



# Testing Statistical Hypotheses of Equivalence and Noninferiority, Second Edition

By *Stefan Wellek*

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## Testing Statistical Hypotheses of Equivalence and Noninferiority, Second Edition By Stefan Wellek

While continuing to focus on methods of testing for two-sided equivalence, **Testing Statistical Hypotheses of Equivalence and Noninferiority, Second Edition** gives much more attention to noninferiority testing. It covers a spectrum of equivalence testing problems of both types, ranging from a one-sample problem with normally distributed observations of fixed known variance to problems involving several dependent or independent samples and multivariate data. Along with expanding the material on noninferiority problems, this edition includes new chapters on equivalence tests for multivariate data and tests for relevant differences between treatments. A majority of the computer programs offered online are now available not only in SAS or Fortran but also as R scripts or as shared objects that can be called within the R system.

This book provides readers with a rich repertoire of efficient solutions to specific equivalence and noninferiority testing problems frequently encountered in the analysis of real data sets. It first presents general approaches to problems of testing for noninferiority and two-sided equivalence. Each subsequent chapter then focuses on a specific procedure and its practical implementation. The last chapter describes basic theoretical results about tests for relevant differences as well as solutions for some specific settings often arising in practice. Drawing from real-life medical research, the author uses numerous examples throughout to illustrate the methods.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"... the book is clearly written, easy to read and comprehend the various issues related to testing statistical hypotheses of equivalence and non-inferiority. ... I strongly feel that one who wants to acquire/use related theoretical as well as application skills or understand/review any research article on equivalence and non-inferiority testing, he/she should try to go through this book."

?Sada Nand Dwivedi, *ISCB Newsletter*, June 2013

"This book provides value to applied statisticians far above its stated primary objective. Perhaps the most valuable contribution this book makes to the field of applied statistics is its impressive collection of equivalence testing procedures. ... Of all the additions in the current edition, testing for relevant differences stands out as a rational and widely applicable methodology that is underutilized by most applied statisticians. The author provides a very convincing argument for why this methodology is more appropriate than testing for statistically significant differences in the majority of scientific applications. ... the book is well written ... very important book in the field of statistical hypothesis testing."

?David Burt, *Pharmaceutical Statistics*, 2013

"This book will clearly be an extremely valuable practical guide for researchers faced with such problems, and would also provide a good introduction to anyone new to the special challenges of equivalence and noninferiority testing."

?David J. Hand, *International Statistical Review*, 2012

"This book provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the topic and hence, I strongly believe, would be a valuable reference work for a library, and for both applied statisticians who need to deal with equivalence problems and researchers in statistics. Although this is not an introductory textbook, a lot of the material could be used in introductory inference courses. Senior and graduate statistical students would also benefit from exposure to the topic of the book."

?*Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics*, 53(1), 2011

"The author made a thorough revision by adding new chapters on equivalence tests for multivariate data. ... The strength of the book is that it includes numerous worked-out examples to illustrate the suggested methodologies."

?*Technometrics*, February 2011

"The update is timely and includes some material on new subjects as well as updates of material presented in the original edition. ... this book deserves a place on the bookshelf of the library of every pharmaceutical company. ... this book remains the standard for texts on equivalence studies. The addition of information on non-inferiority analyses is welcome. A copy of this book should be available to every statistician who works on clinical trials."

?Brian Wiens, Alcon Laboratories, Inc., *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*, Issue 3, 2011

#### Praise for the First Edition:

One of the "Top Five Books for Statisticians" by the *JASA/TAS* Review Editor

?*Amstat News, The Membership Magazine of the American Statistical Association*, September 2003

"The main value of the book is in its rather comprehensive and explicit treatment of various tests for equivalence problems. The book is very carefully written and mathematically correct ... applied (bio-)statisticians may find this book a helpful manual for various testing procedures in the field of equivalence testing. These procedures are very carefully described and are accompanied by SAS or Fortran code. More mathematically oriented readers may regard this book as a good source of examples, and the thorough discussion of relevant practical questions in the field might stimulate them to doing further research in this area."

?*Journal of the American Statistical Association*, March 2004

"The book is well organized for the applied statistician with an interest in the theoretical background for statistical procedures. What is especially useful about this book for the applied statistician is that the author weaves into the presentation of the equivalence tests, discussions of power, and sample size as well as simulation results that evaluate the small sample properties of the tests. In addition, a location on the World Wide Web where one can find SAS programs to facilitate the implementation of these tests is provided ... Wellek has provided a text on equivalence testing that the applied statistician will find useful both as a theory underlying equivalence testing as well as a source of equivalence tests and tools for their implementation for a wide variety of situations."

?*Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*

"... a thorough and wide-ranging exposition of statistical methods for the testing of hypotheses of equivalence ... The content of the book and the presentation of the material are praiseworthy for several reasons. Throughout the book, the focus is on optimal tests ... . Where exact methods are not available, asymptotically equivalent tests are presented. The small sample behaviour, both size and power, of asymptotic tests is thoroughly studied through simulation. This must have been an enormous amount of work, but the effort certainly was not in vain; one is convinced that one can apply the methods presented with confidence. Even more deserving of praise is the fact that computer programs (mostly in SAS language) implementing various tests and power calculations are provided ... In summary, this is an excellent book and strongly recommended. It is required reading for all biostatisticians and developers of statistical software who work in this arena. It will be useful when teaching statistical test theory and in practice. ..."

?Robert Schall, *Clinical Trials*, 2004

"... this book provides the reader with the opportunity to do equivalence testing for various statistical problems. The author has helpfully provided a collection of computer programs (in SAS and Fortran) that allow for easy implementation of the methods presented ... I was left feeling that this book provides a good grounding in statistical techniques to do hypothesis testing in equivalence trials."

?*Pharmaceutical Statistics*, 2003

"Wellek has done a commendable service to the academic community by providing the first comprehensive treatment of testing hypotheses of equivalence, since most of the work in this area so far is confined to research journals. ... Overall, this excellent book has great potential for applications and should interest students and researchers alike. Summing Up: Highly recommended."

?D.V. Chopra, *CHOICE*

"... this book has explained well with examples and case studies the topics ... Researchers will find this book thought-provoking."

?*Journal of Statistical Computation & Simulation*

About the Author

**Stefan Wellek** is a professor of biostatistics at the University of Heidelberg and head of the Department of Biostatistics at the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim, Germany.

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