Introduction to statistical programs: What exists? What can you do with it?

Geert De Meyer



Conflict of interest – Geert De Meyer

- Ghent University employee involved in statistical consulting services
- No links with statistical software companies



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- Professional infrastructure

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- Clinical trial design
- Longitudinal data analysis
- Survival analysis
- Causal data analysis



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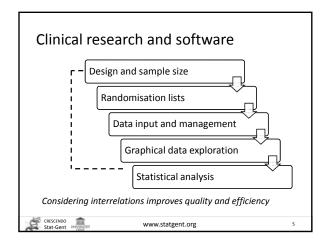
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Selecting statistical software

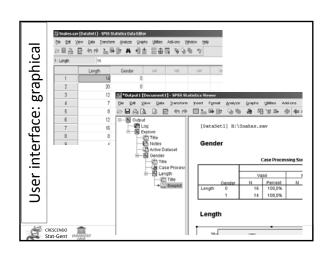
The 'best' statistical software program does not exist. One needs to select that program that best fits one's personal needs.

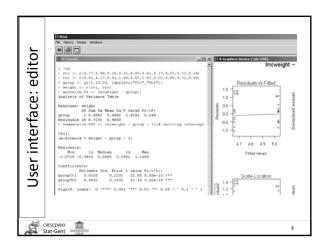
I will introduce a limited number of programs to discuss important features to consider, not to compare these programs.

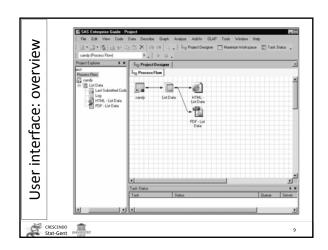


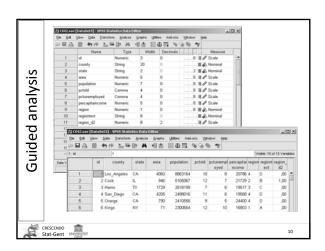


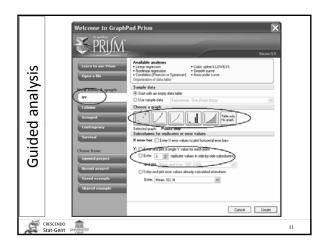
Considerations for software selection Ease of use Data input Procedures Other • User Spreadsheet Data analysis Validation interface Importing methods • Pricing Guided data files Graphics analysis Data Sample size Manuals and management user groups











Prism offers five related tests that compare two groups. To choose among these tests, answer three compares two groups. To choose among these tests, answer three compares two groups. To choose among these tests, answer three compares two processes are considered to the compares the compares

Nonparametric tests

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analysis

Guided 8

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Analysis checklist: Unpaired t test

The unpaired t test assumes that you have sampled your data from populations that follow a Gaussian di-help you <u>test this assumption</u>.

✓ Do the two populations have the same variances?

The unpaired t test assumes that the two populations have the same variances (and thus the same stan Prism tests for equality of variance with an F test. The P value from this test answers this question: If the really have the same variance, what is the chance that you would randomly select samples whose ratio cere from 1.0 (or further) as observed in your experiment? A small P value suggests that the variances are diff Don't base your conclusion solely on the F test. Also think about data from other similar experiments. If y previous data that commonces you that the variances are really equal, ignore the F test (unless the P vali interpret the t lest results as usual. In some contexts, finding that populations have different variances may be as important as finding different variances.

✓ Are the data unpaired?

The unpaired t test works by comparing the difference between means with the standard error of the diff by combining the standard errors of the two groups. If the data are paired or matched, then you should a test esteed. If the pairing is effective in controlling for experimental variability, the paired t test will be in the unpaired test.



Guided analysis



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Interpreting results: Unpaired t

The unpaired t test compares the means of two groups. The most useful result is the confidence interval for the difference between the means. If the <u>assumptions of the analysis are true</u>, you can be \$9% use that the \$9% confidence interval contains the true difference between the means. The point of the experiment was to see how far apart the two means are. The confidence interval totals you how precisely you know that difference.

For many purposes, this confidence interval is all you need.

P value

The P value is used to ask whether the difference between the mean of two groups is likely to be due to chance. It answers this question:

If the two populations really had the same mean, what is the chance that random sampling would result in means as far apart (or more so) than observed in this experiment?

It is traditional, but not necessary and often not useful, to use the P value to make a simple statement about whether or not the difference is "statistically significant".

You will interpret the results differently depending on whether the P value is <u>small</u> or <u>large</u>.



Guided analysis



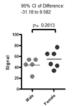


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Guided analysis

Graphing tips: Unpaired t

Points or bars?



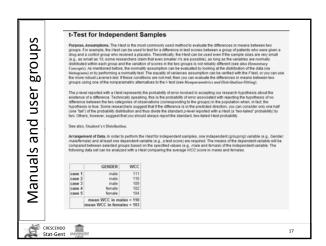


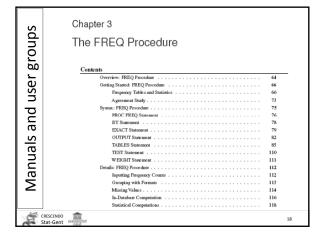
The graphs above plot the sample data for an unpaired t test. We prefer the graph on the left which shows each individual data point. This shows more detail, and is easier to interpret, than the bar graph on the right.

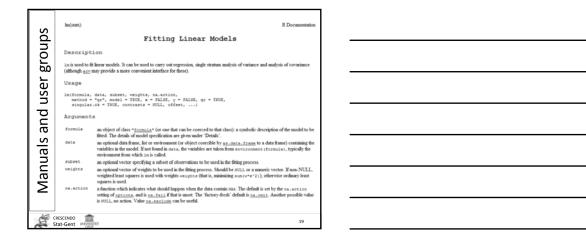












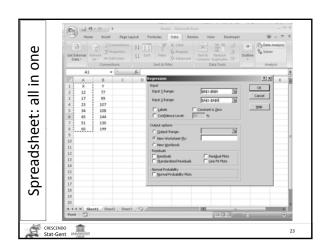
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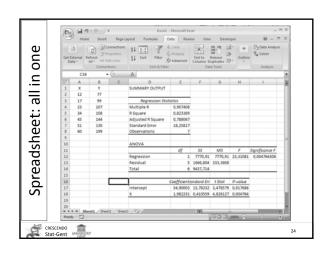
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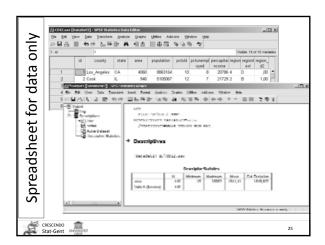
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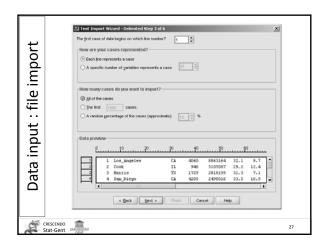








Data input: basics Copy paste Manual • Possible in most • Generally not supported programs Data validation (only • Watch out with data defined values possible) formats and regional settings Procedures for - Dates comparing double data - Comma vs point entry CRESCENDO Stat-Gent



Data input: file import Data Input Description Reads a file in table format and creates a data frame from it, with cases corresponding to lines and variables to fields in the file. read.table(file, header = TALEE, sep = "", quote = "\", dec = ".", gov.names, col.names, as.is = istringsAffectors, col.names, col.n read.csv(file, header = TRUE, sep = ",", quote="\"", dec=".", fill = TRUE, comment.char="", ...) 28

Data mngt: transform



Often transformed variable is added to the dataset leading to a messy data set. Best practice is to lock the original raw data in one dataset, and to work on the transformed data in another working data set.





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mngt: combine datasets

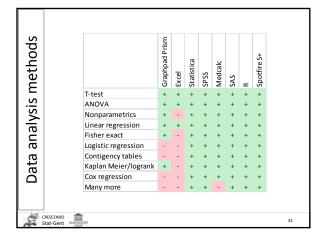
proc sort data=Toy; by CompanyCode; run; proc sort data=Company; by CompanyCode; run; data Merged_ToyCompany; merge Toy Company; by CompanyCode; run; Log Results: MIDS.
NOTE: There were 7 observations read from the data set WORK.TOY.
NOTE: There were 2 observations read from the data set WORK.COMPANY.
NOTE: The data set WORK.MERGED_TOYCOMPANY has 7 observations and 4 variables.

Generally only included in high-level software programs. Differences in transparency (flowchart) and error or warning messages.



Data





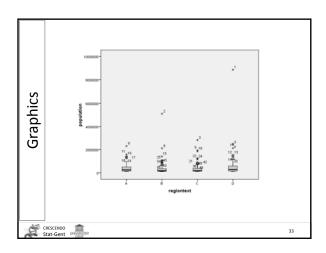
Graphics

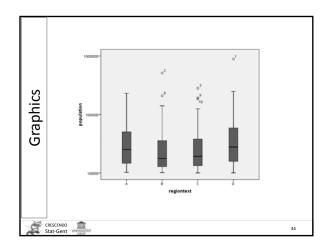
Graphical data exploration is key and supports the quality of the statistical analysis to a large extent. Therefore adequate graphical tools are essential, particularly for the less experienced statistician

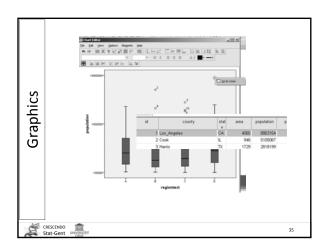
- Most packages two-step approach
 - Standard templates
 - Manual editing and polishing
- Some have interactive browsing
- SAS and R have no manual editing

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Most packages do not provide sample size calculations or only consider a limited number of designs / tests

Use online calculators

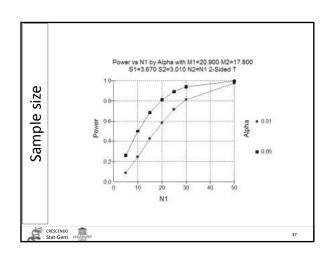
- http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~rlenth/Power/
- Specialized packages
 - PASS

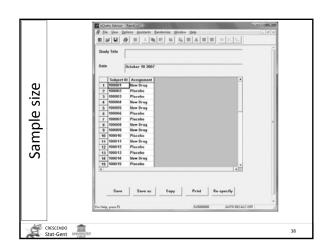
Sample size

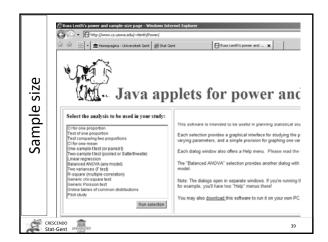
- nQUERY
- ... or consult a statistician

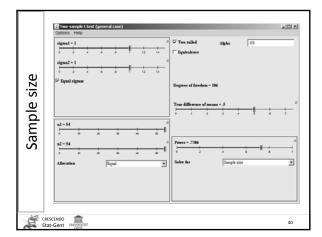


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Validation

21 CFR Part 11 details the FDA regulatory requirements for processes and controls that must be applied to electronic records. This code applies to drug registration processes and therefore has repercussions for data analysis software and the context in which it is used.

An important part of the validity of statistical software implies that the calculations are correct. It is demonstrated by specific testing and summarized in documents. SAS is considered as a gold standard, but other programs might be just as appropriate.





• Extreme dynamic ranging from freeware to several thousands € per year

• As the technically best and most extensive program R is free you pay for interface, user friendliness, manuals, support, performance,

• Most packages have a free trial period ... but it often takes longer to get to know the program

Pricing