

### Souvenir N: Rule of Thumb for SEV

Can we assume that if  $\text{SEV}(\mu > \mu_0)$  is a high value,  $1 - \alpha$ , then  $\text{SEV}(\mu \leq \mu_0)$  is  $\alpha$ ?

Because the claims  $\mu > \mu_0$  and  $\mu \leq \mu_0$  form a partition of the parameter space, and because we are assuming our test has passed (or would pass) an audit, else these computations go out the window, the answer is yes.

If  $\text{SEV}(\mu > \mu_0)$  is high, then  $\text{SEV}(\mu \leq \mu_0)$  is low.

The converse need not hold – given the convention we just saw in Exhibit (ix). At the very least, “low” would not exceed 0.5.

*A rule of thumb (for test  $T_+$  or its dual CI):*

- If we are pondering a claim that an observed difference from the null seems *large* enough to indicate  $\mu > \mu'$ , we want to be sure the test was highly capable of producing *less* impressive results, were  $\mu = \mu'$ .
- If, by contrast, the test was highly capable of producing *more* impressive results than we observed, even in a world where  $\mu = \mu'$ , then we block an inference to  $\mu > \mu'$  (following weak severity).

This rule will be at odds with some common interpretations of tests. Bear with me. I maintain those interpretations are viewing tests through “probabilist-colored” glasses, while the correct error-statistical view is this one.