

## Topics

- Hypothesis testing for comparing two variances
- Hypothesis testing for matched pairs



## Testing Variance Equality

- When we have a 2 -sample t-test with independent samples we need to decide if we have equal variances.
- What we can do?
- Rule-of-thumb: If the difference is less than $10 \%$ between $\mathrm{s}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{s}_{2}$, then assume equality.
- Formal way: Hypothesis test


## Test of Equality of Variances

$H_{0}: \sigma_{1}=\sigma_{2} \quad H_{A}: \sigma_{1} \neq \sigma_{2}$
We have an estimate of each of these from our two samples and will construct a test statistic from these.
$F=\frac{s_{1}^{2}}{s_{2}^{2}}$ where $s_{1}>s_{2}$
Under $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ this has an F -distribution with $\mathrm{n}_{1}-1$ numerator, and $n_{2}-1$ denominator degrees of freedom.

## The F Statistic

The F statistic has two different degrees of freedom terms: $\mathrm{n}_{1}-1$ in the numerator, and $\mathrm{n}_{2}-1$ in the denomiator.
Note: df corresond to numerator and denominator of F .
$F$ distribution cannot assume negative values and is skewed to the right.
Its shape depends on the degrees of freedom.


## Test of Equality of Variances

$H_{0}: \sigma_{1}=\sigma_{2} \quad H_{A}: \sigma_{1} \neq \sigma_{2}$
Reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ if $2 P(F>f)<\alpha$. Generally we set $\alpha=0.10$. Note that the F-table only has particular values for df tabulated like the t-distribution.
Can only get a range for the p-value from Table E . Stata gives exact probability.


## Finding F Probabilities in Stata

- If you have numdf numerator df, and dendf denominator df, type:
display Ftail(numdf, dendf, f)
to get upper tail probability (multiply by 2 for variance test p -value).


## Test of Equality of Variances:

Example
$H_{0}: \sigma_{1}=\sigma_{2} \quad H_{A}: \sigma_{1} \neq \sigma_{2}$
From healthy/failed firms example:
$s_{1}=0.639 ; \quad s_{2}=0.481$
$F=\frac{s_{1}^{2}}{s_{2}^{2}}=\frac{0.639^{2}}{0.481^{2}}=1.76$
. display Ftail(67,32,1.76)
. 04044562
p-value $=2(0.04)=0.08<0.10$
Reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$, and variances are significantly different at the $10 \%$ level.

## Paired Samples

- Defining characteristic of paired data is that for each observation in the first group, there is a corresponding observation in the second.
- Example 1: Study of a single population with observations both before and after an intervention.
- Example 2: Study of two populations of subjects who are matched on important characteristics.
- Pairing (a form of blocking) helps control known sources of variation.


## Paired Samples

Given an SRS of size n , we want to test $\mathrm{H}_{0}: \delta=0$
against $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{A}}: \delta \neq 0$ (two-sided).
Use test statistic: $t=\frac{\bar{d}-\delta}{s_{d} / \sqrt{n}}=\frac{\bar{d}}{s_{d} / \sqrt{n}}$
When $\mathrm{H}_{0}: \delta=0$ is true, this statistic has a $t$-distribution with $\mathrm{n}-1$ degrees of freedom.
This is called the paired $t$-test.

## Example: MLA Listening Scores for French Teachers

- 20 French teachers attend summer institute for 4 weeks to improve language skills.
- At beginning, they were given MLA listening test of understanding spoken French.
- After 4 weeks, MLA test given again.
- Has attendance at the summer institute improved French teachers' language skills?

| TABLE 7.1 Modern Language Association listening scores for French teachers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Teacher | Pretest | Posttest | Gain | Teacher | Pretest | Posttest | Gain |
| 1 | 32 | 34 | 2 | 11 | 30 | 36 | 6 |
| 2 | 31 | 31 | 0 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 6 |
| 3 | 29 | 35 | 6 | 13 | 24 | 27 | 3 |
| 4 | 10 | 16 | 6 | 14 | 24 | 24 | 0 |
| 5 | 30 | 33 | 3 | 15 | 31 | 32 | 1 |
| 6 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 16 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 7 | 22 | 24 | 2 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| 8 | 25 | 28 | 3 | 18 | 32 | 34 | 2 |
| 9 | 32 | 26 | -6 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 3 |
| 10 | 20 | 26 | 6 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 3 |

## Example: MLA Test

We have the following summary statistics for the differences:
$n=20$
$\bar{d}=2.5$
$s_{d}=0.647$
To do this in Stata, use the one-sample mean calculator option. Paired data result in a one-sample test.

## Example: MLA Test

The test statistic is
$t=\frac{2.5}{0.647 / \sqrt{20}}=17.3 \sim t_{19}$
$p<0.001$
Reject $\mathrm{H}_{0}$ at the $\alpha=0.05$ level and conclude that scores significantly increased.

