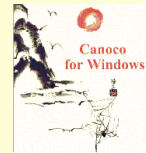


Modern ecology includes statistics

- Overkill or essential?



PC-ORD for Windows



EstimateSWin750
4th Dimension
4D

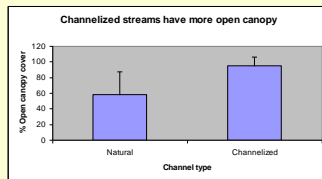
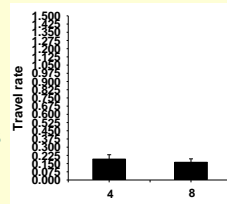


The SAS System for
Windows V8



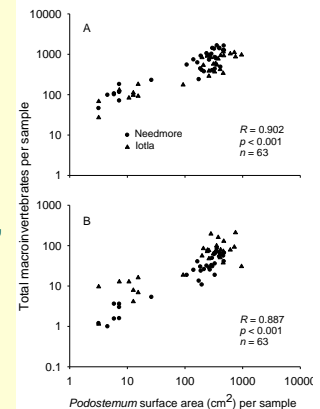
Today's lab

- Good graphical techniques
- Basic statistics
- A brief write-up



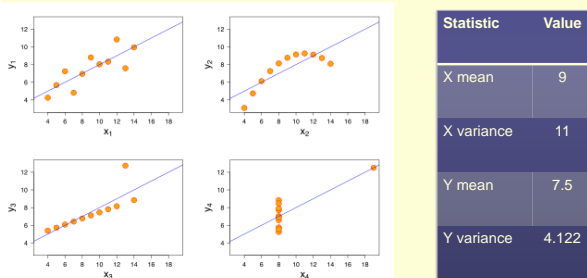
Three points to remember...

- First, **look** at the data!
- Second, see if you can apply the 'O test'
- Third, **results come first**, statistics second



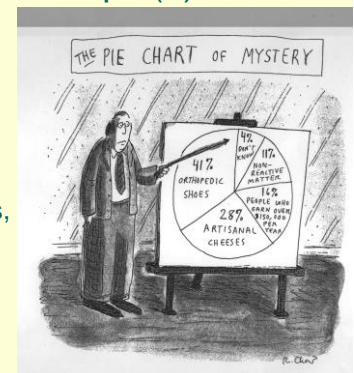
Anscombe's quartet

- How statistics can unintentionally lie to you
- Four very different datasets, all with the same basic statistics



Graphical tips (1)

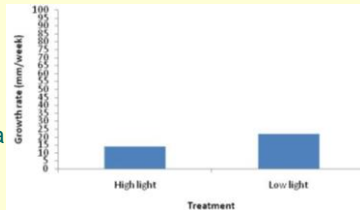
- Above all else, **show the data**
- Avoid distortion--don't lie with numbers
- For *written* reports, use a figure caption; for *oral* reports, use a descriptive title



Thanks to Chris Hill, Edward Tufte, and Jack Webster

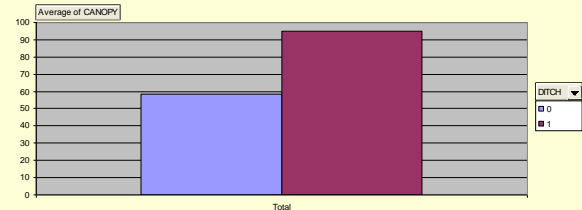
Graphical tips (2)

- Use space efficiently
- Draw axes to fit data
- Use 5 to 10 tick marks on the axes (fewer can sometimes be ok)
- Make sure the data points are big enough



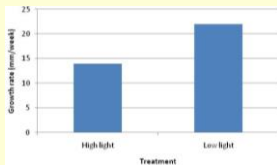
Graphical tips (3)

- Label axes clearly and legibly (units!)
- Use labels on the graph itself, rather than putting a legend in the margin

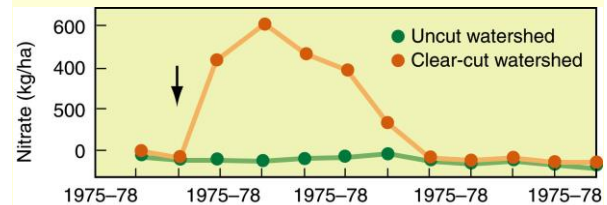


Graphical tips (4)

- Edward Tufte's tips
 - Maximize the data-ink ratio
 - Erase non-data ink
 - Erase redundant data ink
 - Revise and edit



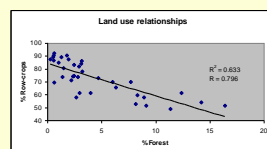
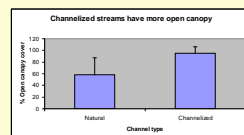
A test!



Now, some stats...

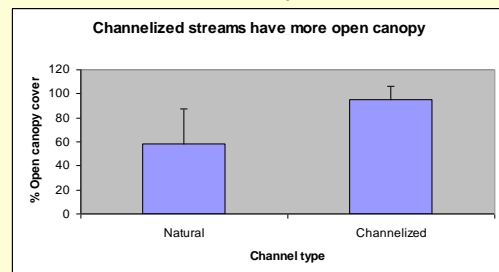
- Descriptive statistics
- Comparing groups
- Examining relationships

ANOVA: Single Factor					
SUMMARY	Count	Sum	Average	Varianca	
Groups	23	1343.6	58.41739	820.697	
Total	13	1234.6	94.96923	136.6997	
ANOVA					
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value
Between Groups	11105.87	1	11105.87	19.17416	0.000108
Within Groups	15633.15	34	459.8015		
Total	26739.02	35			



Descriptive statistics

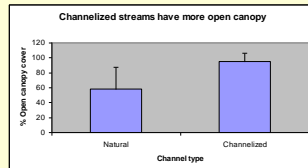
- Mean or average: central tendency
- Standard deviation: dispersion about a mean



Comparing groups

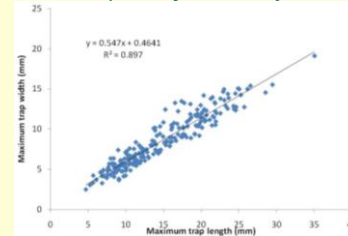
- Comparing the means of two groups: **t-test**
- Comparing the means of more than two groups: analysis of variance (**ANOVA**)
- Recall, complete analysis = graphs AND stats...
 - Comparing groups: **bar charts** (= column charts in Excel)

Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance		
0	25	1343.6	53.744	825.607		
1	35	1724.9	49.283	136.4997		
ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	11105.37	1	11105.37	18.17416	0.000108	4.19815
Within Groups	19693.15	34	579.2103			
Total	30798.52	35				



Examining relationships

- 'Cause-effect' type of relationship between two variables: **regression**
 - Also: prediction, explaining variation
- Recall, complete analysis = graphs AND stats...
 - Relationships: **x-y scatter plots**

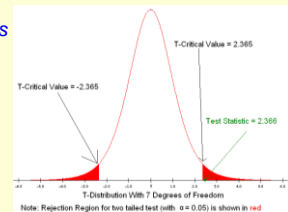


Significance

- In science, you only use the word '**significant**' if you have run statistical tests to see if your results are different than what would be expected from chance
- So how do you determine significance from statistical output?
 - Usually through the use of 1 or 2 pieces of statistical information:
 - Calculated and critical test statistics
 - P-values

Interpreting significance: test statistics

- A result is significant if:
 - The **calculated test statistic is greater than the critical (or theoretical) test statistic**
 - Example:
 - $T_{\text{calc}} = 5.34$, $T_{\text{crit}} = 1.99$;
Because $T_{\text{calc}} > T_{\text{crit}}$, there is a significant difference between the two means
- The values for the critical test statistics depend on:
 - the test being run,
 - the sample size,
 - and the probability level being used (usually $\alpha = 0.05$)



<http://www.algebra.com/algebra/homework/Probability-and-statistics/Probability-and-statistics.faq.question.588398.html>

Interpreting significance: P-values

- A result is significant if:
 - The **computer-calculated P-value is less than a pre-defined α -value (usually 0.05)**
 - Example:
 - P-value = 0.01; Because the P-value < 0.05, then there is a significant relationship between the two sets of data
- P-values, or probability values, describe the probability that observed or more extreme differences would be found if the *null hypothesis* is true
- The pre-defined α -value can vary depending on the needs of the researcher, but scientists often settle on 0.05 (i.e., reaching the wrong conclusion 5% of the time assuming the null hypothesis is true) as being an acceptable chance of error

Easier to observe significance if...

- You have a well-designed study
- You have many replicates
- You have *little variability within* the treatments or factors in your study
- You have large differences between the variables of interest (i.e., *more variability between* the treatments or factors)