1-Factor GLM: ChickWeight example

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Introducing the dataset

We will analyse the $\mathtt{ChickWeight}$ dataset, which appears in \mathbf{R} 's memory. We obtain the data with this command:

data("ChickWeight")

Let's look at the first 30 lines of code to get a sense of what the data look like:

ChickWeight[1:30,]

##		weight	Time	Chick	Diet
##	1	42	0	1	1
##	2	51	2	1	1
##	3	59	4	1	1
##	4	64	6	1	1
##	5	76	8	1	1
##	6	93	10	1	1
##	7	106	12	1	1
##	8	125	14	1	1
##	9	149	16	1	1
##	10	171	18	1	1
##	11	199	20	1	1
##	12	205	21	1	1
##	13	40	0	2	1
##	14	49	2	2	1
##	15	58	4	2	1
##	16	72	6	2	1
##	17	84	8	2	1
##	18	103	10	2	1
##	19	122	12	2	1
##	20	138	14	2	1
##	21	162	16	2	1
##	22	187	18	2	1
##	23	209	20	2	1
##	24	215	21	2	1
##	25	43	0	3	1
##	26	39	2	3	1
##	27	55	4	3	1
##	28	67	6	3	1
##	29	84	8	3	1
##	30	99	10	3	1

We see four columns: weight, Time, Chick, Diet.

Stage 1: Determining the appropriate analysis.

Before we begin an analysis, we must consider the experimental design to determine an appropriate approach. The ChickWeight data come from an experiment that examined the effect of four diets (1-4; see column Diet) upon the weight of chicks (see column weight). Examine the columns Time, Chick and Diet. Notice that each chick only experienced one diet, but each chick was also measured over a series of times (Time).

Notice that the experiment only has one general type of experimental manipulation (Diet) with 4 levels (Diets 1 to 4). Also, the measurements are on a continuous scale. These two facts suggest that we could analyse the data with a 1-Factor GLM. However, before we proceed we need to ensure that the data meet two essential assumptions of a 1-Factor GLM:

- Subjects are assigned randomly to treatments;
- Data within treatments (level of Diet, in our case) are independent.

Without knowing more about the experiment, we can't say whether the data meet the assumption of random assignment; we'll assume they were randomly assigned, for the sake of this learning exercise.

However, it is clear that the data do not meet the assumption of independence: individual subjects are measured multiple times within a type of treatment (i.e., within a level of Diet). This means that we cannot analyze the entire dataset with a 1-Factor GLM; instead, we'd use an approach like a mixed effects model. However, we've not yet learned mixed effects models. Therefore, to obtain a dataset appropriate for 1-Factor GLM, we will extract data for the last timepoint for each chick, which occurs at Time 21:

ch21 <- ChickWeight[which(ChickWeight\$Time == 21),]</pre>

Now, let's look at the whole dataset, which we've renamed ch21 (for ChickWeight at time 21): ch21

##		weight	Time	Chick	Diet
##	12	205	21	1	1
##	24	215	21	2	1
##	36	202	21	3	1
##	48	157	21	4	1
##	60	223	21	5	1
##	72	157	21	6	1
##	84	305	21	7	1
##	107	98	21	9	1
##	119	124	21	10	1
##	131	175	21	11	1
##	143	205	21	12	1
##	155	96	21	13	1
##	167	266	21	14	1
##	194	142	21	17	1
##	208	157	21	19	1
##	220	117	21	20	1
##	232	331	21	21	2
##	244	167	21	22	2
##	256	175	21	23	2
##	268	74	21	24	2
##	280	265	21	25	2
##	292	251	21	26	2
##	304	192	21	27	2
##	316	233	21	28	2
##	328	309	21	29	2
##	340	150	21	30	2
##	352	256	21	31	3

##	364	305	21	32	3
##	376	147	21	33	3
##	388	341	21	34	3
##	400	373	21	35	3
##	412	220	21	36	3
##	424	178	21	37	3
##	436	290	21	38	3
##	448	272	21	39	3
##	460	321	21	40	3
##	472	204	21	41	4
##	484	281	21	42	4
##	496	200	21	43	4
##	518	196	21	45	4
##	530	238	21	46	4
##	542	205	21	47	4
##	554	322	21	48	4
##	566	237	21	49	4
##	578	264	21	50	4

Notice that now the data are all independent, so far as we can tell (i.e., given that we don't know all details for this experiment). Now, our data are appropriate for a 1-Factor GLM and we can proceed.

Stage 2: Plot the data

It is important to begin an analysis by plotting your data. We do this with several goals in mind:

- Obtain a preliminary sense of whether the data will meet the assumption of normally distributed residuals;
- Obtain a preliminary sense of whether the data will meet the assumption of equal variance;
- Check for outliers;
- Make predictions with respect to differences between groups.

We will check each of these predictions at a later stage in our analysis, below. You might ask yourself, "If we're going to check these predictions later, why make the predictions in the first place?" Excellent question! We make these predictions early on as a 'validation' for results we obtain, below. If results we obtain later do not match our predictions then either: 1) our predictions were wrong, or 2) we made a mistake in our analysis. Therefore, if our predictions to not match our later findings, it behoves us to determine why.

We have a big decision to make before plotting the data: which data will go on the x-axis and y-axis? Traditionally, the x-axis displays the variable that we hypothesize to cause a change in the variable plotted along the y-axis. The ChickWeight experiment presumably was conducted to determine whether Diet affects weight (this was the hypothesis being tested). Therefore, we would plot Diet along the x-axis and weight along the y-axis. As another way of saying this, we refer to weight as the **dependent** variable because we hypothesize that weight *depends on* Diet. We will use this terminology a lot, so it is important to get used to it.

To plot weight as a dependent (y-) variable and Diet as the independent (x-) variable in a boxplot, we use this command: boxplot(weight ~ Diet, data=ch21). When we call this command, we're telling **R** to obtain the data found in the column weight of the dataframe, ch21, and use those data for the y-axis; likewise for obtaining data in the column Diet in ch21 for the x-axis.

Here is code to plot the boxplot as well as individual values:



What do we see? Let's assess our 4 criteria, above:

- Notice that the boxplots are roughly symmetrical around the median (dark, horizontal line); this implies that we expect the data will be (at least roughly) normally distributed. Note that this, casual, check of normality is not sufficient to be sure our data meet assumptions: we still need to check our assumptions, below.
- Notice that the spread of the data is generally similar among the levels of **Diet**; we predict that the assumption of equal variance will be met. If we find any evidence of unequal variance, we predict that it will arise from **Diet** 4, for which the data are slightly less variable (but they still look fine). Again, we must still perform a proper test of assumptions (i.e., examine residuals) to be certain.
- We see no evidence for outliers.
- We will predict differences between Diet 1 vs., Diet 2, 3 and 4. Based on this plot, I'd guess the the mean for Diet 1 equal 175. I'd similarly guess that the mean values for Diet 2, 3 and 4 equal 210, 275, and 250, respectively. Therefore, I would predict that the difference between Diets 1 & 2 equals 210 175 = 35, 1 & 3 equals 275 175 = 100, and 1 & 4 equals 250 175 = 75. Note that the biggest difference lies between Diet types 1 and 3; therefore, if we find evidence for a difference among levels of Diet, we expect it to occur here.

With these predictions in mind, we'll proceed with our analysis.

Stage 3: Formulating a model, checking assumptions, and checking overall result

We'll analyze the data with a 1-Factor GLM by implementing the function, lm(). We use lm() in the same way as we used boxplot(): we specify our **dependent** variable, then add a 'tilda' (i.e., ~), then we specify the **independent** variable, and specify where **R** can find these variables (i.e., data = ch21).

One important note before we proceed. Recent versions of **R** require that we tell a function when we want it to use a variable as a 'factor'. In our example, we want the information in the column, Diet to be considered as 4 *categories*, **not** as 4 *'numbers'*. To ensure that the lm() function correctly interprets the content of the column, Diet, (i.e., to treat it as a factor) we place the column name in the function, factor(), which converts the object passed to it to a factor. Note that, with recent versions of **R**, we should do this even if the data in the column we wish to treat as a factor are not numeric (e.g., even if the data contain letters of the alphabet).

Here's our model:

ch21.lm <- lm(weight ~ factor(Diet), data=ch21)

Notice that I saved the output in an object I called ch21.lm. I like this nomenclature because it helps me remember where I have saved various output, and this helps keep me organized. In my choice of the name, ch21.lm, the ch21 refers to the dataset, and .lm indicates that this object contains the output from the lm() function. Please adopt this approach to keeping track of your work if you think it is helpful; if you find another way that works better for you then please use it! The important thing is to try to stay organized.

Our first task is to check the assumptions. Recall that the assumptions for 1-Factor GLM include:

- Random allocation to treatments;
- Independence within treatment-levels;
- Equal variance;
- Normally distributed residuals.

Based on our discussion, earlier, we're happy with the first two assumptions. We check the latter two by visualizing the residuals. We do this with the plot() function, where we plot the output from our model:





Fitted values Im(weight ~ factor(Diet))



Fitted values Im(weight ~ factor(Diet))



We notice:

- The first plot displays the Residuals (y-axis) vs. the Fitted values. This plot allows us to check the assumption of equal variance. We see four columns of residuals, which correspond to residuals from the four levels of Diet; the placement of the residuals along the x-axis corresponds to the mean value of the treatment from which they came. Notice (1) that the 'spread' of the residuals is very similar among the four treatments; the residuals are slightly closer together for Diet 4 (at about 240 along the x-axis; notice that this mean is close to our prediction from the boxplot), but this is not a worry. Also, (2) the red line is relatively horizontal. Both observations suggest that the data meet the assumption of equal variance.
- The second plot (a 'qq plot') allows us to test the assumption of normally distributed residuals. Here, **the points fall beautifully along the dotted line**. This implies that the residuals are normally distributed.
- The third plot presents *Standardized* residuals along the y-axis, and Fitted values along the x-axis. Like the first plot, this one allows us to test the assumption of equal variance. However, this plot presents the residuals on a scale that allows us to check this assumption more reliably. Therefore, this plot is considered better than the first to check the assumption of equal variance. Here, we check (1) whether the residuals for each treatment are roughly centered on the red line. This is true for 3 of the 4 levels of Diet; the residuals for Diet 4 (at about 240 along the x-axis) are not terribly well centered, but overall this looks OK; (2) whether the red line is horizontal. This red line is relatively horizontal, so we're happy that the data meet the assumption of eaual variance.
- The final plot allows us to check for outliers. We will generally ignore this last plot because we have already checked for outliers in our boxplot, above. This final plot is most useful for other types of GLM, e.g., where we have multiple, continuous independent variables (i.e., what used to be called 'multiple regression'). We will use this plot in future analyses where it is helpful.

Now that we're satisfied our data meet the assumptions we can check our results. We'll examine our results from two perspectives, using the functions, summary() and anova().

Let's start by looking at a summary of the output from lm():

```
summary(ch21.lm)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = weight ~ factor(Diet), data = ch21)
##
## Residuals:
##
        Min
                   1Q
                       Median
                                     ЗQ
                                             Max
  -140.700
             -39.700
                        -1.556
                                 37.250
                                         127.250
##
##
## Coefficients:
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
                   177.75
## (Intercept)
                                16.00
                                       11.113 6.07e-14 ***
## factor(Diet)2
                    36.95
                                25.79
                                        1.433
                                               0.15955
## factor(Diet)3
                    92.55
                                        3.588
                                               0.00088 ***
                                25.79
## factor(Diet)4
                    60.81
                                26.66
                                        2.281
                                               0.02782 *
##
                   0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Signif. codes:
##
## Residual standard error: 63.98 on 41 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.2541, Adjusted R-squared: 0.1995
## F-statistic: 4.655 on 3 and 41 DF, p-value: 0.006858
```

Notice that we obtain lots of output. At the top, we find a summary of our model; just below we find a description of the distribution of residuals; below again, we find a summary of the Coefficients, and at the bottom we find an assortment of information. We'll focus on the output in Coefficients.

Examine the four rows of output in the Coefficients section. We notice that the first row is called, (Intercept), and the second through fourth rows are called, factor(Diet)2, factor(Diet)3, and factor(Diet)4. The latter three rows obviously refer to Diet levels 2, 3 and 4, but what happened for Diet 1? The lm() function selects one level of a factor to act as a *reference*, against which the other levels are compared; this reference is termed the (Intercept). R selects this reference level ((Intercept)) in alpha-numeric order (i.e., it selects that level that comes first either numerically or alphabetically). Therefore, we infer that R has selected Diet 1 as the (Intercept).

Now that we understand that the (Intercept) refers to data from Diet level 1, let's look more closely at the output for this row. First, we see an entry in the column, Estimate: This entry (177.75) equals the mean value (or the 'fitted value') for Diet 1. Notice that it closely matches our guess, above, of 175. (Good guessing!) Next, we see the value, 16.00, in the column Std Error. This value equals the standard error (SE) for the mean presented in the column, Estimate (177.75). In other words, this first row provides the mean and SE for the Diet 1. Next, we see the columns t value and Pr(>|t|). These columns provide a test of whether the value in the Estimate column differs from the value, zero. We see that the p-value is very small. However, this is not interesting in the least: the small p-value implies that we have strong evidence that the mean weight in Diet 1 differs from zero. Given that a chick must have some non-zero mass to exist in our universe, it comes as no surprise that we have strong evidence that the mean weight in Diet 1 differs from zero.

The output in the next three rows differs qualitatively from the output in the first ((Intercept)) row. Let's focus on the output in the second row (factor(Diet)2). Here, Estimate refers to the difference between the mean value for Diet 2 vs. the (Intercept)(i.e., vs. Diet 1). Notice that this value is positive 36.95: this means that the mean value for Diet 2 is 36.95 units larger than the mean value of Diet 1. (Note that this value, 36.95, is very close to our predicted difference of 35, made from examining output from boxplot(); very reassuring.) Alternatively, we can think of '36.95' as the value we need to add to the (Intercept) (i.e., the mean of Diet 1) in order to obtain the mean for Diet 2; i.e., the mean of Diet 2 is 177.75 + 36.96 = 214.71. Note that the difference between the mean of Diet 2 and the mean of Diet 1 represents the effect size on mean weight for shifting between these two diets. Also note that, if

the difference between Diet 2 and Diet 1 had been negative, this would imply that the mean of Diet 2 was less than that of Diet 1 and we would subtract a value from the mean of Diet 1 to obtain the mean for Diet 2.

Given that the value in the Estimate column for the row, factor(Diet)2, provided the difference between the (Intercept) (Diet 1) and Diet 2 (i.e., the effect size for switching between these two types of Diet), what do you think the value in the column, Std. Error represents? This value (25.79) represents the standard error (SE) for the estimate of the difference (i.e., effect size) between these two averages. This effect size, and its SE, can be reported in your Results.

Finally, consider the entries in columns, t value and Pr(>|t|), for our same row (factor(Diet)2). These entries are used to test whether the value in Estimate in this row (36.96, in this case) is likely different from zero. In other words, they provide evidence to judge whether we think there's a difference between the mean of Diet 1 (the (Intercept)) and Diet 2. Here, the p-value (0.15955) is pretty large, so we conclude that we have weak evidence for a difference between the mean values for these two types of Diet. We will re-visit this p-value when we conduct a post-hoc test, below.

The information in the third and fourth rows are interpreted similarly as we did for the second row, however their output refers to differences between Diet 1 (the (Intercept)) and Diet 3 (third row) and Diet 4 (fourth row). Notice that these differences generally match our predictions of 100 and 75, made using the output from boxplot(); this is reassuring. Also, as predicted from our boxplot, the p-value in the third row provides strong evidence for a difference between the mean values of Diet 1 and Diet 3.

Now that we have thoroughly discussed the Coefficients, let's look at the last row of this output. Here we find the F-statistic (4.655), degrees of freedom (DF) (3 and 41), and an overall p-value (0.006858). These values pertain to an overall test of whether mean values of weight differ between levels of Diet. Note that the p-value is around 0.005; in lecture (videos), I have suggested that p-values of this magnitude constitute 'strong' or 'substantial' evidence for an effect of Diet upon weight. However, this p-value does not indicate which levels of Diet likely differ from which; we will perform a post-hoc test, below, to obtain evidence for differences in weight among levels of Diet. Note that you would report all values on this line of output (F-statistic: 4.655 on 3 and 41 DF, p-value: 0.006858) in your Results.

Far above, we said we'd examine our results from two perspectives. We've examine results using summary() and now we will examine results using anova():

anova(ch21.lm)

```
## Analysis of Variance Table
##
## Response: weight
## Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
## factor(Diet) 3 57164 19054.7 4.6547 0.006858 **
## Residuals 41 167839 4093.6
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

The function, anova() is multi-purpose; i.e., it will do different things, depending on what kind of object(s) you provide the function. Here, we provided the output from our model using lm() and anova() provides an ANOVA table for these results.

Compare the output from summary(ch21.lm) to that from anova(ch21.lm). Notice that the p-values are identical, as are the F-values and degrees of freedom. From the output of anova() we obtain values for the Sum of Squares (Sum Sq) and Mean Square (Mean Sq) for between-group variation (row with factor(Diet)) and within-group variation (row with Residuals). These values summarize the calculations used to obtain the F value: we obtain the Mean Sq for each row by dividing the Sum Sq by Df, and we obtain the F value by dividing the Mean Sq for among-group variation by the Mean Sq for within-group variation. The value of F and the Df collectively determine the p-value (Pr(>F)). Please see the video lectures for discussion of how Sum Sq and Df are calculated.

OK, we're making progress! We've determined that we have strong evidence for an effect of Diet on weight, and we need to conduct a post-hoc test to understand this result further. We'll do that in a moment. First, I want to highlight one other bit of output from ch21.lm. We can extract the estimate of the residual (i.e., within-group) variation, expressed as a standard deviation. We do this like:

sigma(ch21.lm)

[1] 63.98159

I want to note two things:

- We find this same value (63.98) in the output from summary(ch21.lm), described as Residual standard error. This is an unfortunate term in summary(ch21.lm) because the value, 63.98, is not a standard error! This value (63.98) equals the standard deviation for the residual (i.e., within-group) variation.
- We can use this value when we perform a power-analysis. Power analyses require an estimate of residual variation, and we can use this value for this purpose (if we wanted to perform a power analysis.)

Stage 4: Obtaining evidence for differences between groups via post-hoc test (Tukey test)

Our next step is to further understand differences in weight among levels of Diet. We will use three functions from the library, emmeans, for our analyses. If you do not have this library installed, you can install it with install.packages("emmeans").

We begin by opening the library:

library(emmeans)

Our post-hoc test will involve three steps (and three functions!). First, we will calculate the mean values for each group that we want to compare. Second, we will compare the mean values among levels of **Diet**; this will provide estimates of effect size, SE's for the effect sizes, and p-values for the comparisons among means. Third, we will further characterize the effect sizes by calculating their 95% Confidence Intervals.

Let's begin by calculating the mean values for each level of **Diet**:

```
ch21.emmeans <- emmeans(ch21.lm,"Diet")
```

What is happening here? We provided the function, emmeans() (found in the emmeans library) with two bits of input: ch21.lm, which contains the output from our model, and the name of the factor in our model for which we wish to obtain mean values (Diet). Note that emmeans works with the model output for its calculations, not the original dataset (ch21). We stored the output of emmeans in the object, ch21.emmeans (we continue to use our useful nomenclature). Let's look at the output from emmeans:

ch21.emmeans

##	Die	et	emmean	SE	df	lower.CL	upper.CL
##	1		178	16.0	41	145	210
##	2		215	20.2	41	174	256
##	3		270	20.2	41	229	311
##	4		239	21.3	41	195	282
##							
	~			-			

Confidence level used: 0.95

This output is extremely useful. Here, we find the mean value for each group, along with SE's and 95% CI's for each mean; we should report these values in our Results. Compare these mean values to those we calculated using the Coefficients in the output of summary(ch21.lm), above. You should see that they match (we did the calculations for Diet1 and Diet 2). Also notice that the SE for the mean of Diet 1 is the same as in summary(ch21.lm) (recall that mean for Diet 1 was termed the (Intercept) in the output of summary(ch21.lm), above). It is comforting that these value match.

Now notice something perhaps unexpected in the output: the SE values for the means of Diet 2 & 3 are identical (20.2), whereas the distributions of these data are not identical in our boxplot - i.e., based on the boxplot, we expect the standard deviation to differ between Diet 2 and Diet 3, and therefore expect the SE's for their means to differ, too. What's going on? Recall that emmeans uses the *model output*, not the original data, for calculations. When emmeans calculates a standard error it uses the standard deviation of the residuals from the model to calculate SE (remember SE = sd / sqrt(n)). (This approach makes sense because our analyses assumes that variance is equal among groups.) We obtained this value of sd using sigma(ch21.1m), above, which equaled 63.98159. Given that sd is the same for all levels of Diet, we will obtain the same SE for levels that have the same sample size. As it turns out, the sample sizes for Diet 1 to 4 equal 16, 10, 10, and 9. Therefore, the SE is the same for the means of Diet 2 & 3 because they have the same sample size (10). In fact, let's do the calculation: 63.98159 / sqrt(10) = 20.23276, which is what we obtain from emmeans. Finally, note that the SE of Diet 1 and 4 are smaller and larger than this, respectively, because their sample sizes are larger and smaller, respectively (sample size of Diet 1 is 16; sample size of Diet 4 is 9).

Now that we have calculated these mean values and their SE's, we'll compare them using the pairs() function (also in the emmeans library):

ch21.pairs <- pairs(ch21.emmeans)

Notice that, to run pairs, we simply provide it the output from the emmeans function. We also stored the output in a sensibly-named object (ch21.pairs).

Let's look at the output:

ch21.pairs

##	contrast	estimate	SE df	t.ratio	p.value
##	1 - 2	-37.0	25.8 41	-1.433	0.4868
##	1 - 3	-92.5	25.8 41	-3.588	0.0047
##	1 - 4	-60.8	26.7 41	-2.281	0.1193
##	2 - 3	-55.6	28.6 41	-1.943	0.2264
##	2 - 4	-23.9	29.4 41	-0.811	0.8487
##	3 - 4	31.7	29.4 41	1.080	0.7036
##					

P value adjustment: tukey method for comparing a family of 4 estimates

We will discuss several columns from this output:

- The column, contrast, indicates which levels of Diet being compared. For example, the first row provides information for the comparison between the means of Diet 1 vs. Diet 2. Notice that it shows 1 2, which indicates that the difference between these two means is calculated by subtracting the mean of Diet 2 from the mean of Diet 1. Recall that the mean of Diet 2 was greater than the mean of Diet 1; therefore we expect this difference (1 2) to be negative.
- The column, estimate provides the effect size for each comparison between levels of Diet. This is calculated as described, immediately above, when we discussed the contrast column. For example, notice that, as expected, the difference between the mean of Diet 1 and Diet 2 is negative. Also notice that we have seen this value before (although it was positive when we first saw it because it was calculated differently). We found the same value in the output of summary(ch21.lm), above (reported as 36.95). Hence, once again, we find output that matches the output from summary(ch21.lm) (and our prediction from observing the boxplot). The major difference from the output of summary(ch21.lm) is that the output from pairs(ch21.emmeans) provides more combinations of comparisons among levels of Diet. We will report the effect sizes in the column estimate in our Results.
- The column SE provides the standard error for the effect sizes displayed in the previous column, estimate. We will also report these SE's of the effect sizes. Notice, once again, that these SE's match the output from summary(ch21.lm).
- the column df provides the degrees of freedom used to make the comparison between the two mean

values. It is a good idea to report the df in Results.

- The column t.ratio provides the test-statistic for the comparison between the means listed in the column, contrast. These values have the same meaning as the values in the column t.value in the output of summary(ch21.lm), and, once again, they match between the outputs. It is a good idea to report the t.ratio in Results.
- Finally, the column p.value provides the p-value for the comparison between the mean values indicated in the column contrast. Notice, however, that this time the p-values from the output of pairs() do NOT match the p-values in the output of summary(ch21.lm). Why is this? We find the answer at the very bottom of our output: P value adjustment: tukey method for comparing a family of 4 estimates. This comment tells us that pairs() altered the p-values using the tukey method (i.e., we used a Tukey test). It did this for an important reason: the p-values were altered in a way that maintains a Type 1 error rate of 5%; i.e., it accounted for our making multiple comparisons. Notice that the p-values are larger in the output from pairs() than they were in the output of summary(ch21.lm). For example, the p-value for the difference between the means of Diet 1 and Diet 2 equaled 0.15955 in the output of summary(ch21.lm), but was greater (0.4868) in the output of pairs(). pairs() increased the p-values to make it less likely that we would conclude that a difference occurs between means, to compensate for the fact that we've performed multiple comparisons.

Overall, what do we conclude here? If we focus on the p-values, we see that we only have strong evidence for differences between Diet 1 and Diet 3, as the p-value equals 0.0047. All other p-values exceed 0.1, and therefore provide only weak evidence for differences.

Recall that p-values provide only limited insight into our results. We obtain greater insight from the effect sizes. We can use the estimate column from pairs() to obtain a mean effect size. However, it is desirable to obtain 95% confidence intervals for the effect sizes. We do this using the confint() function, where we provide it the output from pairs():

confint(ch21.pairs)

##	contrast	estimate	SE df	lower.CL	upper.CL					
##	1 - 2	-37.0	25.8 41	-106	32.1					
##	1 - 3	-92.5	25.8 41	-162	-23.5					
##	1 - 4	-60.8	26.7 41	-132	10.6					
##	2 - 3	-55.6	28.6 41	-132	21.0					
##	2 - 4	-23.9	29.4 41	-103	54.9					
##	3 - 4	31.7	29.4 41	-47	110.5					
##										
##	Confidence	level us	sed: 0.9	5						
##	Conf-level	adjustme	ent: tuk	ey method	for compa	ring a	family	of 4	1 esti	imates

Notice that all of the output here matches the output from pairs(), except we now have 95% CI's for the effect sizes instead of a t ratio and p-value. Also, note the comment at the base of the output

the effect sizes, instead of a t.ratio and p-value. Also, note the comment at the base of the output, which states Conf-level adjustment: tukey method for comparing a family of 4 estimates. This indicates that the 95% CI's were adjusted (made larger) for the same reason that the p-values were increased in the output of pairs().

How might we interpret these 95% CI's? Let's use the difference between the means of Diet 1 and Diet 3 as an example. Here, the 95% CI's range from -162 to -23.5; again, the values are negative because R subtracted a big mean (Diet 3) from a small mean (Diet 1). It is more important to notice that both ends of the 95% CI are the same sign (i.e.; negative); this means that the 95% CI's do not cross zero, so 'zero' is not a very plausible value for the difference between these means. These 95% CI's imply that we have good reason to think (given assumptions of 95% CI's, as opposed to, say, 99% CI's) that the mean of Diet 3 is greater than that for Diet 1 by as little as 23.5 and as great as 162. Is this effect size biologically important? That's hard to judge without knowing more about the reasons for performing the experiment. For example, imagine that Diet 3 costs more than Diet 1: a farmer might only be interested in the difference between Diet 1 and Diet 3 if increase in growth under Diet 3 offsets its additional cost. If the minimum 'plausible' increase in weight in Diet 3 (i.e., lower 95% CI, 23.5) is greater than the amount of increased weight needed to offset the cost, farmers may be excited by these results.

It is a good idea to report 95% CI's for the effect sizes and interpret your results in terms of the 95% CI's, as suggested, above. If you report the 95% CI's reported from confint(), you should indicate that they have been adjusted (Tukey method) to account for multiple comparisons.

For practice, let's consider another example. Consider the contrast in the first row: 1 - 2. Here, the 95% CI's range from -106 to 32.1. This implies that, relative to Diet 1, Diet 2 may plausibly increase mean weight by 106, or decrease in mean weight by 32.1, and anything in-between. (Note that the value 0 lies between these values, implying that 'no difference' is plausible - this explains why the p-value is so large for this comparison). Our job now would be to interpret these values at the end of the 95% CI's in terms of their 'biological' significance: if Diet 2 increased weight by 106, relative to Diet 1, would this be interesting and useful to us? We similarly interpret the biological / practical importance if Diet 2 decreased weight by 32.1, relative to Diet 1. We do not do that, here, because we do not know enough about the background for this experiment to do so. Remember that these 95% CI's (-106 to 32.1) are not hard limits; i.e., values lying just outside the limits (e.g., -107) are also plausible. Also, this range of 'plausible' values is contingent upon the assumptions of 95% CI's; we would have a wider range of 'plausible' values if we considered instead, say, 99% CI's.

Stage 5: Reporting your results

Please refer to the (video) analysis of the ChickWeight dataset (by 1-Factor GLM) for guidance to present your results.

An Important Comment Regarding Multiple Comparisons

Statisticians do not all agree on whether p-values and 95% CI's for effect sizes should be adjusted to account for multiple comparisons. We will not discuss the reasons for this debate here. Here is an example where authors believe that accounting for multiple comparisons is a mistake: *Hurlbert, S. H., and Lombardi, C. M. (2012), "Lopsided Reasoning on Lopsided Tests and Multiple Comparisons," Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics, 54, 23–42* https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-842X.2012.00652.x.

If, when implementing pairwise comparisons using the **emmeans** library, you do not wish to correct p-values for multiple comparisons, you can suppress the p-value adjustment like this:

```
summary(ch21.pairs, adjust = "none")
```

##	contrast	estimate	SE	df	t.ratio	p.value
##	1 - 2	-37.0	25.8	41	-1.433	0.1595
##	1 - 3	-92.5	25.8	41	-3.588	0.0009
##	1 - 4	-60.8	26.7	41	-2.281	0.0278
##	2 - 3	-55.6	28.6	41	-1.943	0.0589
##	2 - 4	-23.9	29.4	41	-0.811	0.4218
##	3 - 4	31.7	29.4	41	1.080	0.2865

Notice that 1) these p-values are smaller than those obtained, earlier, when using the pairs() function, and 2) these p-values match the output from summary(ch21.lm).

Similarly, when using the emmeans library, you can obtain 95% CI's for effect sizes that have not been adjusted for multiple comparisons like this:

confint(ch21.pairs, adjust = "none")

##	contrast	estimate	SE df	lower.CL	upper.CL
##	1 - 2	-37.0	25.8 41	-89.0	15.14
##	1 - 3	-92.5	25.8 41	-144.6	-40.46
##	1 - 4	-60.8	26.7 41	-114.6	-6.97

##	2 - 3	-55.6 28.6 41	-113.4	2.19
##	2 - 4	-23.9 29.4 41	-83.2	35.51
##	3 - 4	31.7 29.4 41	-27.6	91.11
##				

Confidence level used: 0.95

When you report your results, remember to comment upon whether or not values were adjusted for multiple comparisons.