

Re: Comparing two variation coefficients

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- *From:* "Reef Fish" <Large\_Nassau\_Grouper@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* 29 May 2006 10:45:05 -0700
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Michael.Lacy.junk@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Reef Fish <Large\_Nassau\_Grouper@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Michael.Lacy.junk@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Alfred <fredo@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Dear All,

What test (possibly non-parametric) can be used to test the differences between two variation coefficient (std dev / mean) ?

Thanks

Fredo

Here's a comprehensive source on your problem and related ones.

Donnelly SM, Kramer A 1999. Testing for multiple species in fossil samples: An evaluation and comparison of tests for equal relative variation. American Journal of Physical Anthropology 108 (4): 507-529

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I have to admit that this is the FIRST time that I have heard of testing the equality two Coefficients of Variations, in parametric or non-parametric statistics books.

Perhaps there are applications for which the test is appropriate for a problem at hand, but I can't think of any at this moment.

Perhaps it would be more interesting and instructive for someone to give a REASON for that specific test of difference of "coefficients of variation" (a well-defined statistical term), without just citing some article in a paper in a non statistical journal such as that of Anthropology.

Actually, there is quite a bit of statistical material in the AJPA, since physical (bio-) anthropologists are quite a different species than cultural anthropologists. Of