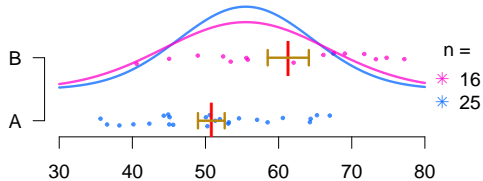


# Surrounding the two-sample $t$ -test



All examples are fictitious. All data are simulated and the graphics were created with the statistical program package R.

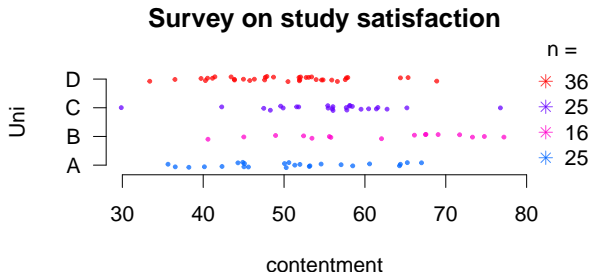
The materials are protected by copyright and are only provided for personal use for studies at TU Vienna. Further use is not permitted. In particular, it is not permitted to distribute the materials or make them publicly available (e.g. in social networks, on learning platforms, etc.).

Sämtliche Beispiele sind frei erfunden. Alle Daten sind simuliert und die Grafiken wurden mit statistischen Programmpaket R erstellt.

Die Materialien sind urheberrechtlich geschützt und dürfen ausschließlich für den Eigengebrauch im Rahmen des Studiums an der TU Wien genutzt werden. Eine weitere Nutzung ist nicht gestattet. Insbesondere ist es nicht gestattet, die Materialien zu verbreiten oder öffentlich zugänglich zu machen (etwa im Rahmen sozialer Netzwerke, Lernplattformen etc.).

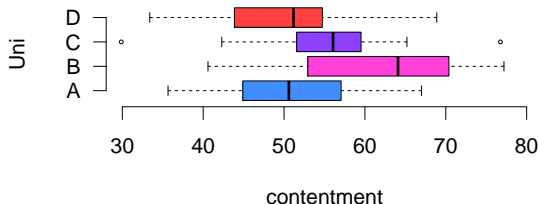
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At four universities students of a certain study program were interviewed regarding the level of their satisfaction with the study situation. An extensive survey had to be filled out. Subsequently, for every respondent a global value of 'contentment' was evaluated.



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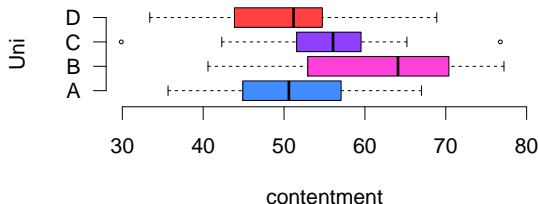


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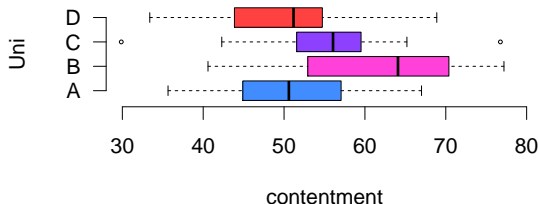


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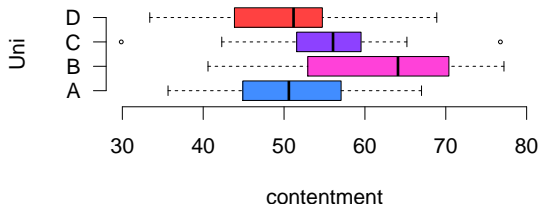


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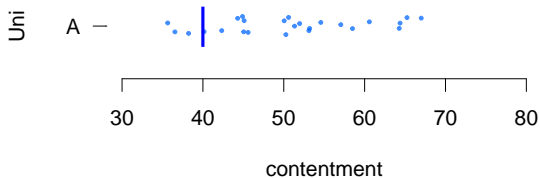
Question?

- The median value of contentment of the respondents from Uni A was about the same as the median of which Uni? *D*
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# Reminder: One-sample situation

n =

\* 25



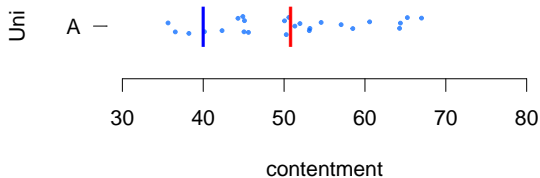
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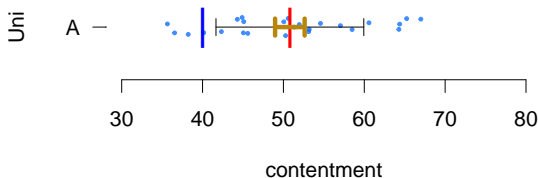


- $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$
- Mean  $\bar{x}$  far away from  $\mu_0$ ?

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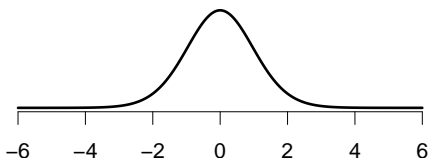
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- $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$
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- Answer: Yes! Many standard errors  $sem = s / \sqrt{n}$  away (approx.  $6 \cdot sem$ )

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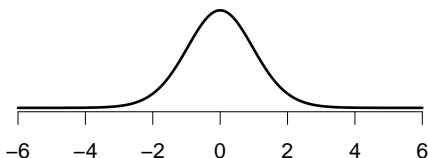
Under  $H_0$ :  $T \sim t(24)$



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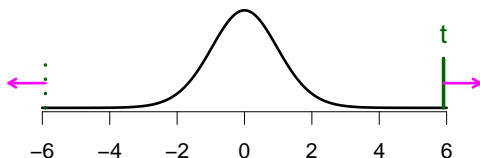
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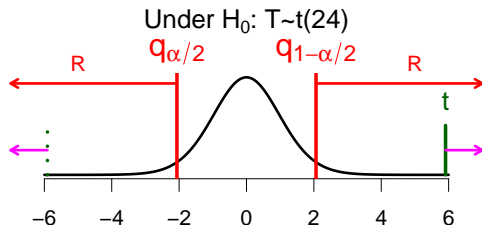
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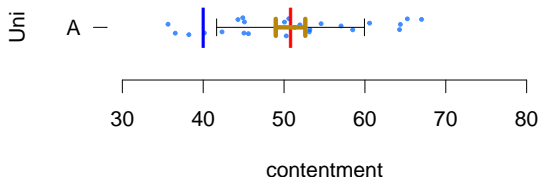
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- Judge the evaluated data  $t = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{sem}$  according to the  $t(n-1)$ -distribution
- Here:  $p < \alpha = 5\%$  resp.  $t \in R$ , thus reject  $H_0$  on the  $\alpha$  level

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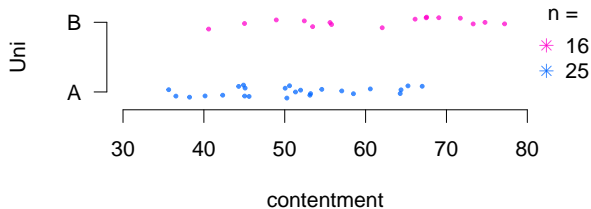


Message:

We judge the discrepancy of  $\bar{x}$  and  $\mu_0$  in the units 'standard error'

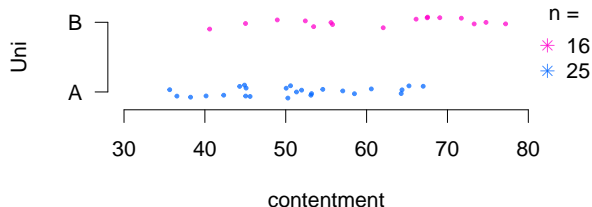
$$sem = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$$

# Today: Two-sample situation



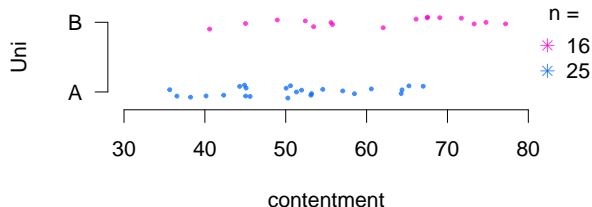


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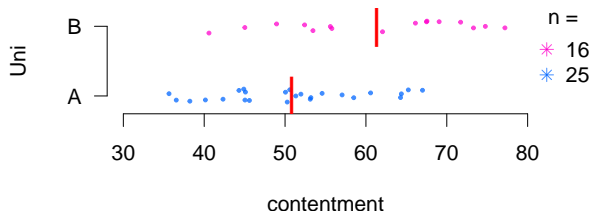
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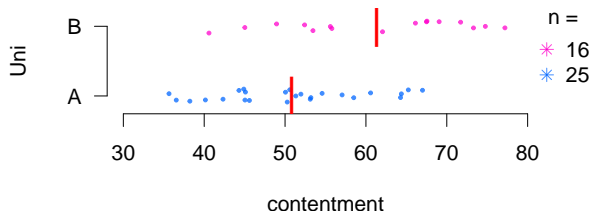
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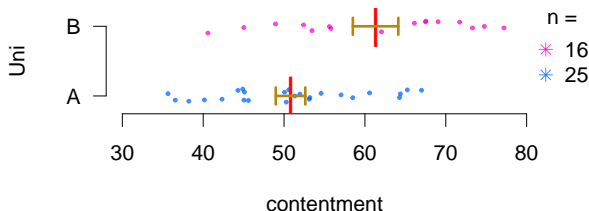
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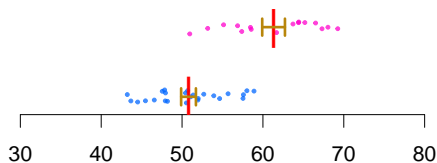


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- Can this **discrepancy** observed in the data be easily explained by chance, if there is actually **no difference** between the Unis (in the 'populations' of all students of the program)?
- Measure **discrepancy** through the distance of means  $\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{x}$
- Question: Is this discrepancy large? Respectively, are the means far apart?
- Answer: This depends on the standard errors  $sem_y$  and  $sem_x$

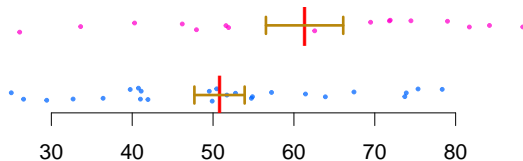
$sem_y$  is the standard error of  $\bar{y}$ , i.e., based on the data  $(y_j)_j$  only, and analogously  $sem_x$  is based on the  $(x_i)_i$ .

# Standard errors!

Discrepancy huge



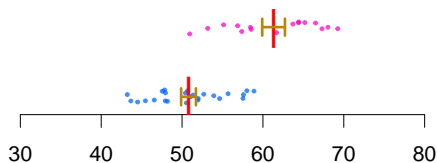
Discrepancy smaller



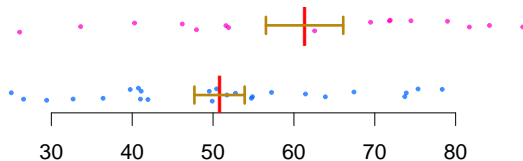
(while the means in the upper and lower graphic coincide)

# Standard errors!

Discrepancy huge



Discrepancy smaller



(while the means in the upper and lower graphic coincide)

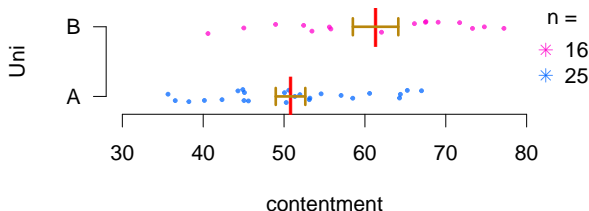
Thus: **discrepancy** large if the **standard errors** small

# Two-sample $t$ -statistic

The two-sample  $t$ -statistic

$$t = \frac{\bar{y} - \bar{x}}{\sqrt{sem_y^2 + sem_x^2}}$$

measures the **discrepancy** of the means in relation to their **standard errors**



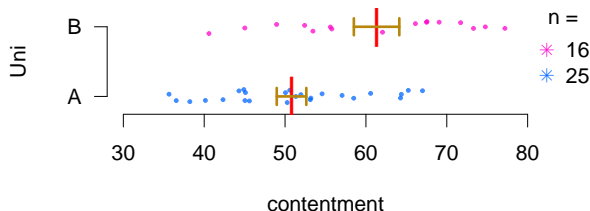


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Here:  $t \approx 3.1$

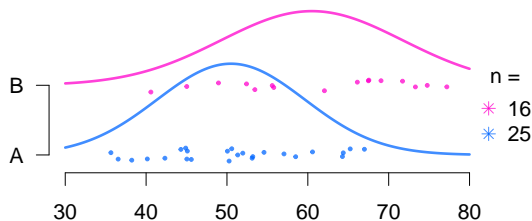
→ Need a model, in order to explicitly judge the value of  $t$

# Model

Model: Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with

$X_i \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n_1$  and

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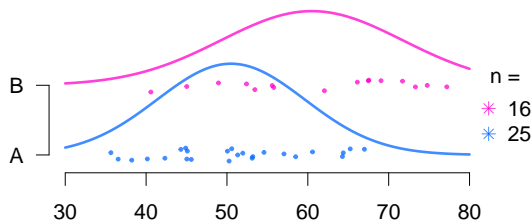


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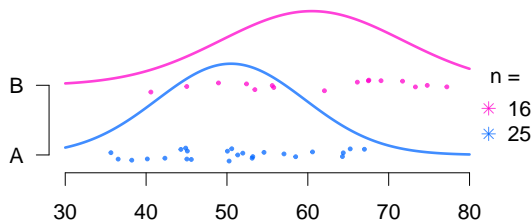
- Independence

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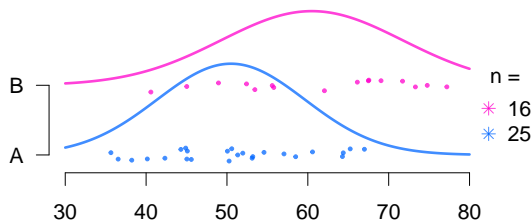
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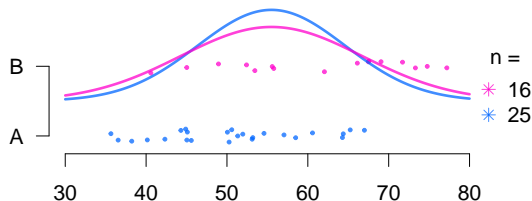
- Independence
- Normal distribution
- Each group has their own (unknown) parameters  
in particular there is a possible 'shift'

# Null hypothesis

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with

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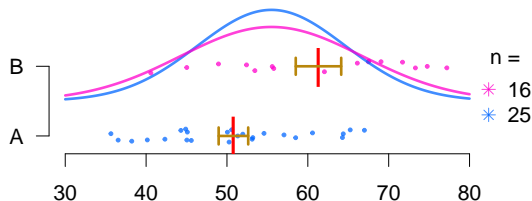
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- Null hypothesis:  $H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2$   
i.e., distributions are not shifted against each other, 'no difference'
- In the model, how unlikely is the observed **discrepancy**, resp.  $t \approx 3.1$ , if  $H_0$  holds true, and hence there is no shift?

# Distribution of the $t$ -statistic

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with

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Under  $H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2$  it holds (approx), that

$$T := \frac{\bar{Y} - \bar{X}}{\sqrt{SEM_y^2 + SEM_x^2}} \sim t(\nu)$$

- $t(\nu)$  is the  $t$ -distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom



# Distribution of the $t$ -statistic

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- $t(\nu)$  is the  $t$ -distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom
- $\nu$  depends on the sample sizes  $n_1$  und  $n_2$ , as well as on the standard errors  $SEM_x$  and  $SEM_y \rightarrow$  sufficient if R knows  $\nu$

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For completeness: it is

$$\nu = \frac{(\frac{\sigma_y^2}{n_2} + \frac{\sigma_x^2}{n_1})^2}{\frac{(\sigma_y^2/n_2)^2}{n_2-1} + \frac{(\sigma_x^2/n_1)^2}{n_1-1}}$$

while in practice the unknown  $\sigma_2^2$  and  $\sigma_1^2$  are estimated using the empirical variances  $s_y^2$  and  $s_x^2$ . (Boring... Please do not remember ...)

# Distribution of the $t$ -statistic

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with

$X_i \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n_1$  and

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- $\nu$  depends on the sample sizes  $n_1$  und  $n_2$ , as well as on the standard errors  $SEM_x$  and  $SEM_y \rightarrow$  sufficient if R knows  $\nu$
- Why is this distribution plausible?
  - Due to independence, standardization of the difference  $\bar{Y} - \bar{X}$  yields
$$\frac{(\bar{Y} - \bar{X}) - (\mu_2 - \mu_1)}{\sqrt{\sigma_2^2/n_2 + \sigma_1^2/n_1}} \sim N(0, 1)$$

# Distribution of the $t$ -statistic

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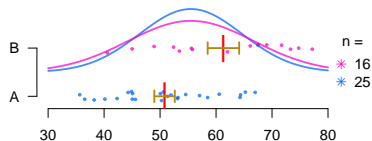
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  - The estimation of  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$  again yields heavier tails as in  $N(0, 1)$
- Rough approximation: If  $H_0$  holds true, then  $|t| \approx 1$  is a typical value, while  $|t| \gtrapprox 3$  barely happens (as  $T$  is approx  $N(0, 1)$  distributed)

# Judgement of the discrepancy

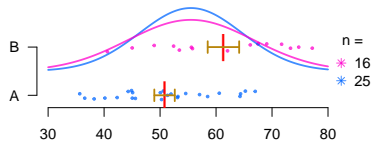
How unlikely is the observed **discrepancy**, resp.  $t \approx 3.1$ , if  $H_0$  holds true, i.e., if there is no difference in the population means?



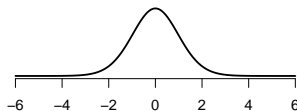
'Business as usual'

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Under  $H_0$ :  $T \sim t(27.3)$



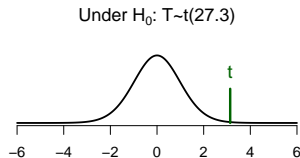
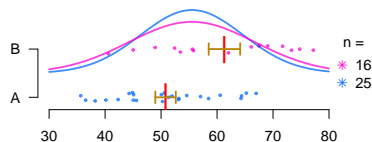
'Business as usual'

- Under  $H_0 : \mu_x = \mu_y$  it is  $T \sim t(27.3)$



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How unlikely is the observed **discrepancy**, resp.  $t \approx 3.1$ , if  $H_0$  holds true, i.e., if there is no difference in the population means?

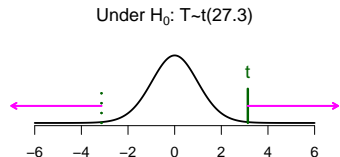
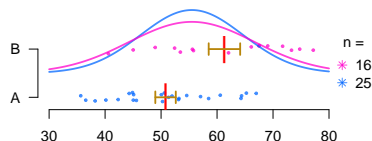


'Business as usual'

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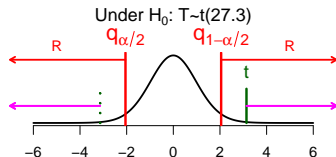
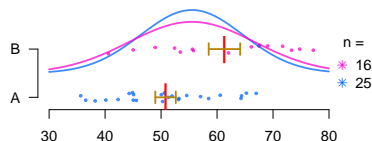


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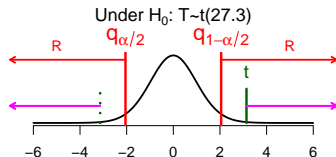
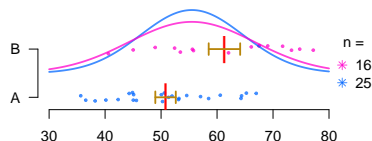


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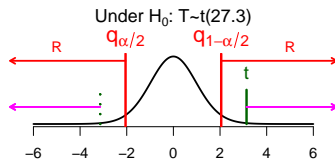
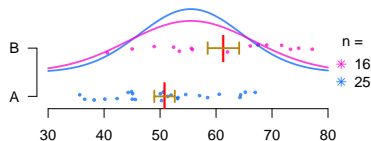
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- For  $\alpha = 5\%$  (previously set) it is  $t \in R$  ( $\Leftrightarrow p \leq \alpha$ ), i.e., reject  $H_0$  on the 5%-level
- Interpretation: A discrepancy as extreme as observed in the data appears only in about 4 of 1000 cases, if there is no difference between the Unis. In this sense the data speak against the null hypothesis.

# Remark

Uni B:  $y_1, \dots, y_{n_2}$

Uni A:  $x_1, \dots, x_{n_1}$

$$t = \frac{\bar{y} - \bar{x}}{\sqrt{sem_y^2 + sem_x^2}}$$



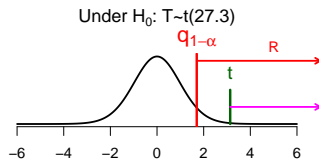
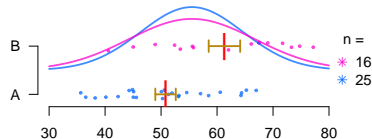
- We performed a two-sided test (null hypothesis:  $H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2$ )  
Alternative  $H_A : \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$   
Extreme values of  $t$  speak against  $H_0$  (here:  $H_0$  rejected)

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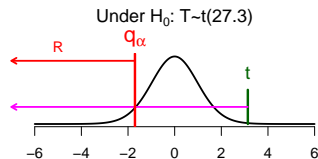
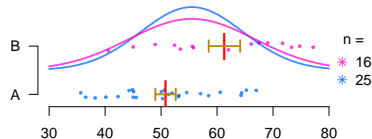
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Small values of  $t$  speak against  $H_0$  (here:  $H_0$  not rejected)

## $t$ -test in R (according to 'Welch')

```
# Enter data
x <- c(...)
y <- c(...)
# Perform t-test
t.test(y,x,...)
# Output
```

Welch Two Sample  $t$ -test

data: y and x

$t = 3.1365$ ,  $df = 27.311$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.004067$

alternative hypothesis:

true difference in means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval:

3.641362 17.396356

sample estimates:

mean of x mean of y

61.31892 50.80006

- The  $t$ -test presented is also known as the *Welch*-test
- The degrees of freedom 27.3 can be read from here



# Generalization

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with

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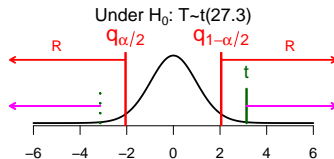
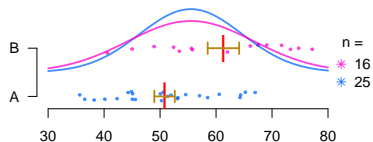
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Analogous procedure, the only difference is that  $d_0$  has to be subtracted in the numerator of  $T$  (Statistic has the same structure as in the one-sample case:

$$T = [\spadesuit - \clubsuit] / \heartsuit)$$

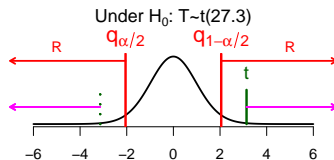
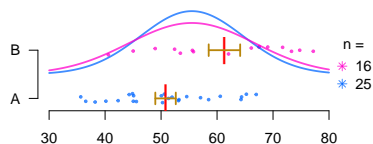
# Example

Under  $H_0 : d = 0$  ( $\Leftrightarrow \mu_1 = \mu_2$ )  $\rightarrow$  reject  $H_0$

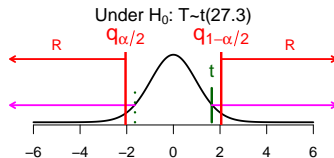
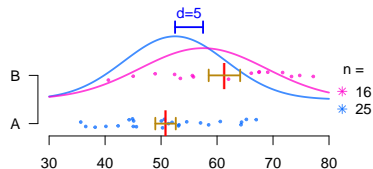


# Example

Under  $H_0 : d = 0$  ( $\Leftrightarrow \mu_1 = \mu_2$ )  $\rightarrow$  reject  $H_0$



Under  $H_0 : d = 5$  ( $\Leftrightarrow \mu_2 = \mu_1 + 5$ )  $\rightarrow$  do not reject  $H_0$





# $t$ -test in R

```
# Enter data
x <- c(...)
y <- c(...)
# perform t-test
t.test(y,x,mu=5,...)
# Output
```

Welch Two Sample  $t$ -test

data: y and x

$t = 1.6456$ ,  $df = 27.311$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.1113$

alternative hypothesis:

true difference in means is not equal to 5

95 percent confidence interval:

3.641362 17.396356

sample estimates:

mean of x mean of y

61.31892 50.80006

- Where does the confidence interval come from?

# Two-sample $t$ -test and confidence interval

- Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with  
 $X_i \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n_1$       and  
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- $d = \mu_2 - \mu_1$
- Let  $q_{1-\alpha/2}$  be the  $(1 - \alpha/2)$ -quantile of the  $t(\nu)$ -distribution (R knows  $\nu$ )

Under  $H_0 : d = d_0$  it holds (approx)

$$T := \frac{(\bar{Y} - \bar{X}) - d_0}{\sqrt{SEM_y^2 + SEM_x^2}} \sim t(\nu)$$

# Two-sample $t$ -test and confidence interval

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and equivalently: The confidence interval

$$I := \left( (\bar{Y} - \bar{X}) - q_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \sqrt{SEM_y^2 + SEM_x^2}, (\bar{Y} - \bar{X}) + q_{1-\alpha/2} \cdot \sqrt{SEM_y^2 + SEM_x^2} \right)$$

overlaps the parameter  $d_0$  with probability (approx)  $1 - \alpha$

- C.I. has 'structure' as in the one-sample case:  $I = (\spadesuit - q \cdot \clubsuit, \spadesuit + q \cdot \clubsuit)$

# Two-sample $t$ -test and confidence interval

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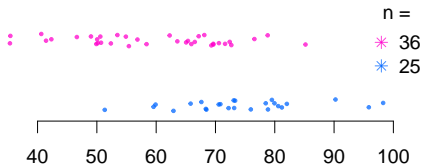
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- Derivation analogously:  $\alpha = \mathbb{P}_{H_0}(T \in R) = \dots = \mathbb{P}_{H_0}(I \not\ni d_0)$
- For  $n_1, n_2$  large: possibly use normal approximation, i.e., replace  $t(\nu)$  with  $N(0, 1)$ . In this case the normality assumption of the RVs can be dropped

# Question

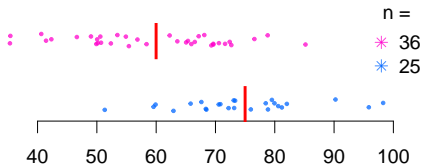
Can  $H_0 : \mu_2 = \mu_1$  be rejected on the 5%-level?



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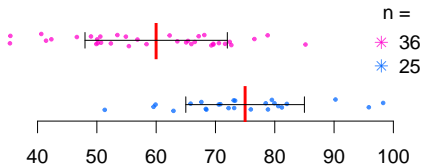


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- $\bar{x} \approx 75$  and  $\bar{y} \approx 60$  (balances in equilibrium)

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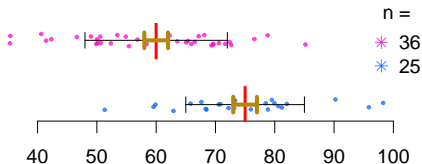
Here  $t$ -test naively:

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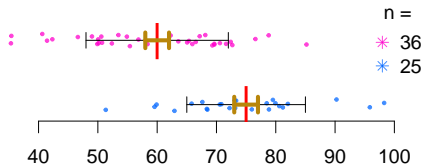


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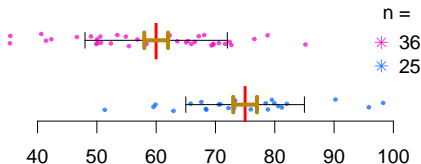
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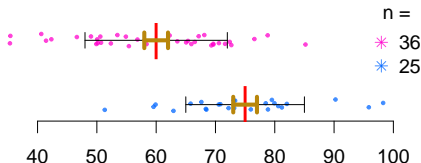
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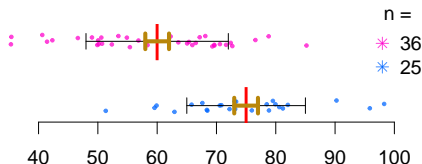
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- C.I.  $\approx (-15 - 2 \cdot 3, -15 + 2 \cdot 3) = (-21, -9)$  does not overlap  $d = 0$

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Again: Clear, only naive estimations. But  $t \approx -5$  is extreme, regardless of our rough estimation. What does R say?

# $t$ -test in R

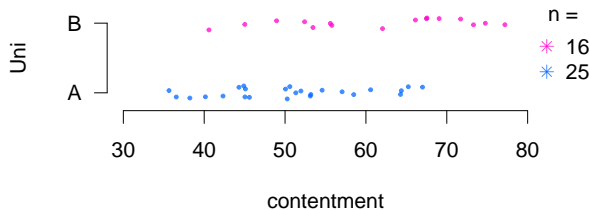
```
# Enter data
x <- c(...)
y <- c(...)
# Perform t-Test
t.test(y,x,...)
# Output

Welch Two Sample t-test

data:  y and x
t = -4.9829, df = 56.052, p-value = 6.358e-06
alternative hypothesis:
true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 -21.097942  -8.998583
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
 59.27828  74.32654
```

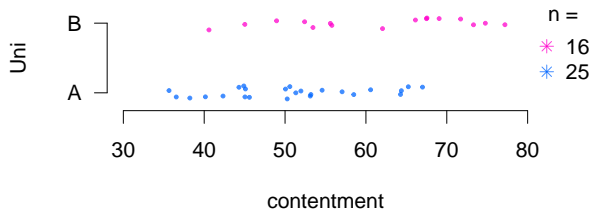
Our naive estimations were very precise (absurd how well it fits). But again: Even if the estimations in the picture were biased and we had obtained e.g.,  $t \approx -4$ , then still this would have been an extreme value!

# Welch vs. Student



Model 'Welch': Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{n_1}, Y_1, \dots, Y_{n_2}$  be independent RVs with  
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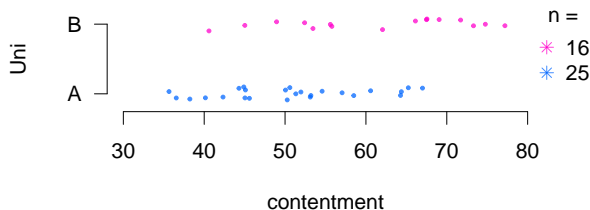
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A different approach, also known as Student's t-test, assumes the variances to be equal in both groups

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In our data, the spread in both groups is similar, so Student's additional assumption is plausible. (In general, Welch's version is applicable to a wider range of data, as it allows for different variances in both groups)

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Under  $H_0 : \mu_1 = \mu_2$  it holds (exactly), that

$$T := \frac{\bar{Y} - \bar{X}}{\sqrt{n_2^{-1} + n_1^{-1}} \cdot S_p} \sim t(n_2 + n_1 - 2)$$

It is  $S_p^2 := \frac{(n_2-1)S_y^2 + (n_1-1)S_x^2}{n_2+n_1-2}$ , which is often called the *pooled empirical variance*

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For a derivation of Student's  $t$ -test see e.g., Messer, M. and Schneider, G. *Statistik: Theorie und Praxis im Dialog*,

## t-test in R (according to 'Student')

```
# Enter data
x <- c(...)
y <- c(...)
# Perform t-test
t.test(y,x,var.equal=TRUE,...)
# Output

      Two Sample t-test

data:  y and x
t = 3.2846, df = 39, p-value = 0.002163
alternative hypothesis:
true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 4.041178 16.996539
sample estimates:
mean of x mean of y
61.31892  50.80006
```

- The argument `var.equal` allows to assume equal variances ('Student')
- The degrees of freedom are  $n_2 + n_1 - 2 = 16 + 25 - 2 = 39$

Thank you!