

Statistics in biomedical research, 1st session: Why do we need statistics? Generalities and introduction to the t-test.

Hervé Seitz (email: herve.seitz@cnrs.fr)

IGH (UMR 9002 CNRS et université de Montpellier)

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This slideshow is accessible at:

http://www.igh.cnrs.fr/equip/Seitz/en_Stats1.pdf

Why do we need
statistics ?

The p -value

Vocabulary in
descriptive
statistics

Graphical display

Why do we need statistics ?

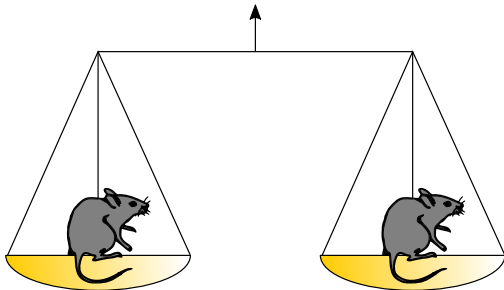
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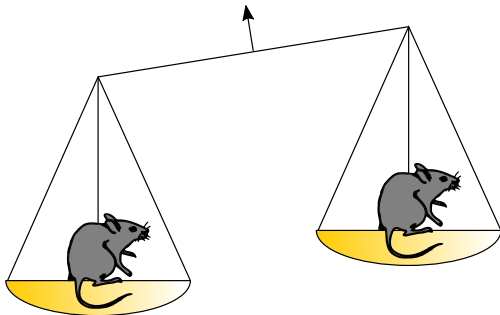
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Continuous and discontinuous variables

Example of a continuous variable: mouse body mass (can take any intermediary value).

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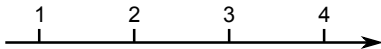
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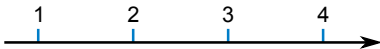
Continuous and discontinuous variables

Example of a continuous variable: mouse body mass (can take any intermediary value).

Continuous variable:



Discontinuous variable ("discrete"):



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Continuous and discontinuous variables

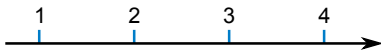
Example of a continuous variable: mouse body mass (can take any intermediary value).

Example of a discontinuous (= "discrete") variable: number of progeny at birth (can only take specific values).

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Continuous and discontinuous variables

Continuous variable: two perfectly precise measurements will never give the exact same result (with all the decimals being identical).

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Implication: measurement in “Condition #1” vs. “Condition #2”: I know beforehand that there will be a difference anyway!

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Experimental irreproducibility

Sources of experimental irreproducibility:

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Experimental irreproducibility

Sources of experimental irreproducibility:

- ▶ Imperfection in measurement device.

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Sources of experimental irreproducibility:

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—→ we have to measure several replicates, then compare intra-group variability to inter-group variability.

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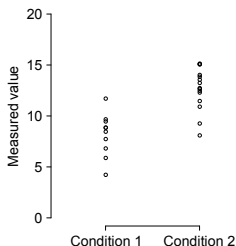
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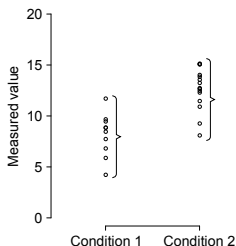
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In biology: “biological replicates” (distinct biological objects), “technical replicates” (several measurements on the same biological object).

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—→ we have to measure several replicates, then compare intra-group variability to inter-group variability.

In biology: “biological replicates” (distinct biological objects), “technical replicates” (several measurements on the same biological object; do not capture biological variability).

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Implication: measurement in “Condition #1” vs. “Condition #2”: I know beforehand that there will be a difference anyway!

Discontinuous variable: measured values can be absolutely identical.

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Implication: measurement in “Condition #1” vs. “Condition #2”: I know beforehand that there will be a difference anyway!

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... but sources of irreproducibility still imply replicating measurements, and comparing intra- to inter-group variability.

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The p -value

The t-test compares two datasets (example: the same measurement, performed in two experimental conditions, with replicates).

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Its p -value is the probability that the two sampled populations have the same mean.

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Danger ! It is very easy to misunderstand that definition!

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The p -value

Another way to perceive the experiment:

Why do we need statistics ?

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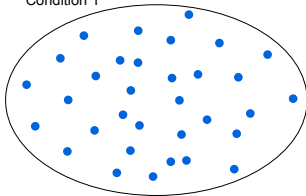
Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

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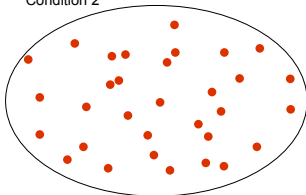
The p -value

Another way to perceive the experiment:

Condition 1



Condition 2



Why do we need statistics?

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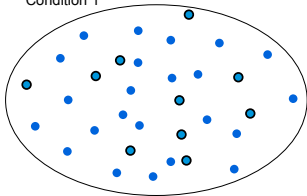
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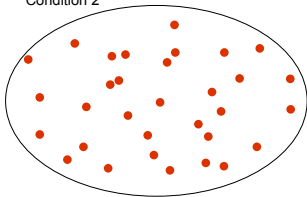
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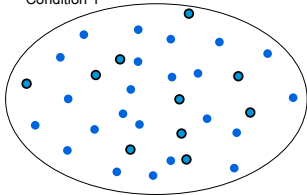
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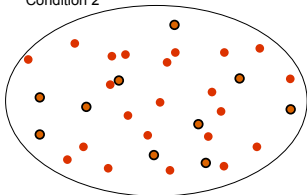
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Why do we need statistics?

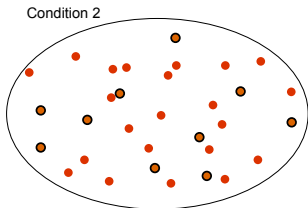
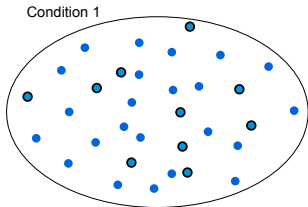
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Another way to perceive the experiment:



Random picking from an infinite population.

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The p -value

The t-test compares two datasets (example: the same measurement, performed in two experimental conditions, with replicates).

Its p -value is the probability that the two **sampled** populations have the same mean.

Why do we need statistics ?

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The t-test compares two datasets (example: the same measurement, performed in two experimental conditions, with replicates).

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The “sampled population” is that theoretical, infinite population, where replicates have been randomly picked.

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Its p -value is the probability that the two **sampled** populations have the same mean.

The “sampled population” is that theoretical, infinite population, where replicates have been randomly picked.

→ The t-test permits concluding on the equality of means of infinite cohorts (inaccessible to experimentation).

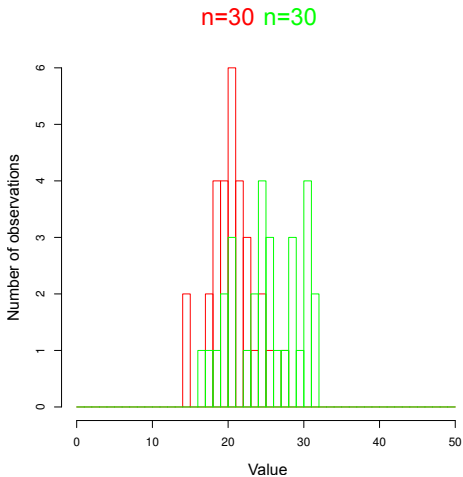
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R commands used to generate that graph: [\[link\]](#)

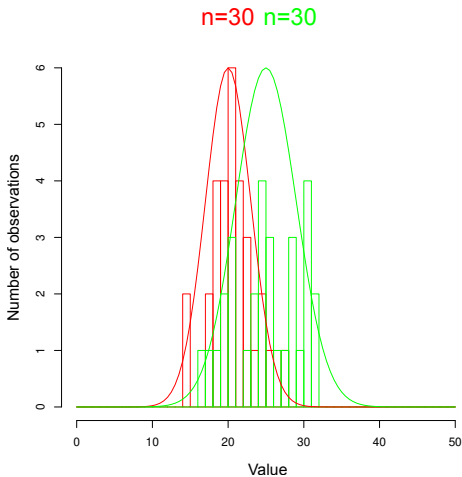
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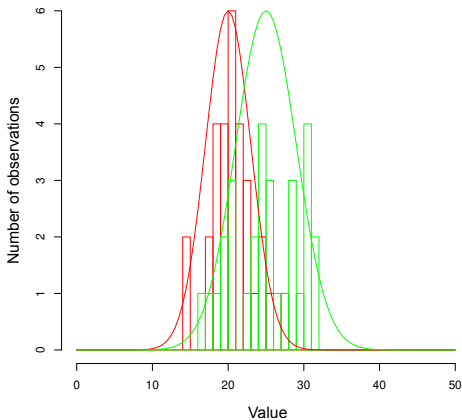
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$$p=5,945 \times 10^{-5}$$

$n=30$ $n=30$



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- ▶ The mean (implicitly: “arithmetic” mean): sum of values, divided by the number of values.



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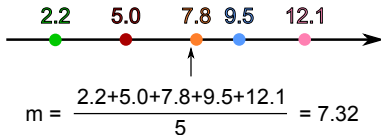
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- ▶ The mean (implicitly: “arithmetic” mean): sum of values, divided by the number of values.
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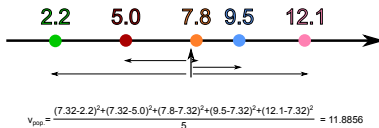
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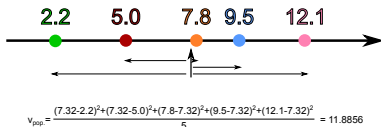
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- ▶ The mean (implicitly: “arithmetic” mean): sum of values, divided by the number of values.
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Sample variance: $\frac{n}{n-1} \times$ population variance, for a sample of n values.



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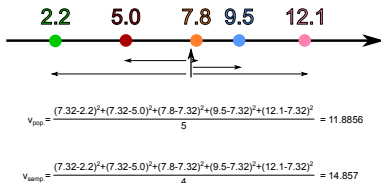
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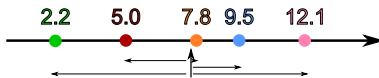
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$$\sigma_{\text{pop.}} = \sqrt{v_{\text{pop.}}} = 3.44755$$

$$\sigma_{\text{samp.}} = \sqrt{v_{\text{samp.}}} = 3.854478$$

Why do we need statistics ?

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- ▶ Median: in a list of sorted (e.g., increasing) values: the value in the middle (if *ex aequo*: their mean).

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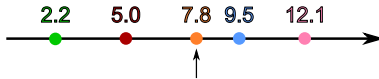
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- ▶ Median: in a list of sorted (e.g., increasing) values: the value in the middle (if *ex aequo*: their mean).
- ▶ Coefficient of variation: standard deviation divided by mean (therefore normalizing by the amplitude of values).

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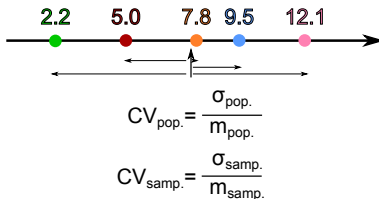
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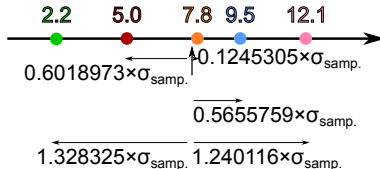
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Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

- ▶ Geometric mean: n^{th} root of the product of all n values.

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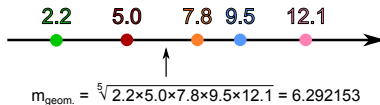
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Why do we need statistics ?

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Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

- ▶ Geometric mean: n^{th} root of the product of all n values.
- ▶ Standard error (implicitly: “of the mean”): standard deviation of a distribution of estimations of the mean (based on distinct sampled datasets).

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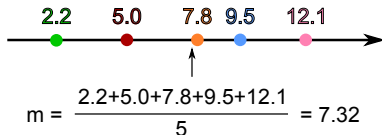
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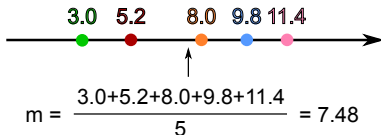
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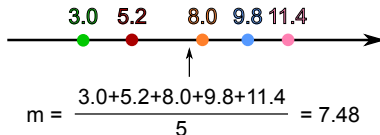
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Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

- ▶ Geometric mean: n^{th} root of the product of all n values.
- ▶ Standard error (implicitly: “of the mean”): standard deviation of a distribution of estimations of the mean (based on distinct sampled datasets). Calling σ the (theoretically identical) standard deviation of each of these sampled datasets, standard error equals: $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$.



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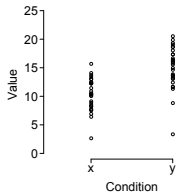
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Individual points:



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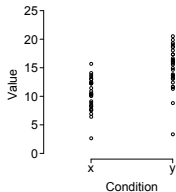
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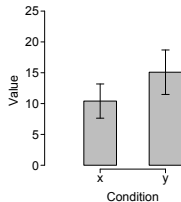
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Individual points:



Mean +/- standard deviation:



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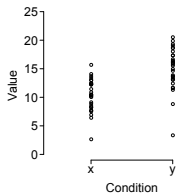
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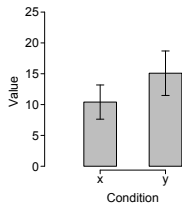
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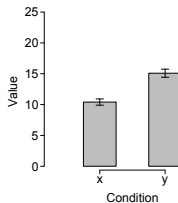
Individual points:



Mean +/- standard deviation:



Mean +/- standard error:



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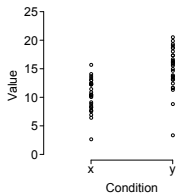
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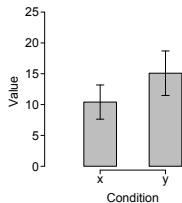
Graphical display

Graphical display

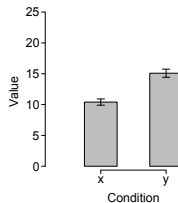
Individual points:



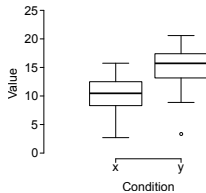
Mean +/- standard deviation:



Mean +/- standard error:



Boxplot:



Why do we need statistics ?

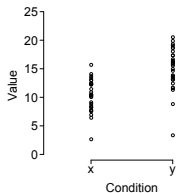
The p -value

Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

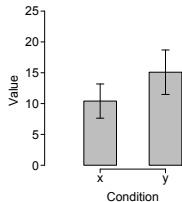
Graphical display

Graphical display

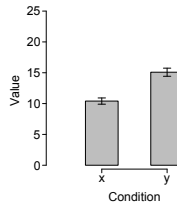
Individual points:



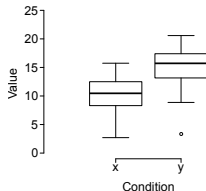
Mean +/- standard deviation:



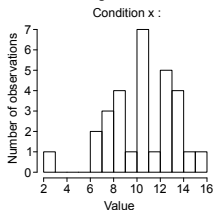
Mean +/- standard error:



Boxplot:



Histogram:



Why do we need statistics ?

The p -value

Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

Graphical display

Graphical display

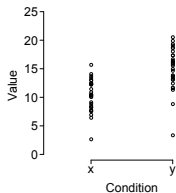
Why do we need statistics ?

The p -value

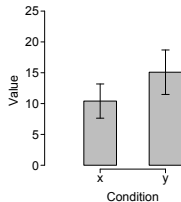
Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

Graphical display

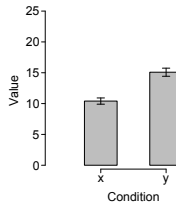
Individual points:



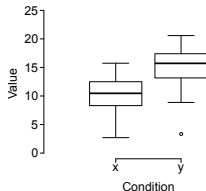
Mean +/- standard deviation:



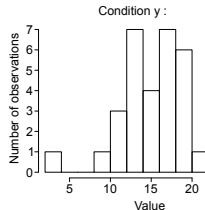
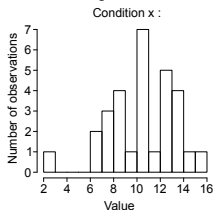
Mean +/- standard error:



Boxplot:



Histogram:



Graphical display

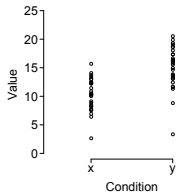
Why do we need statistics ?

The p -value

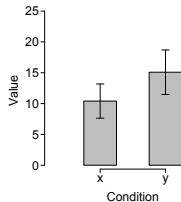
Vocabulary in descriptive statistics

Graphical display

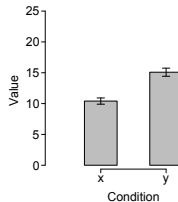
Individual points:



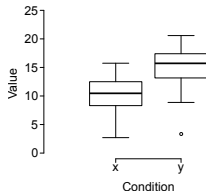
Mean +/- standard deviation:



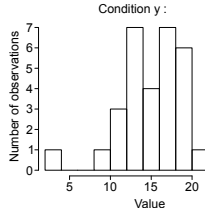
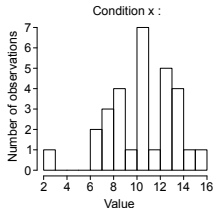
Mean +/- standard error:



Boxplot:



Histogram:



Always explain what error bars represent!