

# Chapter 3: Inference for Contingency Tables-II

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BIOS 625: Categorical Data & GLM

[Acknowledgements to Tim Hanson and Haitao Chu]

## 3.4 $I \times J$ tables with ordinal outcomes

Tests that take advantage of ordinal data's structure can increase power and interpretability. We now assume both  $X$  and  $Y$  are ordinal.

### 3.4.1 Linear trend alternative to independence

If we are willing to replace the ordinal outcomes by numerical scores, we can compute something akin to a correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$ . Let  $u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \dots \leq u_I$  for  $X$  and  $v_1 \leq v_2 \leq \dots \leq v_J$  for  $Y$ . Define

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J n_{ij}(u_i - \bar{u}_i)(v_j - \bar{v}_j)}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J n_{ij}(u_i - \bar{u}_i)^2 \sum_{i=1}^I \sum_{j=1}^J n_{ij}(v_j - \bar{v}_j)^2}},$$

where  $\bar{u}_i = \sum_{j=1}^J n_{ij} u_i / n_{i+}$  and  $\bar{v}_j = \sum_{i=1}^I n_{ij} v_j / n_{+j}$ .

## $r$ is the Pearson correlation

$r$  is akin to a correlation between  $X$  and  $Y$ , and in fact *is* the sample correlation when each  $(X, Y)$  pair is replaced by its score  $(u, v)$ .

$r$  is going to estimate something lurking underneath, a population parameter  $\rho$ . Testing  $H_0 : \rho = 0$  is a test for linear association between  $X$  and  $Y$ .

Define the test statistic

$$M^2 = (n_{++} - 1)r^2.$$

$$M^2 \overset{\bullet}{\sim} \chi_1^2 \text{ when } H_0 : \rho = 0.$$

# Happiness and political ideology

Data (p. 83) from 2008 General Social Survey for subjects over 65 years old:

Ideology	Happiness		
	Not too happy	Pretty happy	Very happy
Liberal	13	29	15
Moderate	23	59	47
Conservative	14	67	54

## SAS code

```
data table;
input Ideology$ Happiness$ count @@;
datalines;
Liberal      NotTooHappy 13 Liberal      PrettyHappy 29 Liberal      VeryHappy 15
Moderate     NotTooHappy 23 Moderate     PrettyHappy 59 Moderate     VeryHappy 47
Conservative NotTooHappy 14 Conservative PrettyHappy 67 Conservative VeryHappy 54
;
proc freq data=table order=data; weight count;
  tables Ideology*Happiness / chisq expected measures plcorr norow nocol;
run;
```

Recall that `chisq` gives tests of  $H_0 : X \perp Y$ . `measures` gives various measures of association, including  $r$  and  $\hat{\gamma}$ , as well as their (asymptotic) standard errors. `plcorr` gives the estimated polychoric correlation  $\hat{\rho}_{pc}$ .

# SAS output

Table of Ideology by Happiness

Ideology	Happiness			
Frequency				
Expected				
Percent	NotTooHa	PrettyHa	VeryHapp	Total
-----+-----+-----+-----+				
Liberal	13	29	15	57
	8.8785	27.523	20.598	
	4.05	9.03	4.67	17.76
-----+-----+-----+-----+				
Moderate	23	59	47	129
	20.093	62.29	46.617	
	7.17	18.38	14.64	40.19
-----+-----+-----+-----+				
Conserva	14	67	54	135
	21.028	65.187	48.785	
	4.36	20.87	16.82	42.06
-----+-----+-----+-----+				
Total	50	155	116	321
	15.58	48.29	36.14	100.00

Statistics for Table of Ideology by Happiness

Statistic	DF	Value	Prob
-----+-----+-----+-----+			
Chi-Square	4	7.0681	0.1323
Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square	4	7.2666	0.1225

We do not reject  $H_0$  : happiness is independent of ideology using  $X^2$  or  $G^2$ .

## SAS output

Statistics for Table of Ideology by Happiness

Statistic	Value	ASE
Gamma	0.1849	0.0779
Pearson Correlation	0.1352	0.0544
Polychoric Correlation	0.1671	0.0690

Sample Size = 321

- Recall that  $\hat{\gamma}$  estimates  $\gamma$ , the probability of concordance minus the probability of discordance. When  $H_0 : \gamma = 0$  is true, the probability of concordance is equal to the probability of discordance, i.e. no evidence of a *monotone association*.
- $\hat{\gamma} = 0.185$ . 95% CI given by  $\hat{\gamma} \pm 1.96\text{se}(\hat{\gamma}) = 0.185 \pm 1.96(0.078) = (0.032, 0.338)$ . We reject  $H_0 : \gamma = 0$  at the 5% level! How to get p-value?
- $r = 0.135$  using default scores  $u_i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $v_i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Note that we reject  $H_0 : \rho_P = 0$  at the 5% level. Focusing on the linear aspect of the scores helped refine our assessment of the relationship between ideology and happiness. Note that you cannot get  $M^2$  directly in SAS, but rather  $r$ .

## SAS output

Statistics for Table of Ideology by Happiness		
Statistic	Value	ASE
Gamma	0.1849	0.0779
Pearson Correlation	0.1352	0.0544
Polychoric Correlation	0.1671	0.0690

Sample Size = 321

- $\hat{\rho}_{pc} = 0.167$  and we reject  $H_0 : \rho_{pc} = 0$  as well at the 5% level. The underlying continuous 'happiness' and 'ideology' variables are significantly, positively associated.
- The general test of  $H_0 : X \perp Y$  does not reject, but the correlation tests *do find an association* at the 5% level. More power by treating the data as ordinal rather than nominal!



### 3.4.4 Using focused alternatives gives added power

- $G^2$  and  $X^2$  test  $H_0 : X \perp Y$ . Does not take into account nature of ordinal data.  $df = (I - 1)(J - 1)$  reflecting all possible ways data can be dependent.
- For ordinal data,  $H_0 : \rho = 0$  and  $H_0 : \gamma = 0$  (or one-sided versions) test no association versus *focused* alternatives that are a special case of dependence. These tests focus on one parameter that describes a specific, defined type of association (linear or monotone).
- Since the alternative is focused, there can be more power to detect an association.  $df = 1$  instead of  $df = (I - 1)(J - 1)$ .

### 3.4.5 Choice of scores in computing $r$ and $M^2$

The scores  $u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \dots \leq u_I$  for  $X$  and  $v_1 \leq v_2 \leq \dots \leq v_J$  for  $Y$  affect  $r$  and  $M^2$  and therefore the  $p$ -value for  $H_0 : \rho = 0$ .

- A linear transformation of scores does not affect  $r$  or  $M^2$ . For example, using  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  or  $\{52, 53, 54, 55\}$  or  $\{3, 6, 9, 12\}$  for  $X$  all yield the same  $r$ .
- For most data, different choices of scores tend to give roughly the same  $r$  and  $p$ -value.
- Highly unbalanced data will be more sensitive to the choice of scores.

### 3.4.6 relationship between drinking during pregnancy & congenital malformations

Malformation	Drinks per day				
	0	< 1	1 – 2	3 – 5	≥ 6
Absent	17,066	14,464	788	126	37
Present	48	38	5	1	1

Let the scores for  $X$  be  $\{1, 2\}$ .

- For  $Y$ ,  $\{0, 0.5, 1.5, 4.0, 7.0\}$  yields  $M^2 = 6.57$  with  $p = 0.01$ .
- For  $Y$ ,  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  yields  $M^2 = 1.83$  with  $p = 0.18$ .

One solution to this discrepancy is to use scores suggested by the data:  
*midranks*.

## Midranks

For the alcohol variable,  $17066 + 48 = 17114$  didn't drink during pregnancy. The midrank is  $(1 + 17114)/2 = 8557.5$ . The next category, those that averaged less than one drink per day, we start at 17115 and go up to  $17114 + (14464 + 38) = 31616$ . The midrank for the 2<sup>nd</sup> category is then  $(17115 + 31617)/2 = 24366.5$  (book typo?). The midrank for the 1 – 2 category is  $(31617 + 32409)/2 = 32013$ , etc. Scores are  $\{8557.5, 24366.5, 32013, 32473, 32555.5\}$ .

Using these midranks yields  $M^2 = 0.35$  and  $p = 0.55$ .

Here, inappropriate: treats 1 – 2 as being much closer to  $\geq 6$  than to 0 drinks. Probably best to use midranks when no obvious set(s) of scores exist. Midranks are used in SAS by specifying `scores=rank`.

## 3.5 & 16.5.2 Exact tests of independence

There's a lot of info in here (pp. 91-101, 10 pages). We'll focus on what's involved in obtaining exact  $p$ -values for  $X^2$  and  $G^2$  instead of asymptotic  $\chi^2_{(I-1)(J-1)}$ .

Instead of an asymptotic distribution, we need the *exact* distribution of cell counts under  $H_0 : \pi_{ij} = \pi_{i+}\pi_{+j}$ .

Under product multinomial sampling, the row totals are fixed at  $n_{i+}$  ahead of time. Under  $H_0$ , the row counts are independent  $\text{mult}(n_{i+}, \boldsymbol{\pi})$  where  $\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_{+1}, \pi_{+2}, \dots, \pi_{+J})$ . There are  $J - 1$  free, unknown parameters in the model under  $H_0$ . These are *nuisance* parameters, since what we need to be able to do is find the distribution of cell counts assuming independence, not just for one particular value of  $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ .

## Conditioning on sufficient statistics

The marginal totals  $(n_{+1}, \dots, n_{+J})$  carry all information for  $\pi$  – they are *sufficient* for  $\pi$ . By conditioning on these sufficient statistics (which can lead to a UMP test), we end up with the pmf of the cell counts  $n_{ij}$ ,

$$p(n_{ij}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^I n_{i+}! \prod_{j=1}^J n_{+j}!}{n_{++}! \prod_{i=1}^I \prod_{j=1}^J n_{ij}!}.$$

This is the distribution of  $\{n_{ij}\}$  from data having the same fixed marginals  $n_{+1}, \dots, n_{+J}$  and  $n_{1+}, \dots, n_{I+}$  as the observed data, assuming  $H_0 : X \perp Y$  is true.

A simple way to approximate an exact  $p$ -value for an observed  $X_o^2$  statistic is to simply randomly generate  $IJ$  cell counts  $\{n_{ij}\}$  according to the above pmf, say 1000 times, and compute  $X_1^2, X_2^2, \dots, X_{1000}^2$ . The proportion of  $\{X_m^2\}$  larger than the observed  $X_o^2$  is the (Monte Carlo) exact  $p$ -value. The test is the same for multinomial sampling.

# Smoking and heart attacks

**Example:** a sparse table where the approximate  $\chi^2_{(I-1)(J-1)}$  assumption is unreasonable.

Outcome	Smoking level		
	0 /day	1 - 24 / day	> 25 / day
Control (no heart attack)	25	25	12
Heart attack	0	1	3

```
data table;
  input Smoking$ Outcome$ count @@;
  datalines;
1 1 25 2 1 25 3 1 12 1 2 0 2 2 1 3 2 3
;
proc format;
  value $sc '1' = '0 / day' '2' = '1-24 / day' '3' = '>25 / day';
  value $oc '1' = 'No heart attack' '2' = 'Heart attack';
proc freq order=data; weight count;
  format Smoking $sc. Outcome $oc.;
  tables Smoking*Outcome / plcorr;
  exact chisq;
run;
```

# SAS output

## Statistics for Table of Smoking by Outcome

Statistic	DF	Value	Prob
Chi-Square	2	6.9562	0.0309
Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square	2	6.6901	0.0353

WARNING: 50% of the cells have expected counts less than 5.  
(Asymptotic) Chi-Square may not be a valid test.

### Pearson Chi-Square Test

Chi-Square	6.9562
DF	2
Asymptotic Pr > ChiSq	0.0309
Exact Pr >= ChiSq	0.0516

### Likelihood Ratio Chi-Square Test

Chi-Square	6.6901
DF	2
Asymptotic Pr > ChiSq	0.0353
Exact Pr >= ChiSq	0.0724

Statistic	Value	ASE
Gamma	0.8717	0.1250
Pearson Correlation	0.2999	0.0973
Polychoric Correlation	0.6754	0.1924



## Comments:

- SAS provides a warning on the small expected cell counts.
- Exact versus asymptotic tests provide different conclusions at the 5% level!
- Treating  $(X, Y)$  as ordinal shows a positive association between the number of cigarettes smoked and getting a heart attack using  $\gamma$ , Pearson  $\rho_P$  (using scores 1,2 and 1,2,3), and polychoric  $\rho_{PC}$ . We would reject than any of these are zero.
- To get Monte Carlo estimate, specify `mc` with `exact`. Also possible to get exact CI for  $\theta$  in  $2 \times 2$  table with OR.
- The Pearson correlation is actually bounded away from  $-1$  and  $1$ . Outside the scope of the class, but  $r = 0.30$  may be “larger” than it appears.

## Fisher's exact test of $H_0 : \pi_1 = \pi_2$ for $2 \times 2$ tables

**Example:** A 7-year old child thinks that cats like gouda cheese more than dogs; she decides to try feeding cats and dogs gouda cheese and records whether they eat it. Her null hypothesis is that cats and dogs prefer gouda in the same proportions,  $H_0 : \pi_c = \pi_d$ . She wants to show the alternative  $H_a : \pi_c > \pi_d$ .

In her neighborhood there are 5 cats and 8 dogs nearby. Of the 5 cats, 2 eat the cheese; of the 8 dogs, 2 eat the cheese. We have  $\hat{\pi}_c = 0.40$  and  $\hat{\pi}_d = 0.25$  for the estimated proportions of cats and dogs that eat gouda cheese. There appears to be some evidence that cats like gouda more than dogs, but is it *significant*?

animal	eat cheese?		total
	yes	no	
cat	2	3	5
dog	2	6	8
total	4	9	13

## P-value under $H_0 : \pi_c = \pi_d$

Under the null  $H_0$  we cannot tell the difference between dogs and cats; we only “see”  $n_{+1}$  cheese eating animals and  $n_{+2}$  non-cheese eaters. If we pick out any  $n_{1+} = 5$  animals without replacement, then the probability that there are exactly  $n_{11} = k$  cheese eaters is hypergeometric:

$$P(n_{11} = k) = \frac{\binom{n_{+1}}{k} \binom{n_{+2}}{n_{1+} - k}}{\binom{n_{++}}{n_{1+}}}.$$

Here, the sample size  $n_{1+} = 5$  is fixed, as well as the number of cheese-eaters  $n_{+1}$ . Hence, all four marginal totals are fixed.

**Restated:** We draw  $n_{1+}$  balls without replacement from an urn that has  $n_{+1}$  white balls (cheese eaters) and  $n_{+2}$  black balls (non-cheese eaters). The number of white balls (cheese eaters) in this sample is  $n_{11} = k$ .

## Fisher's exact test p-value

To compute the p-value, we find the probability of seeing sample  $\hat{\pi}_c$  and  $\hat{\pi}_d$  at least as far apart as what we observed. Fixing the row and column totals, there are three tables that give differences  $\hat{\pi}_c - \hat{\pi}_d$  the same or greater than  $\hat{\pi}_c - \hat{\pi}_d = 0.15$ :

animal	eat cheese?		total
	yes	no	
cat	2	3	5
dog	2	6	8
total	4	9	13

$$\hat{\pi}_c = 0.40, \hat{\pi}_d = 0.25$$

$$\frac{\binom{4}{2} \binom{9}{3}}{\binom{13}{5}} = 0.3916$$

animal	eat cheese?		total
	yes	no	
cat	3	2	5
dog	1	7	8
total	4	9	13

$$\hat{\pi}_c = 0.60, \hat{\pi}_d = 0.125$$

$$\frac{\binom{4}{3} \binom{9}{2}}{\binom{13}{5}} = 0.1119$$

animal	eat cheese?		total
	yes	no	
cat	4	1	5
dog	0	8	8
total	4	9	13

$$\hat{\pi}_c = 0.80, \hat{\pi}_d = 0.00$$

$$\frac{\binom{4}{4} \binom{9}{1}}{\binom{13}{5}} = 0.0070.$$

The p-value is  $0.3916 + 0.1119 + 0.0070 = 0.5105$ . We do not have evidence that there is an association between type of pet and whether they eat gouda.

# SAS code & output

```
data cheese;
input animal$ eat$ count @@;
datalines;
cat yes 2 cat no 3
dog yes 2 dog no 6
;
proc freq order=data; weight count;
    tables animal*eat;
    exact fisher;
run;
```

```
-----
      Fisher's Exact Test
Cell (1,1) Frequency (F)      2
Left-sided Pr <= F          0.8811
Right-sided Pr >= F          0.5105

Table Probability (P)        0.3916
Two-sided Pr <= P            1.0000
```

An especially nice feature of Fisher's exact test is that it is natural to have one-sided alternatives.

## 3.7 Extensions...

- Ideas for testing independence, partitioning  $G^2$ , std. Pearson residuals, etc. all generalize to threeway and higher dimensional tables.
- Often only interested in one outcome – i.e. one categorical variable is a natural  $Y$ . Logistic, Poisson, ordinal regression models useful here. Can also consider continuous predictors.
- If interested in types of conditional dependence in larger dimensional tables, log-linear models (and associated graph methods) useful.
- Often data are not given in the form of a table or counts; see p. 101.
- Methods and ideas in this chapter can be recast in modeling framework explored in the rest of the book.