.03112	273	313.03	11273	28.85	<.0001

The degrees of freedom in the t-test are the same as the degrees of freedom of error in the ANOVA table. The F statistic 28.85 with 1 degree of freedom is t squared, (-5.3714)^2. Accordingly, their p-values are identical. Stata .anova and .oneway commands produce the same result.

#### . anova lung smoke

	Number of obs Root MSE			quared R-squared	
Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob > F
Model	313.031127	1	313.031127	28.85	0.0000
smoke	313.031127	1	313.031127	28.85	0.0000
Residual	455.680427	42	10.849534		
Total	768.711555	43	17.8770129		

In R, lm() fits the linear model and anova() returns the ANOVA table of the model.

## > anova(lm(lung~smoke))

In SPSS, the ONEWAY command conducts the same one-way ANOVA.

ONEWAY lung BY smoke.

## **6.2** Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

GLM can handle both balanced and unbalanced data. Like ANOVA, GLM produces the same result of the one-way ANOVA. The SAS GLM and MIXED procedures report the F statistic for the one-way ANOVA. However, Stata's .glm command does not perform the one-way ANOVA

```
PROC GLM DATA=masil.smoking;
  CLASS smoke;
```

# MODEL lung=smoke /SS3; RUN;

The GLM Procedure

Dependent Variable: lung

Source		DF	Sum ( Squar		Mean S	Square	F١	Value	Pr > F
Model Error Corrected Total		1 42 43	313.03112 455.68042 768.71155	73	313.03 10.84	311273 195340	2	28.85	<.0001
	R-Square	Coef	f Var	Root I	MSE	lung !	Mean		
	0.407215	16.	75995	3.293	863	19.6	5318		
Source		DF	Type III	ss	Mean S	Square	F١	Value	Pr > F
smoke		1	313.03112	73	313.03	311273	2	28.85	<.0001

The MIXED procedure has the similar usage as the GLM procedure.

```
PROC MIXED; CLASS smoke; MODEL lung=smoke; RUN;
```

In R, glm() fits the generalized linear model and anova() produce the deviance table.

### > summary(glm(lung~smoke))

```
Call:
glm(formula = lung ~ smoke)
Deviance Residuals:
     Min 1Q Median
                                    30
                                              Max
-10.21045 -1.40341 -0.04091 2.28818 8.46409
Coefficients:
     Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 16.9859 0.7023 24.188 < 2e-16 ***
smokeTRUE 5.3345
                      0.9931
                              5.371 3.16e-06 ***
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
(Dispersion parameter for gaussian family taken to be 10.84953)
   Null deviance: 768.71 on 43 degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 455.68 on 42 degrees of freedom
AIC: 233.72
Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 2
> anova(glm(lung~smoke))
```

Analysis of Deviance Table

```
Model: gaussian, link: identity

Response: lung

Terms added sequentially (first to last)

Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev

NULL 43 768.71

smoke 1 313.03 42 455.68
```

In SPSS, the GLM (or UNIANOVA) commands perform the one-way ANOVA. You may not exclude the intercept in these commands. The MIXED command also fits this model.

```
GLM lung BY smoke

/METHOD = SSTYPE(3)

/INTERCEPT = INCLUDE

/CRITERIA = ALPHA(.05)

/DESIGN = smoke.

MIXED lung BY smoke

/FIXED = smoke |SSTYPE(3)

/METHOD = REML.
```

## **6.3 Linear Regression (Ordinary Least Squares)**

The linear regression or OLS give you the same answer that the t-test and the one-way ANOVA produced. In OLS, only a dummy variable (grouping variable) is included in the right-hand side. Both OLS and ANOVA use the same covariance structure in analysis. Hence, these three methods present the same result in their own ways.

The SAS REG procedure, Stata .regress command, and SPSS REGRESSION command produce the same output of a linear regression model with only a dummy for the grouping variable smoke.

```
PROC REG DATA=masil.smoking;
   MODEL lung=smoke;
RUN;
```

The REG Procedure
Model: MODEL1
Dependent Variable: lung

Number of Observations Read 44 Number of Observations Used 44

#### Analysis of Variance

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Pr > F
Model	1	313.03113	313.03113	28.85	<.0001
Error	42	455.68043	10.84953		
Corrected Total	43	768.71155			

Root MSE	3.29386	R-Square	0.4072
Dependent Mean	19.65318	Adj R-Sq	0.3931
Coeff Var	16.75995		

#### Parameter Estimates

Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	t Value	Pr >  t
Intercept	1	16.98591	0.70225	24.19	<.0001
smoke	1	5.33455	0.99314	5.37	<.0001

The coefficient of the intercept 16.9859 is the mean of the first group (smoke=0). The group coded as zero is the baseline of comparison. The coefficient of smoke is the mean difference between two groups (5.33455=22.3205-16.9859). The average death rate of heavy cigarette consuming states is about 5.3346 higher than that of the light counterparts.

The standard error of the coefficient of smoke is the denominator of the independent sample t-

test, .9931= 
$$s_{pool} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}} = 3.2939 \sqrt{\frac{1}{22} + \frac{1}{22}}$$
, where the pooled variance estimate is

10.8497=3.2939^2 (see 4.3). Thus, the t 5.37 for the dummy coefficient in OLS is identical to the t statistic for the independent samples with equal variances.

The following is an example of the Stata .regress command. A dependent variable precedes a list of independent variables. \_cons in the output means the intercept term.

### . regress lung smoke

Source	SS	df	MS		Number of obs F( 1, 42)	
Model   Residual   	313.031127 455.680427 768.711555		.031127 .849534  8770129		F( 1, 42) Prob > F R-squared Adj R-squared Root MSE	= 0.0000 = 0.4072
lung	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf.	Interval]
smoke   _cons	5.334545 16.98591	.9931371 .702254	5.37 24.19	0.000	3.330314 15.5687	7.338777 18.40311

R fits the linear regression model using lm(). Pay attention to tilde that separate dependent and independent variables.

#### > summary(lm(lung~smoke))

Call:
lm(formula = lung ~ smoke)

Residuals:

The SPSS REGRESSION command looks complicated compared to the SAS REG procedure and Stata .regress command. You need to specify a dependent variable in the /DEPENDENT subcommand and a list of independent variables in /METHOD.

```
REGRESSION
/MISSING LISTWISE
/STATISTICS COEFF OUTS R ANOVA
/CRITERIA=PIN(.05) POUT(.10)
/NOORIGIN
/DEPENDENT lung
/METHOD=ENTER smoke.
```

Table 5 compares three methods when comparing two independent samples. Although they presents different statistics but reach the same conclusion. ANOVA, GLM, and OLS report the same F (1, 42) of 28.85, which is equivalent to t (42) of -5.3714 since 28.85=(-5.3714)^2. In OLS, the intercept is sample mean of the baseline group coded as zero, while the dummy coefficient is the mean difference of two samples. Hence, the t-test, ANOVA, and OLS are the same test when comparing the means of two independent samples. However, the t-test is recommended for comparing group means to take advantage of simple computation and easy interpretation.

Table 5. Comparison of the T-test, One-way ANOVA/GLM, and Linear Regression (OLS)

	T-Test	ANOVA/GLM	OLS*
Effect Size	Mean difference		b (dummy coeff.)
Denominator of T Statistic	$s_{pool}\sqrt{1/n_1+1/n_2}$		Standard error of b
Variance Partition		ANOVA Table	ANOVA Table
Test Statistic	T	$F=T^2=(T_b)^2$	$T_b$
P-value	p-value	p-value	p-value
Degree of Freedom (of Error)	$n_1 + n_2 - 2$	$n_1 + n_2 - 2$	$n_1 + n_2 - 2$
Baseline for Comparison			a (coded as 0)

<sup>\*</sup> The a and b of OLS are the intercept and the dummy coefficient, respectively.

# 7. Comparing the Proportions of Binary Variables

When a left-hand side variable to be compared is binary, the mean of the binary variable is the same as the proportion or the percentage of success. The data generation process (DGP) looks like the binomial distribution with two outcomes (i.e., 0 and 1) and an independent probability *p* of success.

When  $np \ge 5$  and  $n(1-p) \ge 5$  in general, the binomial distribution is approximated to the normal probability distribution. Therefore, we can compare proportions using the properties of these probability distributions. However, if a probability is extremely small or large, the z test becomes less accurate (Hildebrand et al. 2005: 332, 388).

# 7.1 Comparing a Proportion with a Hypothesized Proportion

Suppose *n* measurements of a binary variable *y* were taken from the binomial distribution with a probability of success *p*. If you want to compare the proportion with the hypothesized proportion, compute the *z* score for the standard normal distribution as follows (Hildebrand et al. 2005; Stata 2007; Bluman 2008).

$$z = \frac{y - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{n\hat{p} - np_0}{\sqrt{np_0(1 - p_0)}} = \frac{\hat{p} - p_0}{\sqrt{p_0(1 - p_0)/n}}$$

where  $\hat{p}$  is the proportion of success in a sample,  $p_0$  is a hypothesized proportion, and n is the number of observations. The null hypothesis is that the population proportion and the hypothesized proportion are equal,  $H_0: p = p_0$ .

The  $(1-\alpha)100$  percent confidence interval of  $p_0$  is based on the sample proportion  $\hat{p}$ .

$$\hat{p} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

where  $z_{\alpha/2}$  is the critical value of the two-tailed test at the  $\alpha$  significance level.

Let us compare the proportions of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  using SAS and Stata. Their proportions (means) are .6667 (=20/30) and .3333 (10/30), respectively.

#### . sum

Variable	0bs	Mean	Std. Dev	. Min	Max
y1	30	.6666667	.4794633	0	1
y2		.3333333	.4794633	0	1

We are interested in whether the population proportion of  $y_1$  is .5. The test statistic z is 1.8257 = (2/3-.5) / sqrt(.5\*.5/30) and the corresponding p-value is .0679. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected at the .05 level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> In Stata, run .di (1-normal(1.8257419))\*2 to get the two-tailed p-value.

In Stata, use the .prtest command followed by a binary variable and the hypothesized proportion separated by an equal sign.

### . prtest y1=.5

```
One-sample test of proportion y1: Number of obs = 30

Variable | Mean Std. Err. [95% Conf. Interval]

y1 \mid .6666667 .0860663 .4979798 .8353535

p = proportion(y1) z = 1.8257

Ha: p < 0.5 Ha: p != 0.5 Ha: p > 0.5 Pr(Z < z) = 0.9661 Pr(|Z| > |z|) = 0.0679 Pr(Z > z) = 0.0339
```

The z score of 1.8257 above is not large sufficiently to reject the null hypothesis (p<.0679). The population proportion of  $y_I$  appears to be .5. The 95 percent confidence interval is .6667  $\pm$  1.96 \* sqrt((.6667\*(1-.6667))/30).

If you have aggregated information only, try to use the .prtesti command, which is the immediate form of .prtest. This command is followed by the number of observations, the proportion of a sample, and hypothesized proportion.

```
. prtesti 30 .3333 .5
(output is skipped)
```

In SAS, PROC FREQ conducts the test for the binomial proportion using /BINOMIAL. The P= and ALPHA= options respectively specify the null hypothesis proportion and significance level. Both Stata and SAS return the same z score of 1.8257.

```
DATA masil.proportion;
INPUT bin count;
DATALINES;
0 20
1 10
; RUN;

PROC FREQ DATA=masil.proportion;
         TABLE bin /BINOMIAL (P=.5) ALPHA=.05;
         WEIGHT count;
RUN;
```

The FREQ Procedure

bin	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
0	20	66.67	20	66.67
1	10	33.33	30	100.00

Binomial Proportion for bin = 0

Proportion	0.6667
ASE	0.0861
95% Lower Conf Limit	0.4980
95% Upper Conf Limit	0.8354
Exact Conf Limits	
95% Lower Conf Limit	0.4719
95% Upper Conf Limit	0.8271
Test of HO: Proportion	= 0.5
ASE under HO	0.0913
Z	1.8257
One-sided Pr > Z	0.0339
Two-sided $Pr >  Z $	0.0679

Sample Size = 30

You may take the point-and-click approach to compare proportions without creating a data set. Click Solution→ Analyst→ Statistics→ Hypothesis Tests→ One-Sample Test for a Proportion. You are asked to choose the category of success or the level of interest (0 or 1). In 9.2, this approach does not work any more.

One Sample Test of a Proportion

### Sample Statistics

y1	Frequency
0	10 20
Total	30

### Hypothesis Test

Null Hypothes Alternative:	•	Proportion = 0.5 Proportion ^= 0.5			
y1	Proportion	Z Statistic	Pr > Z		
1	0.6667	1.83	0.0679		

In SAS and Stata, the test is based on the large-sample theory. If you have a small sample, you need to conduct the binomial probability test using the .bitest(or .bitesti) command in Stata (Stata 2007). The p-value .0987 below is slightly larger than .0679 above.

# . bitest y1=.5 (output is skipped)

## . bitesti 30 .3333 .5

N	Observed k	Expected k	Assumed p	Observed p
20	10	1 E	0 50000	0.33333

# 7.2 Comparing Two Proportions

If you wish to compare two proportions, apply the following formula.<sup>21</sup> The pooled (weighted) proportion is used under the null hypothesis of the equal proportion,  $p_1 = p_2$ .

$$z = \frac{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}_{pooled}(1 - \hat{p}_{pooled})(1/n_1 + 1/n_2)}}$$

where  $\hat{p}_{pooled} = \frac{n_1 \hat{p}_1 + n_2 \hat{p}_2}{n_1 + n_2} = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{n_1 + n_2}$ ,  $\hat{p}_1$  and  $\hat{p}_2$  are the proportions of two samples,  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ 

are the numbers of success of two samples, and  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are the numbers of observations. The  $(1-\alpha)100$  percent confidence interval of  $p_1 - p_2$  is based on the sample proportions  $\hat{p}_1$  and  $\hat{p}_2$ .

$$\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2 \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}_1(1-\hat{p}_1)}{n_1} + \frac{\hat{p}_2(1-\hat{p}_2)}{n_2}}$$

In Stata, the .prtest command enables you to use both types of data arrangement illustrated in Figure 3. If you have a data set arranged in the second type, list the two variables separated by an equal sign.

#### . prtest y1=y2

Two-sample tes	st of proporti	on		-	Number of obs	
Variable	Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf.	Interval]
	.6666667 .3333333				.4979798 .1646465	
diff	.3333333 under Ho:		2.58	0.010	.0947741	.5718926
diff = Ho: diff =	= prop(y1) - p = 0	prop(y2)			Z	= 2.5820
Ha: diff $<$ Pr(Z $<$ z) = 0		Ha: di $Pr( Z  <  Z $	lff != 0 z ) = 0.0	098		iff > 0 ) = 0.0049

The pooled proportion  $\hat{p}_{pooled}$  is .5 = (20+10)/(30+30). The z score is 2.5820 = (2/3-1/3) / sqrt(.5\*.5\*(1/30+1/30)) and its p-value is .0098. You may reject the null hypothesis of the equal proportion at the .05 level; two population proportions are different. The 95 percent confidence interval is .3333 ± 1.96 \* sqrt(.6667\*(1-.6667)/30 + .3333\*(1-.3333)/30).

If the data set is arranged in the first type, run the following command.

 $<sup>^{21}</sup>$  For other types of formulae, see http://www.tufts.edu/~gdallal/p.htm

```
. prtest y1, by(group)
(output is skipped)
```

Alternatively, you may use the following formula (Hildebrand et al. 2005: 386-388). Note that its denominator is used to construct the confidence interval of  $p_1 - p_2$ .

$$z = \frac{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}_1(1 - \hat{p}_1)/n_1 + \hat{p}_2(1 - \hat{p}_2)/n_2}}$$

This formula returns 2.7386 = (2/3-1/3) / sqrt(.6667\*(1-.6667)/30 + .3333\*(1-.3333)/30), which is slightly larger than 2.5820 above. We can reject the null hypothesis of equal proportion (p<.0062).

SAS produces the same output as the above. You need to select Solution→ Analyst→ Statistics→ Hypothesis Tests→ Two-Sample Test for a Proportion.

Two Sample Test of Equality of Proportions

Sample Statistics

	- Frequenc		
Value	v1	v2	
0	10	20	
1	20	10	

Hypothesis Test

Null hypothesis: Proportion of v1 - Proportion of v2 = 0 Alternative: Proportion of v1 - Proportion of v2  $^=$  0

Value	- Pr			
	v1	v2	Z	Prob > Z
1	0.6667	0.3333	2.58	0.0098

If you have aggregated information only, use the .prtesti command with the number observations and the proportion of success of two samples consecutively.

```
. prtesti 30 .6667 30 .3333
(output is skipped)
```

# 7.3 Comparing Means versus Comparing Proportions

Now, you may ask yourself: "What if I conduct the t-test to compare means of two binary variables?" or "What is the advantage of comparing proportions over comparing means (t-test)?" The simple answer is no big difference in case of a large sample size. Only difference between comparing means and proportions comes from the computation of denominators in the formula. The difference becomes smaller as sample size increases. If N is sufficiently large, the

*t* probability distribution and the binomial distribution are approximated to the normal distribution.

Let us perform the independent sample t-test on the same data and check the difference. The unpaired option indicates that the two samples are not paired but independent of each other.

#### . ttest y1=y2, unpaired

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Variable	1	Mean	Std. Err	. Std. Dev.	[95% Conf.	Interval]
у1 у2	30 30			.4794633 .4794633		
combined	60	.5	.0650945	.5042195	.3697463	.6302537
diff	-		.1237969		.0855269	.5811397
diff =	= mean(y1) = 0	- mean(y2)		degrees	t : of freedom :	= 2.6926 = 58
	iff < 0 ) = 0.9954	Pr(	Ha: diff  T  >  t )			iff > 0 ) = 0.0046

The *t* of 2.6926 is similar to the *z* score of 2.5820. Their p-values are respectively .0093 and .0098; the null hypothesis is rejected in both tests.

Table 6 suggests that the difference between comparing means (t-test) and proportions (z-test) becomes negligible as N becomes larger. The random variable a was drawn from RAND('BERNOULLI', .50) in SAS, which is the random number generator for the Bernoulli distribution with a probability of .50. Similarly, the variable b is generated from RAND('BERNOULLI', .55). Roughly speaking, the p-values of t and z become almost same if sample size exceeds 30.

Table 6. Comparing Means and Proportions with Different Sample Sizes

	N=10	N=20	N=30	N=50	N=100	N=200	N=500
a: n <sub>a</sub> (p <sub>a</sub> )	5 ( .40)	10 (.40)	15 (.33)	25 (.40)	50 (.44)	100(.46)	250(.47)
b: n <sub>b</sub> (p <sub>b</sub> )	5 (1.00)	10 (.90)	15 (.73)	25 (.68)	50 (.70)	100(.62)	250(.60)
Means (t)	-2.4495	-2.6112	-2.3155	-2.0278	-2.6940	-2.2883	-2.8877
	(.0400)	(.0177)	(.0281)	(.0482)	(.0083)	(.0232)	(.0040)
Proportions $(z)$	-2.0702	-2.3440	-2.1958	-1.9863	-2.6259	-2.2700	-2.8696
	(.0384)	(.0191)	(.0281)	(.0470)	(.0086)	(.0232)	(.0041)

<sup>\*</sup> P-values in parentheses.

# 8. Conclusion

The t-test is a basic statistical method for examining the mean difference between two groups. The one-way ANOVA can compare means of more than two groups. T-tests also compare the proportions of binary variables when sample size is large. Whether data are balanced or unbalanced does not matter in t-tests and one-way ANOVA. The one-way ANOVA, GLM, and linear regression model all use the variance-covariance structure in their analysis, but present equivalent results in different ways.

Here are key checklists for researchers who want to conduct t-tests. First, a variable to be tested should be interval or ratio-scaled so that its mean is substantively meaningful. Do not, for example, compare the means of skin colors (white=0, yellow=1, black=2) of children in two cities. In case of binary variables, the t-test compares the proportions of success of the variables. If you have a latent variable measured by several Likert-scaled manifest variables, first run a factor analysis to construct those latent variables before t-test.

Second, the data generation process (sampling and data collection) should be carefully explored to ensure that the samples were randomly drawn. If each observation is not independent of other observations and selection bias is involved in the sampling process, sophisticated methods need to be employed to deal with the non-randomness. In case of self-selection, for example, the propensity score matching appears to be a good candidate.

Researchers should also examine the normality assumption especially when N is small. It is awkward to compare the means of random variables that are not normally distributed. If N is not large and normality is questionable, conduct the Shapiro-Wilk W, Shapiro-Francia W, Kolmogorov-Smirnov D, or Jarque-Bera test. If the normality assumption is violated, try nonparametric methods such as the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test and Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test.

Table 7. Comparison of T-test Features of Stata, SAS, R and SPSS

	Stata 11	SAS 9.2	R	SPSS 17
Test for equal variances	Bartlett's chi-squared	Folded form F	Folded form F	Levene's weighted F
	.oneway	TTEST	<pre>&gt; var.test()</pre>	T-TEST
Comparing means (T-test)	.ttest	TTEST	<pre>&gt; t.test()</pre>	T-TEST
	.ttesti			
Comparing proportions	.prtest	FREQ	<pre>&gt; prop.test()</pre>	
	.prtesti			
Approximation of the	Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite
degrees of freedom (DF)	Welch	Cochran-Cox		
Hypothesized value	One sample t-test	н0	mu	One sample t-test
anything other than 0 in H <sub>0</sub>				
Data arrangement for the	Long and wide	Long	Long and wide	Long
independent samples				
Aggregated Data	.ttesti	FREQ	N/A	N/A
	.prtesti			

There are four types of t-tests. If you have a variable whose mean is compared to a hypothesized value, this is the case of the one sample t-test. If you have two variables and they

are paired, that is, if each element of one sample is linked to its corresponding element of the other sample, conduct the paired t-test. You are checking if differences of individual pairs have mean 0 (no effect). If two independent variables are compared, run the independent sample t-test.

When comparing two independent samples, first check if the variances of two variables are equal by conducting the folded form F test. If their variances are not significantly different, you may use the pooled variance to compute standard error. If the equal variance assumption is violated, use individual variances and approximate degrees of freedom.

If you need to compare means of more than two groups, conduct the one-way ANOVA. See Figure 3 for summary of t-tests and one-way ANOVA.

Next, consider types of t-tests, data arrangement, and software issues to determine the best strategy for data analysis (Table 7). The long form of data arrangement in Figure 4 is commonly used for the independent sample t-test, whereas the wide data arrangement is appropriate for the paired sample t-test. If independent samples are arranged in the wide form in SAS and SPSS, you should reshape data into the long data arrangement form.

**Table 8. Reporting T-Test Results** 

	Pre versus Post1	Lung Cancer/Smoking	Kidney Cancer/Region
Mean difference	-20.39**	-5.335**	.3877**
(standard error)	(4.9475)	( .9931)	( .1472)
Degrees of freedom	35	42	35.1

Statistical significance: \* <.05 and \*\* <.01

Finally, report and interpret results clearly. You need to report mean difference (or group means), standard error, degrees of freedom, and N. Table 8 is a simple example of reporting t-test results. And then interpret results substantively rather than simply report numbers. For instance, "The average death rate from lung cancer of heavy cigarette consuming states is on average 5.335 higher than that of other states."

Table 9. Options of the .ttest Command and its Immediate Form of .ttesti

	Usage	unequal	welch	unpaired
One sample t-test	var=c			_
Paired (dependent) sample	var1=var2			
Equal variance (long form)	var, by()			_
Equal variance (wide form)	var1=var2			X
Unequal variance (long form)	var, by()	X	X	
Unequal variance (wide form)	var1=var2	X	X	X

<sup>\*</sup> The .ttesti command does not allow the unpaired option.

SAS has several procedures (e.g., TTEST, MEANS, FREQ, and UNIVARIATE) and useful options. For example, the HO option allows you to specify a hypothesized value other than zero. The Stata .ttest and its immediate .ttesti commands provide very flexible ways of handling different data arrangements and aggregated data. In R, t.test() has options of

paired=T, var.equal=T, and mu= to support various types of t-test. In particular, H0 in SAS and mu= in R is very useful since they applies to all four t-tests. Table 9 and 10 summarizes options used in Stata and R. Notice that by() in Stata is equivalent to tilde in R t.test().

Table 10. Options of the t.test() Command in R

	Usage	mu=	var.equal=	paired=
One sample t-test	Var	О		
Paired (dependent) sample	var1, var2	O		T
Equal variance (long form)	var~group	О	T	
Equal variance (wide form)	var1, var2	O	T	F
Unequal variance (long form)	var~group	О	F	
Unequal variance (wide form)	var1, var2	O	F	F

# **Appendix: Data Set**

The data set used here is adopted from J. F. Fraumeni's (1968) study on cigarette smoking and cancer. The data are per capita numbers of cigarettes sold (smoked) by 43 states and the District of Columbia in 1960 together with death rates per hundred thousand people from various forms of cancers. Two variables were added to categorize states into two groups.

Fraumeni, J. F. 1968. "Cigarette Smoking and Cancers of the Urinary Tract: Geographic Variations in the United States," *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 41(5): 1205-1211. Downloaded from http://lib.stat.cmu.edu.

http://www.indiana.edu/~statmath/stat/all/ttest/smoking.txt http://www.indiana.edu/~statmath/stat/all/ttest/smoking.dta

cigar = number of cigarettes smoked (hds per capita)
 bladder = deaths per 100k people from bladder cancer
 lung = deaths per 100k people from lung cancer
 kidney = deaths per 100k people from kidney cancer
 leukemia = deaths per 100k people from leukemia
 smoke = 1 for those whose cigarette consumption is larger than the median and 0 otherwise.
 west = 1 for states in the South or West and 0 for those in the North, East or Midwest.

The followings are summary statistics and normality tests of these variables.

# . sum cigar-leukemia

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
cigar	44	24.91409	5.573286	14	42.4
bladder	44	4.121136	.9649249	2.86	6.54
lung	44	19.65318	4.228122	12.01	27.27
kidney	44	2.794545	.5190799	1.59	4.32
leukemia	44	6.829773	.6382589	4.9	8.28

## . sfrancia cigar-leukemia

	Shapi	ro-Francia 1	W' test for	normal da	ıta
Variable	0bs	W '	V'	Z	Prob>z
	+				
cigar	44	0.93061	3.258	2.203	0.01381
bladder	44	0.94512	2.577	1.776	0.03789
lung	44	0.97809	1.029	0.055	0.47823
kidney	44	0.97732	1.065	0.120	0.45217
leukemia	44	0.97269	1.282	0.474	0.31759

### . tab west smoke

west	smoke 0	1	Total
0	7 15	13 9	20
Total	22	22	44

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# Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Jeremy Albright, Takuya Noguchi, Kevin Wilhite, Kaigang Li, and Po-Ju Wu at the UITS Center for Statistical and Mathematical Computing, Indiana University, who provided valuable comments and suggestions.

# **Revision History**

- 2003. First draft
- 2004. Second revision (nonparametric methods excluded).
- 2005. Third revision (data arrangements and conclusion added).
- 2007. Fourth revision (comparing proportions added).
- 2008. Fifth revision (introduction and conclusion revised; SPSS output added).
- 2009. Sixth revision (R output added).