means is significant at the 0.05 level, the following rough rule can be used:

$$[4] 2\sqrt{(SE_A^2 + SE_B^2)} < mean_B - mean_A < 2SE_A + 2SE_B$$

If SE_A and SE_B are equal, the condition is as follows:

[5]
$$2.83 \text{ SE} < \text{mean}_{B} - \text{mean}_{A} < 4 \text{ SE}$$

When one SE is 25% larger than the other, the boundaries are 3.2 and 4.5 times the smaller SE. As the lower boundary remains close to 3, Moses¹ was prompted to display group means with error bars that were 1.5 SE around the mean in order to have a "by eye" test of significance between the 2 group means while presenting the information in the 2 groups separately.

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