6. Statistical hypothesis testing

"I can prove anything by statistics except the truth"

George Canning

Biology and statistics wishful thinking

Experiment

Statistics

$$E\{\widehat{\mathrm{pFDR}}_\lambda(\gamma)\} - \mathrm{pFDR}(\gamma) \geqslant E\left[\frac{\{W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma)}{\{R(\gamma)\vee 1\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}}\right],$$

$> 0\} \geqslant 1-(1-\gamma)^m$ under independence. Conditioning on $R(\gamma)$, it follows th

$$W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma) \over R(\gamma)\vee 1\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}$$ $$\Big| R(\gamma)\Big] = \frac{[E\{W(\lambda)|R(\gamma)\}/(1-\lambda)]\gamma - E\{V(\gamma)|R(\gamma)}{\{R(\gamma)\vee 1\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}}$$

e, $E\{W(\lambda)|R(\gamma)\}$ is a linear non-increasing function of $R(\gamma)$, and $E\{V(\gamma)|R(\gamma$
function of $R(\gamma)$. Thus, by Jensen's inequality on $R(\gamma)$ it follows that

$$\frac{W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma)}{R(\gamma)\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}}\Big| R(\gamma)>0\Big] \geqslant \frac{E[\{W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0]}{E\{R(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}}$$

$= E\{R(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}$, it follows that

$$\frac{W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0]}{\{R(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0\}\Pr\{R(\gamma)>0\}} = \frac{E[\{W(\lambda)/(1-\lambda)\}\gamma - V(\gamma)|R(\gamma)>0]}{E\{R(\gamma)\}}.$$

$$p < 0.05$$

P-Values: Misunderstood and Misused

Bertie Vidgen and Taha Yasseri *

frontiers in Physics

MINI REVIEW
published: 04 March 2016
doi: 10.3389/fphy.2016.00006

The fickle *P* value generates irreproducible results

Lewis G Halsey, Douglas Curran-Everett, Sarah L Vowler & Gordon B Drummond

NATURE METHODS | VOL.12 NO.3 | MARCH 2015 | 179

Open access, freely available online

Essay

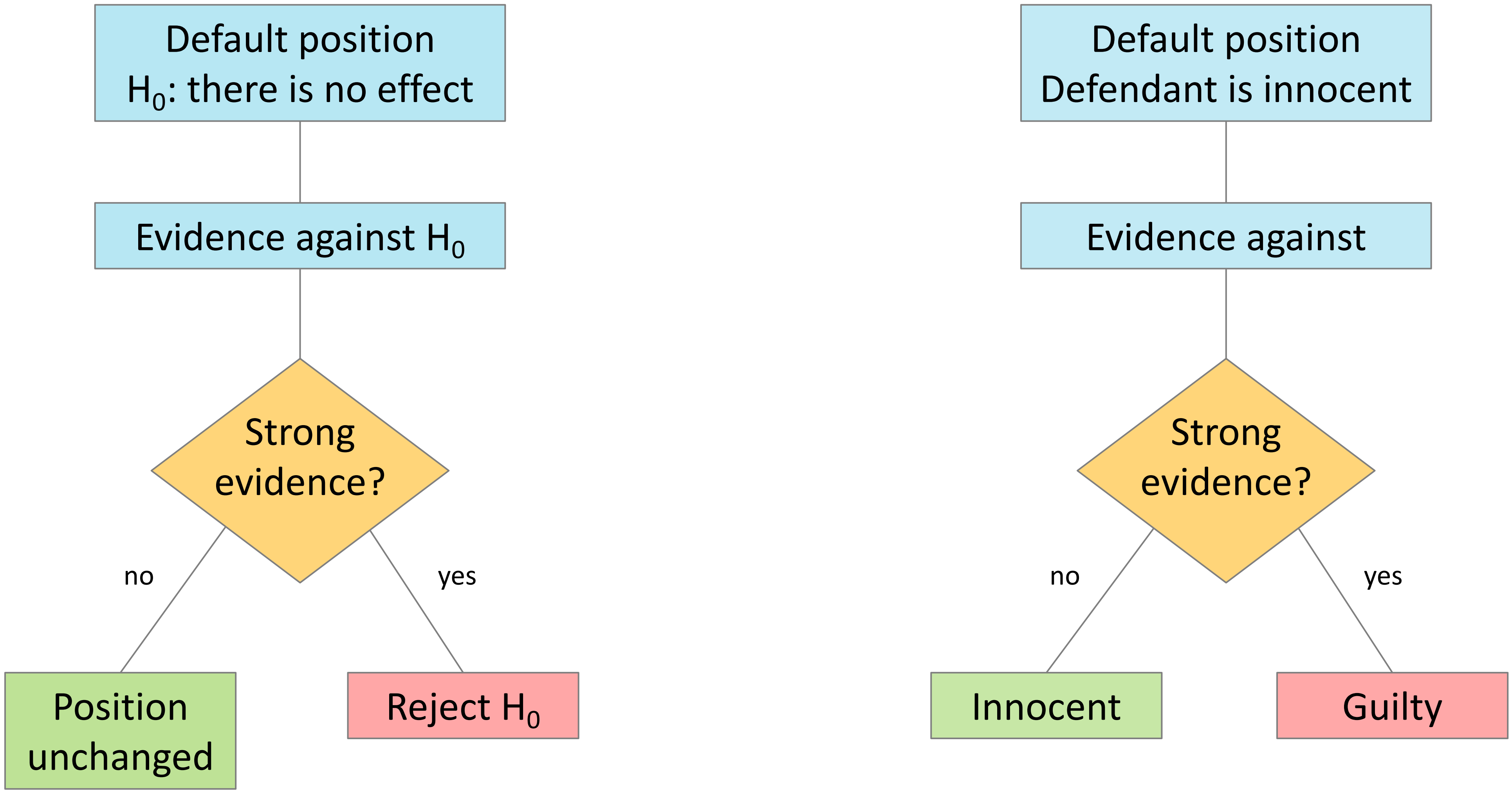
Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

PLoS Medicine | www.plosmedicine.org 0696 August 2005 | Volume 2 | Issue 8 | e124

Null hypothesis

Null hypothesis



Evidence against H_0

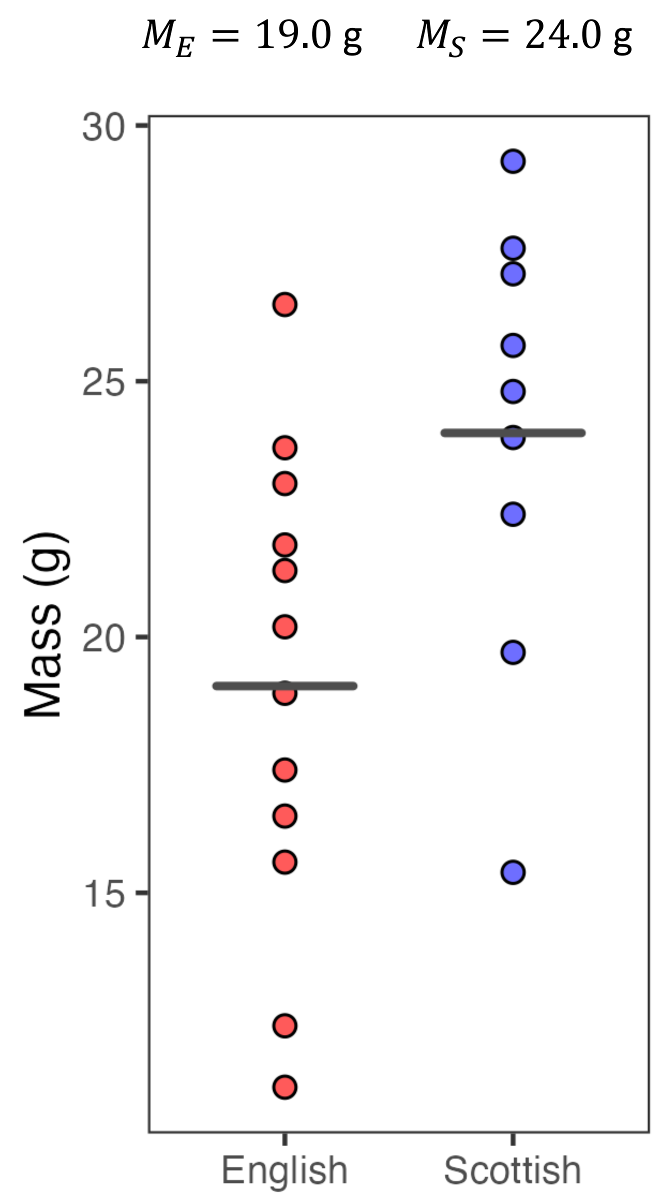
- Two samples of mice
  - 12 English mice
  - 9 Scottish mice

- Body mass difference:

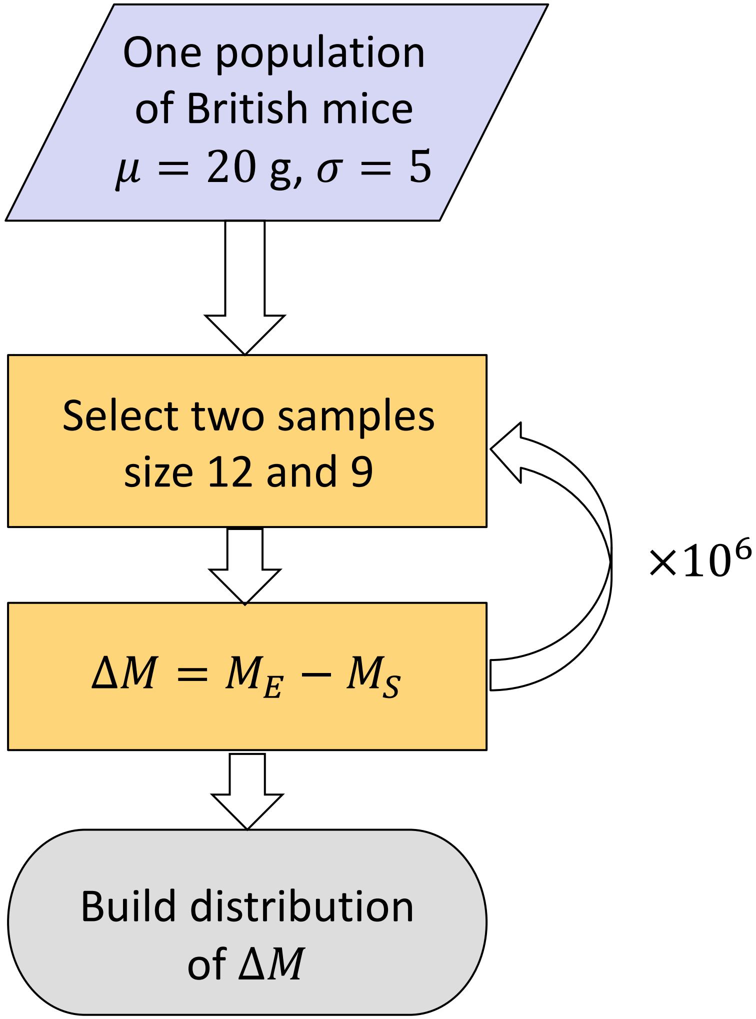
  $\Delta M = M_S - M_E = 5.0$ g

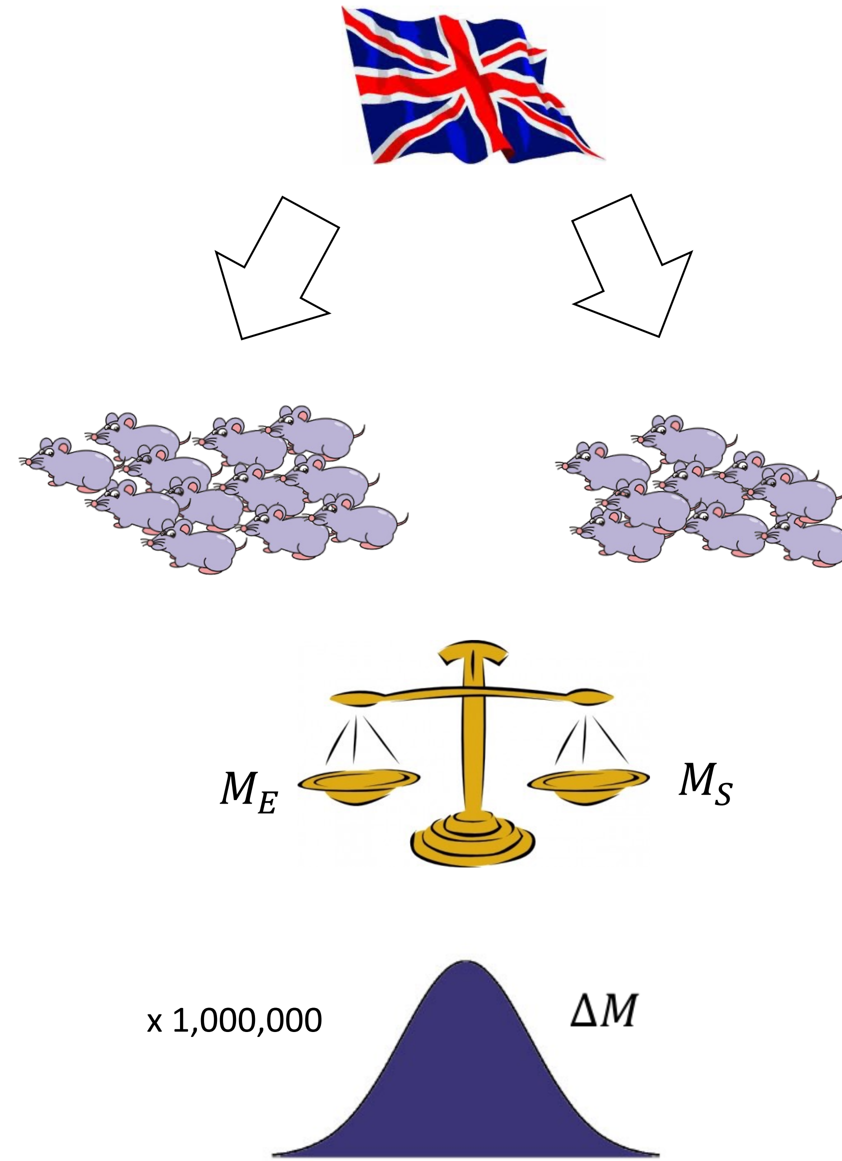
- Two possibilities
  - real difference
  - fluke

- What are the chances of the fluke?

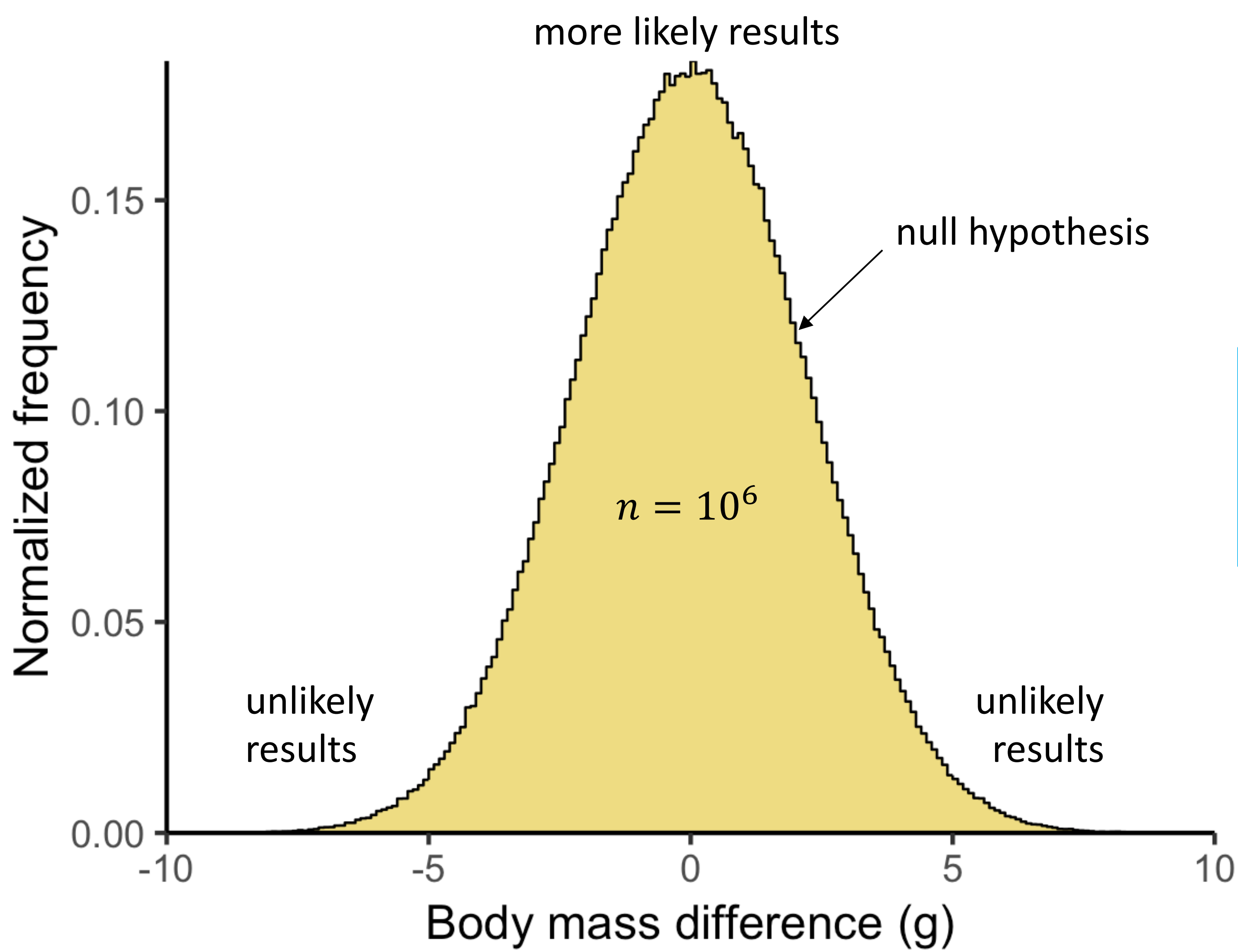


Gedankenexperiment under the null hypothesis



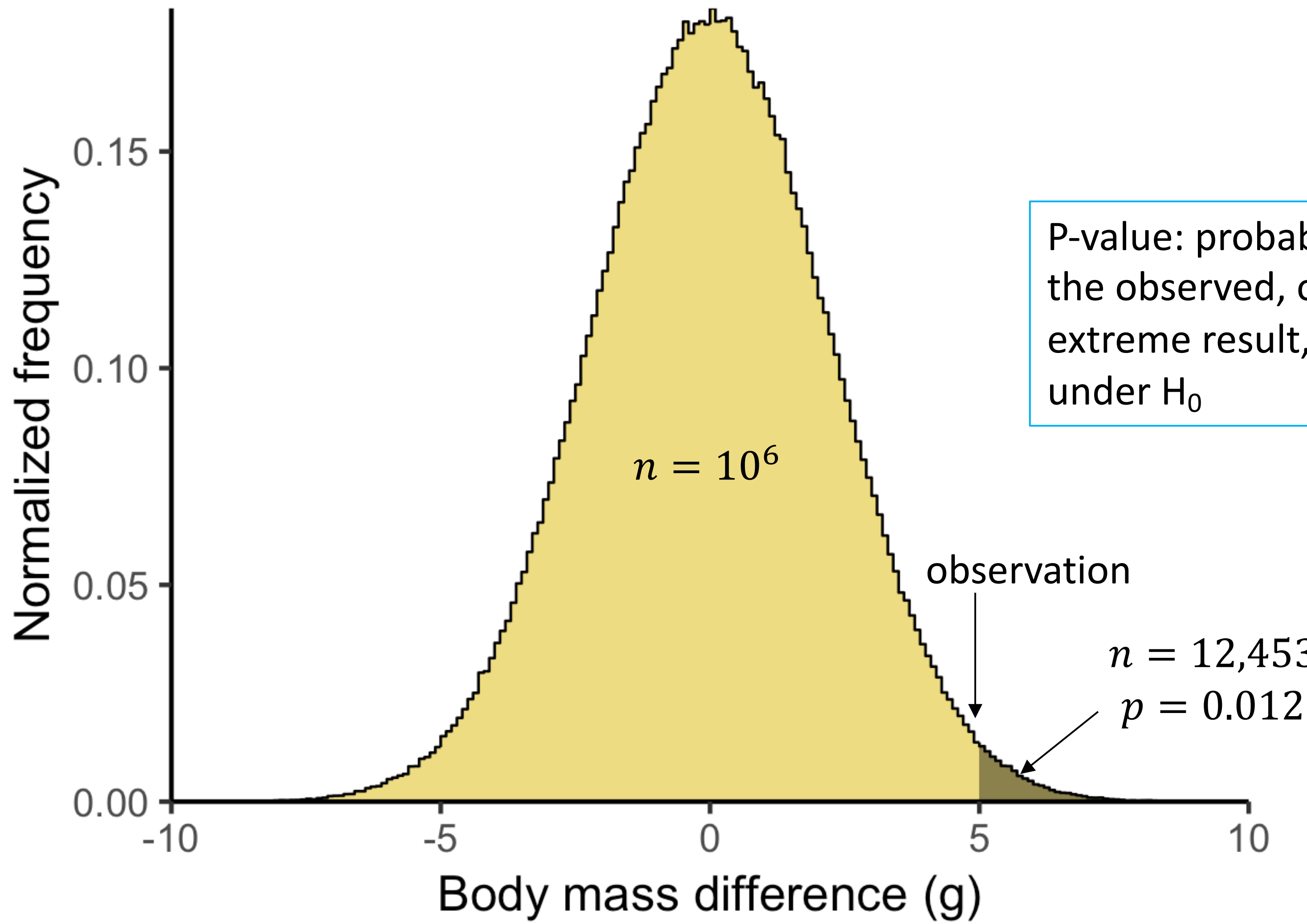


Gedankenexperiment: result under null hypothesis



Note: in real life we use a statistic with known distribution

Gedankenexperiment: p-value



P-value: probability of getting the observed, or more extreme result, by chance, under H_0

Null hypothesis and p-value

null hypothesis

If

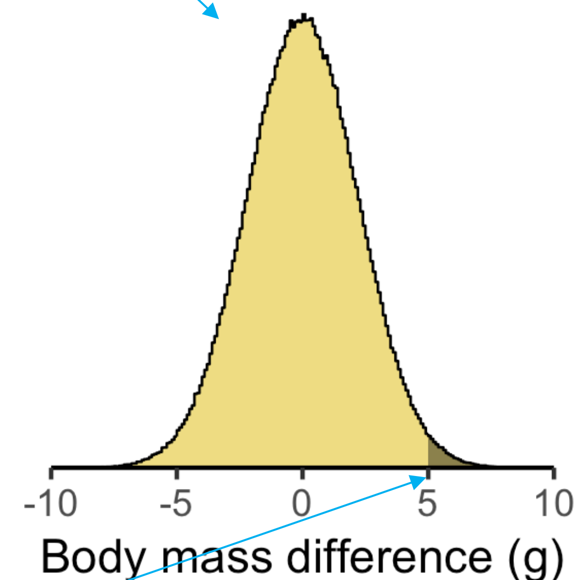
both samples were taken from the same population,

then

the probability of observing the difference in mean body mass of 5 g, **or more**,

by chance (due to random sampling)

would be 1.2%



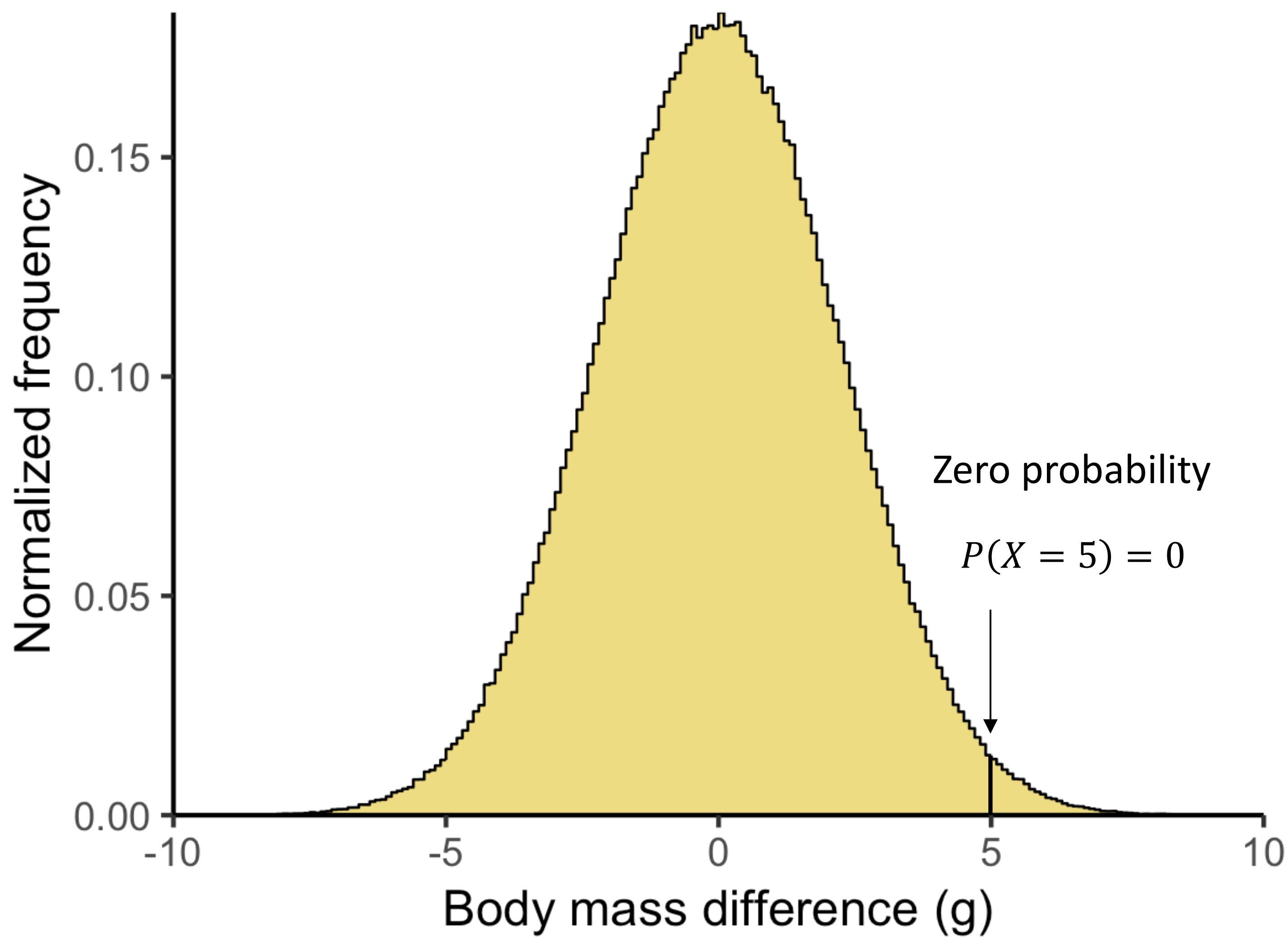
p-value

We observe an effect, but it will occur by chance in 1.2% of repeated experiments (1 in 80)

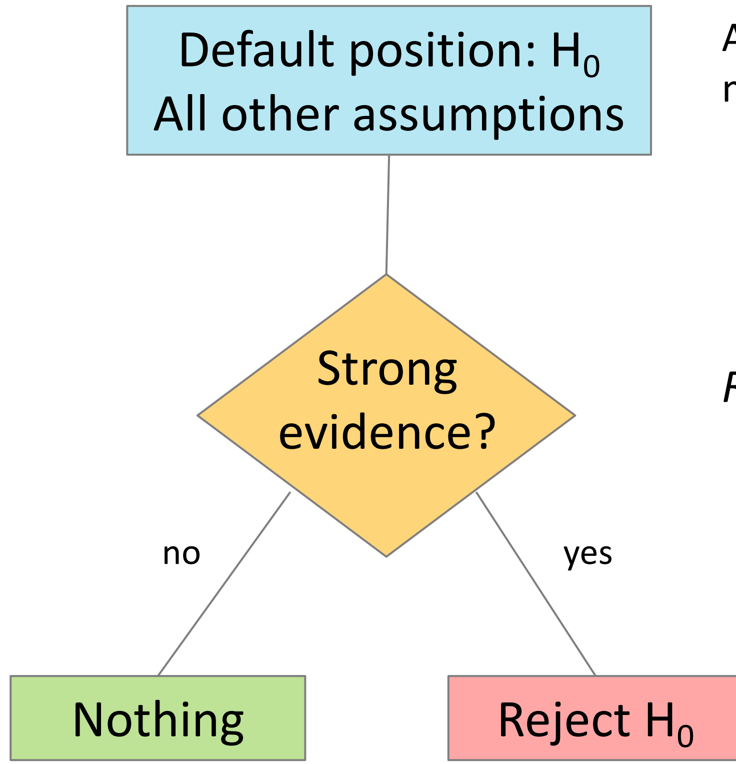
You have 1.2% chance of making a fool of yourself (if you publish this result)

P-value is the probability of making
a fool of yourself

Why "more extreme"?



Null hypothesis: reject or what?



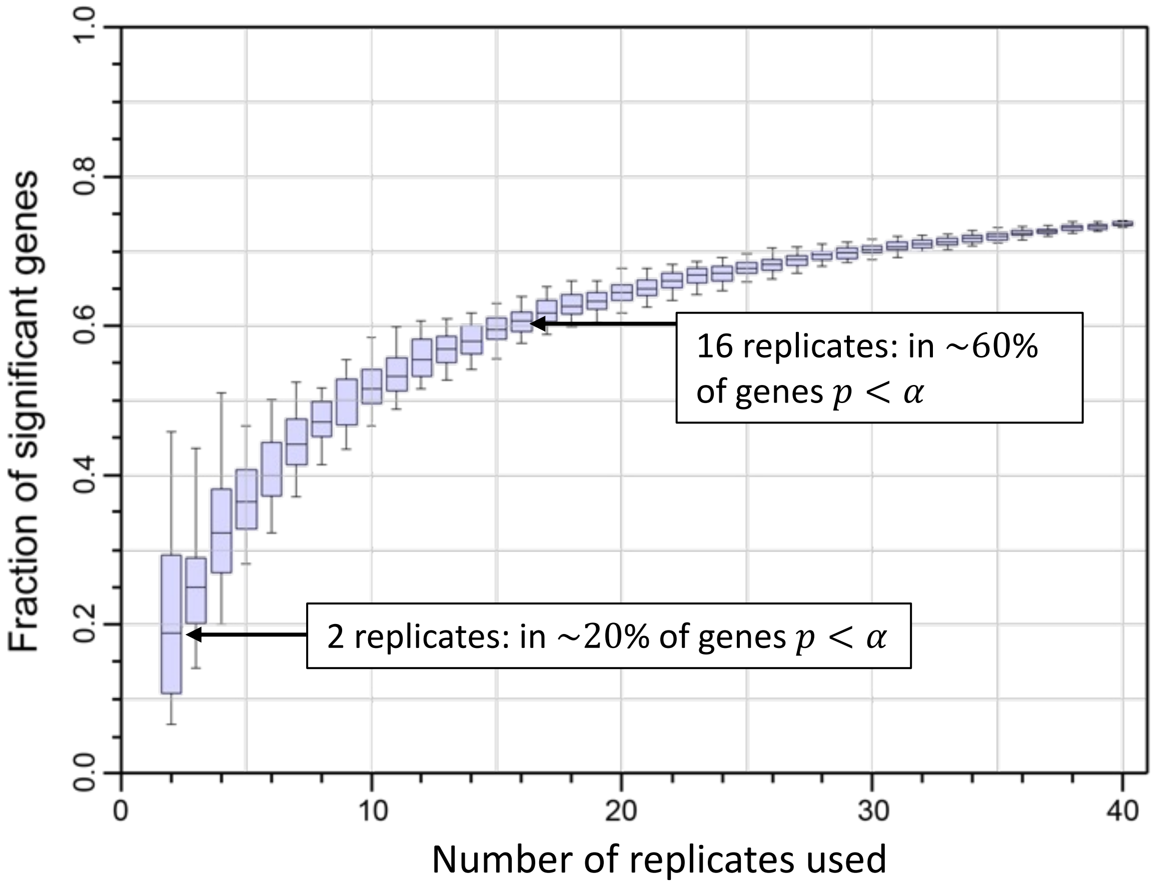
All other assumptions must be true!

Reductio ad absurdum

- absence of evidence is not evidence of absence!
- evidence too weak?

- data are incompatible with H_0...
- ...or any of the other assumptions
- reject H_0 at your own risk

You cannot confirm the null hypothesis



Schurch et al. 2016

Differential gene expression between WT and a mutant

Genes that are "not different" from 2 replicates...

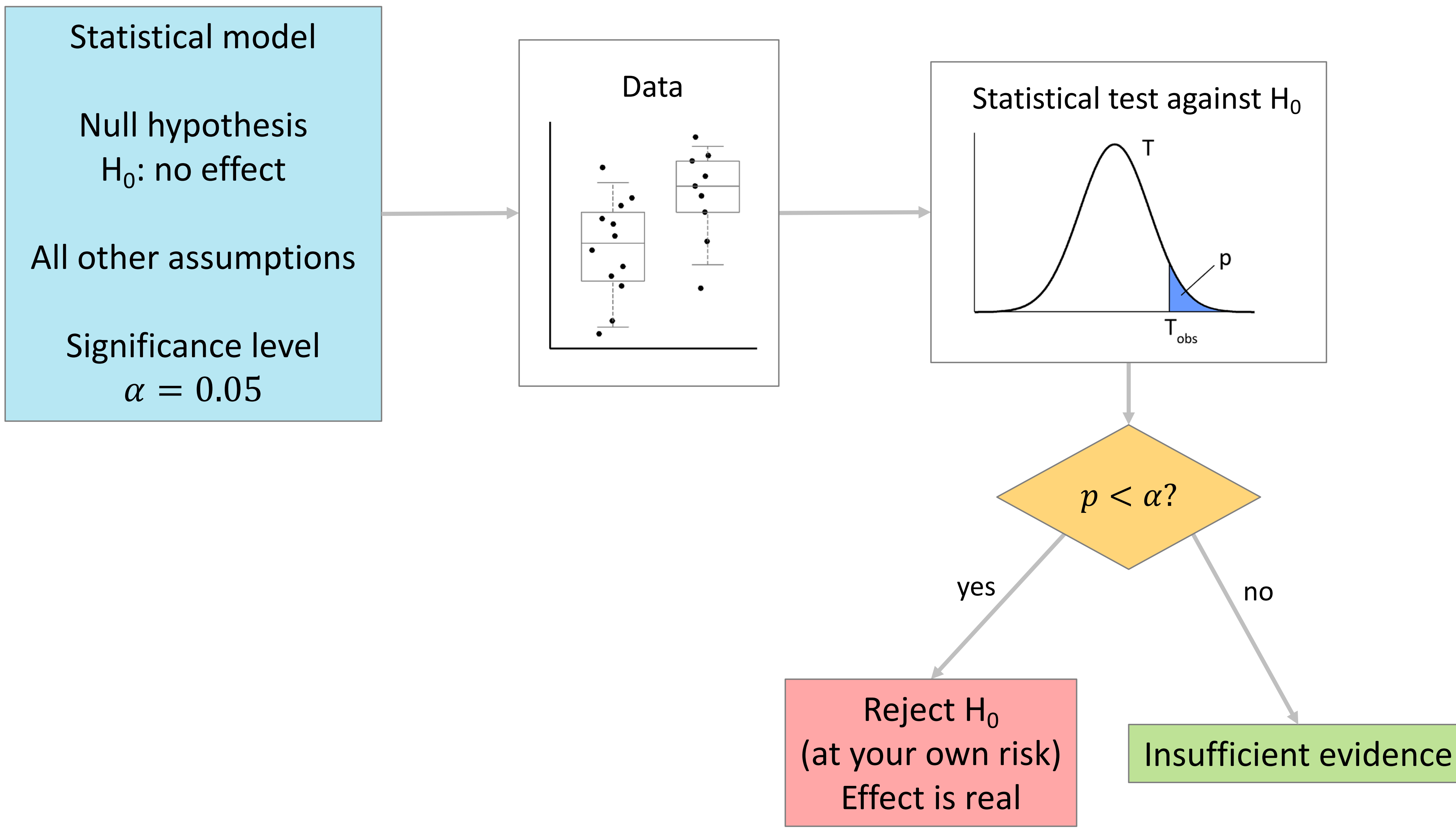
...are "significantly different" when using 16 replicates

$$p \geq \alpha$$

✗ No effect

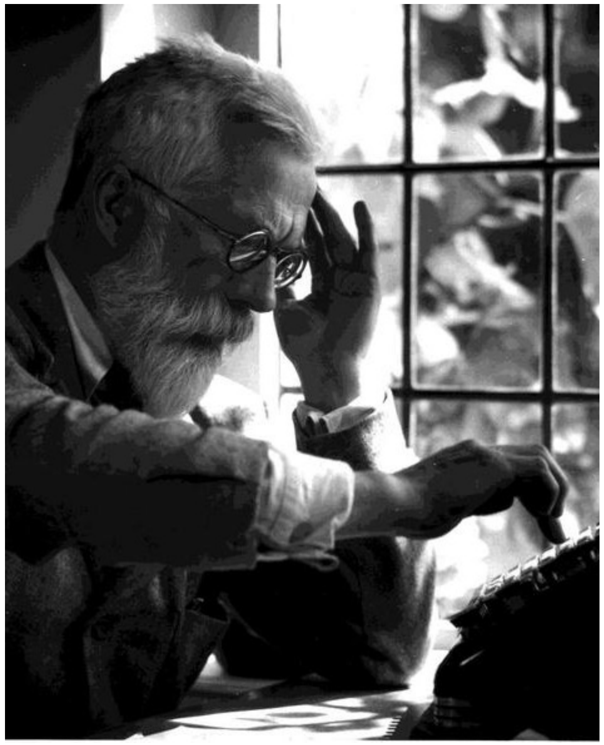
✓ Insufficient evidence

You cannot prove the null hypothesis


Statistical model
Null hypothesis
H0: no effect
All other assumptions
Significance level
α = 0.05
Data
Statistical test against H0
T
p
Tobs
p < α?
yes
no
Reject H0
(at your own risk)
Effect is real
Insufficient evidence

Fisher’s exact test

Ronald Fisher



Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher
(1890-1962)

Rothamsted Experimental Station
(Hertfordshire)

The appreciation of tea

Milk first





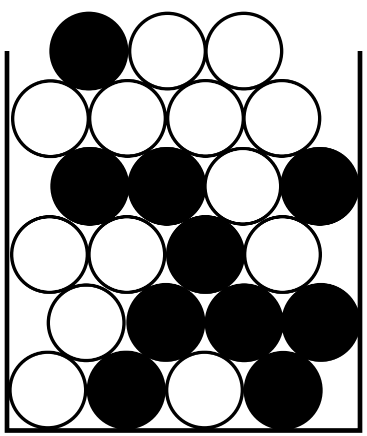


Tea first

Null hypothesis:
Ms Bristol has no clue

Let’s draw some balls

Draw 5 balls



Urn with 23 balls
13 are white
10 are black

What is the probability
of finding exactly 4 white balls?

Binomial coefficient

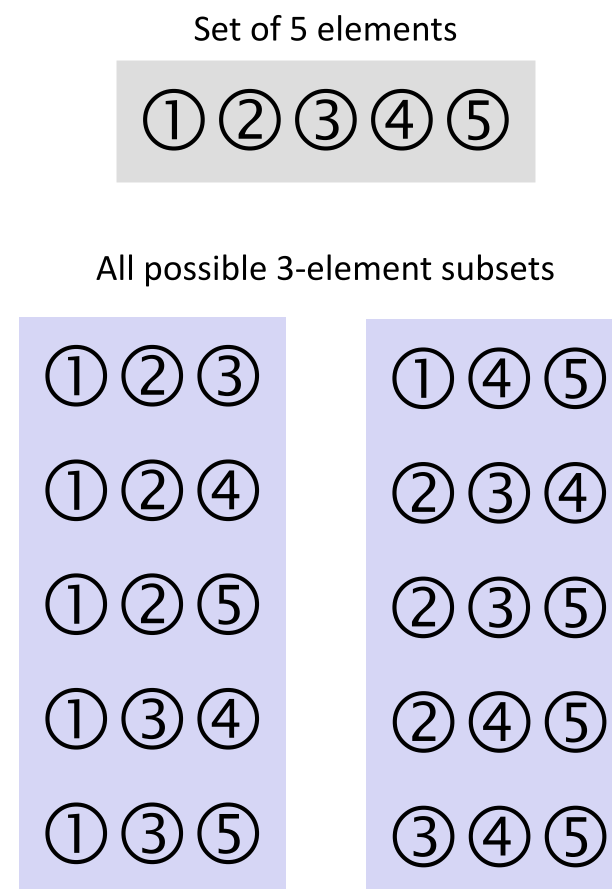
- "n chose k"

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!\,(n-k)!}$$

- In *combinatorics* it is the number of possible *k*-element subsets of an *n*-element set

- From a 5-element set there are 10 possible 3-element subsets

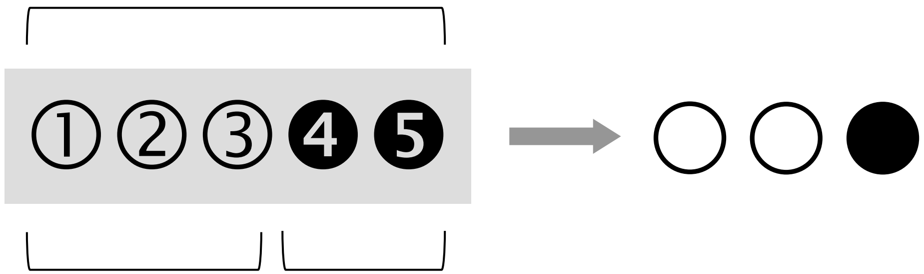
$$\binom{5}{3} = \frac{5!}{3!\,2!} = \frac{120}{6\times 2} = 10$$



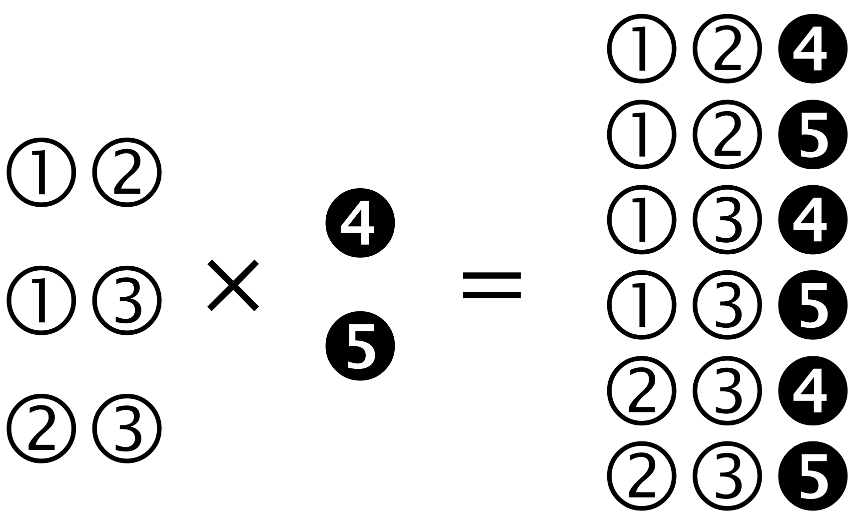
Smaller example

Draw 3 balls. What is the probability of finding exactly 2 whites among them?

$$\binom{5}{3} = 10$$ ← all combinations



$$\binom{3}{2} = 3 \qquad \binom{2}{1} = 2$$ ← favourable combinations



$$P = \frac{\text{favourable combinations}}{\text{all combinations}} = \frac{\binom{2}{1} \times \binom{3}{2}}{\binom{5}{3}} = \frac{6}{10} = 0.6$$

Hypergeometric probability

- $N = 23$ balls
- $m = 13$ are white
- $n = 5$ balls drawn

- What is the probability of finding exactly $k = 4$ white balls in the draw?

$$P(X = 4) = \frac{\binom{13}{4}\binom{10}{1}}{\binom{23}{5}}$$

← combinations with 3 whites (numerator)

← all combinations (denominator)

$$= \frac{715 \times 10}{33,649} = \frac{7,150}{33,649} \approx 0.21$$

	Drawn	Not drawn	Total
White	**4**	9	**13**
Black	1	9	10
Total	**5**	18	**23**

Contingency table

Contingency table contains counts

Hypergeometric distribution

- If sums are fixed (blue fields), the cells in the table follow hypergeometric distribution

Number of whites drawn

$$P\begin{bmatrix}0 & 13\\5 & 5\end{bmatrix} = 0.0075$$

$$P\begin{bmatrix}1 & 12\\4 & 6\end{bmatrix} = 0.081$$

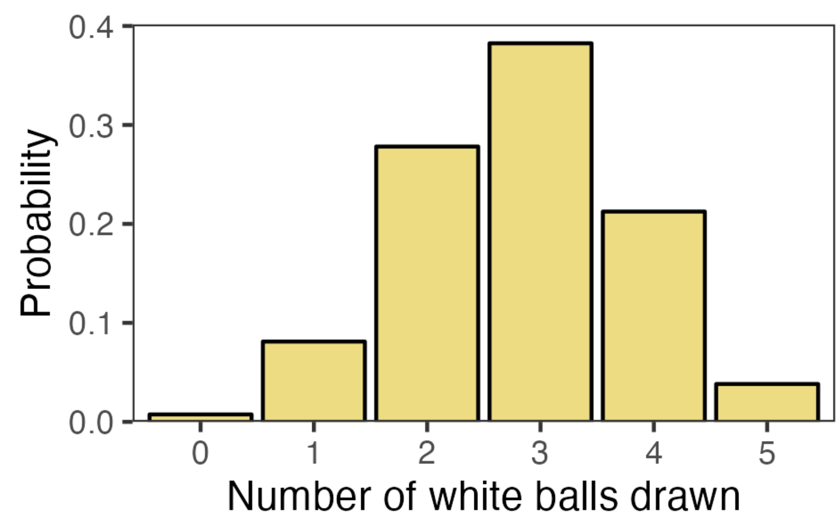
$$P\begin{bmatrix}2 & 11\\3 & 7\end{bmatrix} = 0.28$$

$$P\begin{bmatrix}3 & 10\\2 & 8\end{bmatrix} = 0.38$$

$$P\begin{bmatrix}4 & 9\\1 & 9\end{bmatrix} = 0.21$$

$$P\begin{bmatrix}5 & 8\\0 & 10\end{bmatrix} = 0.038$$

	Drawn	Not drawn	Total
White	**4**	9	**13**
Black	1	9	10
Total	**5**	18	**23**



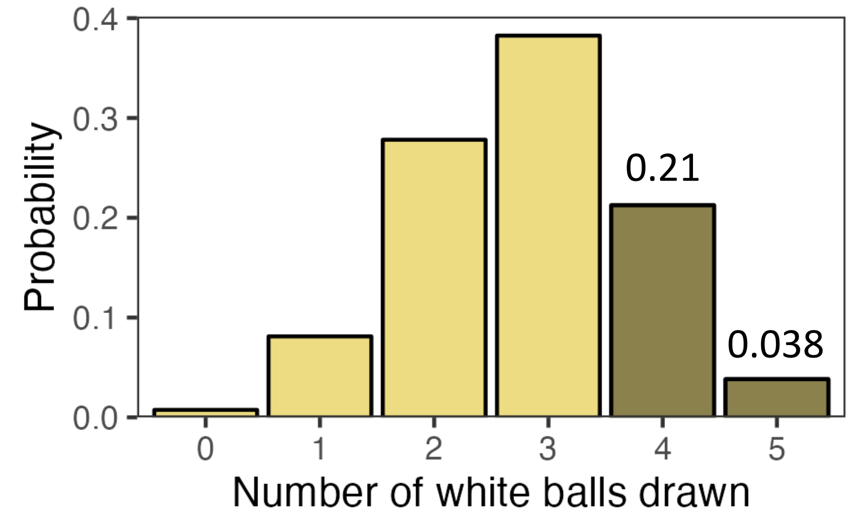
One-sided test

- What is the probability of drawing **4 or more** white balls?

$$P(X \geq 4) = 0.021 + 0.038 = 0.25$$

- *Enrichment*: do we have more than random? (right-sided test)

- *Depletion*: do we have fewer than random? (left-sided test)



$P(X = 4)$

```
> dhyper(4, 13, 10, 5)
[1] 0.2124877
```

$P(X > 3)$

```
> 1 - phyper(3, 13, 10, 5)
[1] 0.2507355
```

Tea tasting by Muriel Bristol

Milk first

Tea first

Tea tasting test

- Null hypothesis: Ms Bristol has no ability to tell the difference

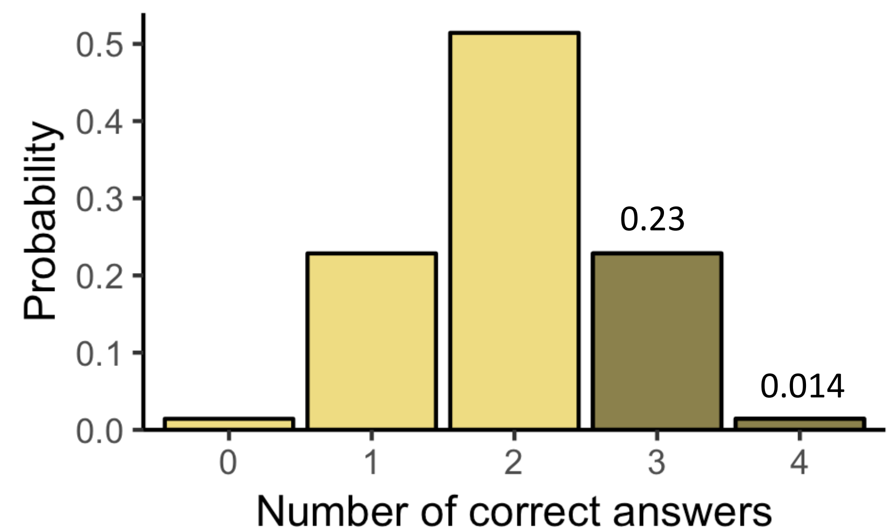
- One-sided probability of getting this or more extreme result by chance is

  $$P(X \geq 3) = 0.229 + 0.014 \approx 0.24$$

- The null hypothesis cannot be rejected

- Insufficient data!

	Tea first	Milk first	Total
Ms Bristol says “tea first”	3	1	4
Ms Bristol says “milk first”	1	3	4
Total	4	4	8



Contingency table

Columns

Rows

	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Total
Success	*a*	*b*	*a* + *b*
Failure	*c*	*d*	*c* + *d*
Total	*a* + *c*	*b* + *d*	*a*+*b*+*c*+*d*

2x2 contingency table

Contingency = association

Interpretation 1: test of independence

- H_0: variables are independent
- Ms Bristol's answers do not depend on whether she got milk or tea first

Tea served	T	T	M	M	T	M	T	M	T	T	M	M
Ms. Bristol	T	M	M	T	T	T	T	T	T	M	T	T

4	5
2	1

$p = 0.58$

Tea served	T	T	M	M	T	M	M	M	T	T	M	M
Ms. Bristol	T	T	M	T	T	M	T	M	T	T	M	M

5	2
0	5

$p = 0.03$

Interpretation 2: test of proportion

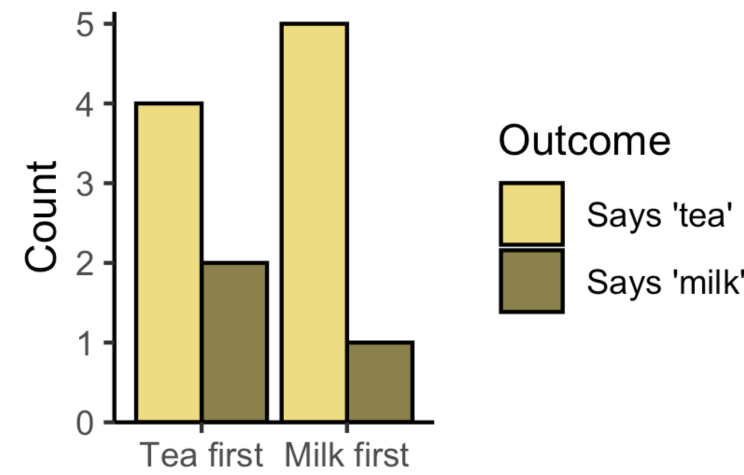
- H_0: proportions are the same in each column
- H_0: proportions are the same in each row

Tea served	T	T	M	M	T	M	T	M	T	T	M	M
Ms. Bristol	T	M	M	T	T	T	T	T	T	M	T	T

4	5
2	1

4:2
5:1

$p = 0.58$

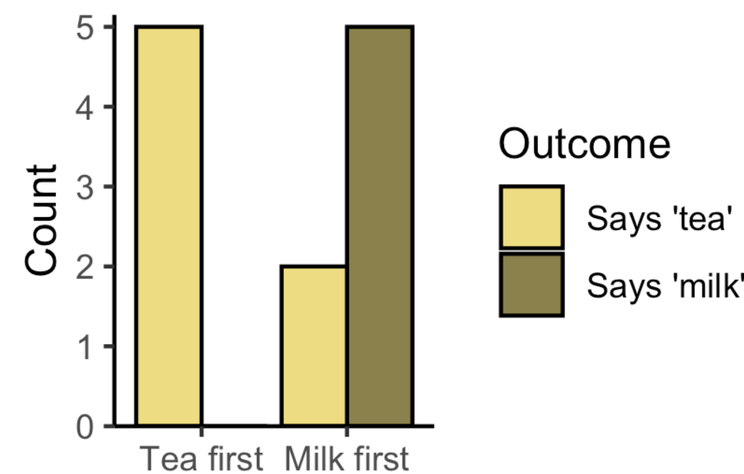


Tea served	T	T	M	M	T	M	M	M	T	T	M	M
Ms. Bristol	T	T	M	T	T	M	T	M	T	T	M	M

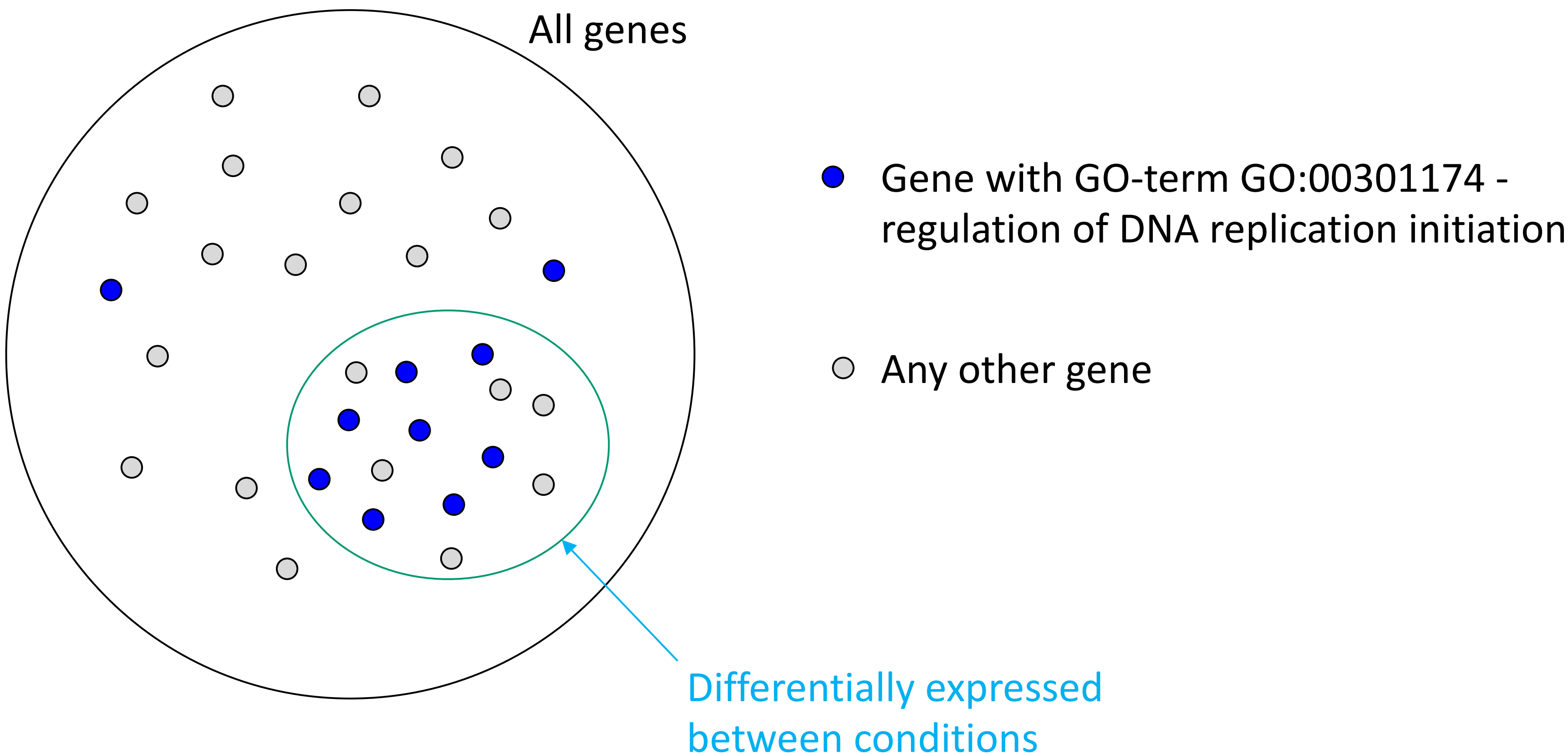
5	2
0	5

5:0
2:5

$p = 0.03$



Enrichment analysis



Is our GO-term more frequent in the selection than random?

Is GO-term enriched?

Enrichment example

- There are 668 genes in an experiment
- 7 of them are annotated with GO:00301174
- 44 genes are differentially expressed
- 6 of them have this GO term

- Is it significantly enriched?

$$P(X \geq 6) \approx 4{\times}10^{-7}$$

	DE	Not DE	Total
With GO-term	6	1	7
Without GO-term	38	623	661
Total	44	624	668

$$P(X > 5)$$

```
> 1 - phyper(5, 7, 661, 44)
[1] 3.893907e-07
```

Absolute numbers are important

- A newspaper reports clinical tests on a new cancer drug
- 15% of patients treated with drug A survived
- 30% of patients treated with drug B survived
- So, drug B is 100% better than drug A!

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- Actual numbers: 20 and 10 patients
- $p = 0.37$ (two-sided test)

	Drug A	Drug B	Total
Alive	3	3	6
Dead	17	7	24
Total	20	10	30

p = 0.37

Absolute numbers are important

- A newspaper reports clinical tests on a new cancer drug
- 15% of patients treated with drug A survived
- 30% of patients treated with drug B survived
- So, drug B is 100% better than drug A!
- Actual numbers: 20 and 10 patients
- $p = 0.37$

	Drug A	Drug B	Total
Alive	3	3	6
Dead	17	7	24
Total	20	10	30

p = 0.37

- If we had 80 and 100 patients and the same proportions
- $p = 0.02$

	Drug A	Drug B	Total
Alive	12	30	42
Dead	68	70	138
Total	80	100	180

p = 0.02

- Moral 1: don’t trust newspapers
- Moral 2: estimate the required size of your sample before you do your experiment

Never, ever use percentages in Fisher's test!

	Alive	Dead	Total
Drug A	15%	85%	
Drug B	30%	70%	
Total			

Fisher's exact test: summary

Input	2×2 contingency table (larger tables possible) typically columns = treatments, rows = outcomes table contains counts counts of subjects falling into categories
Usage	Examine if there is an association (contingency) between two variables; whether the proportions in one variable depend on the proportions in the other variable; if there is enrichment
Null hypothesis	The proportions in one variable do not depend on the proportions in the other variable
Comments	Exact test – count all possible combinations Use when you have small numbers For large numbers (hundreds) use chi-square test Carefully chose between one- and two-sided test

How to do it in R?

```
# Tea tasting
> fisher.test(rbind(c(3, 1), c(1, 3)), alternative="greater")

         Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

data:  rbind(c(3, 1), c(1, 3))
p-value = 0.2429
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is greater than 1
95 percent confidence interval:
 0.3135693       Inf
sample estimates:
odds ratio
  6.408309
```

```
> rbind(c(3, 1), c(1, 3))
     [,1] [,2]
[1,]    3    1
[2,]    1    3
```

```
# GO enrichment
> fisher.test(rbind(c(6, 1), c(38, 623)), alternative="greater")

         Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

data:  rbind(c(6, 1), c(38, 623))
p-value = 3.894e-07
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is greater than 1
95 percent confidence interval:
 14.29724      Inf
sample estimates:
odds ratio
  96.29591
```

Slides available at
https://dag.compbio.dundee.ac.uk/training/Statistics_lectures.html