

Statistics & Explanatory Data Analysis

Tests for nominal data

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Tests for Nominal variables

- The tests for nominal variables:
 - is there an association between two nominal variables?
 - counts of observations for a nominal variable match a theoretical set of proportions for a variable?
- Nominal data is often presented in contingency tables

Hometown	Rural area	Small Cities	Big Cities
Place of living			
Rural area	12	5	2
Small Cities	14	18	8
Big Cities	24	27	40

X_2	$X_2 = 0$	$X_2 = 1$	Row totals
X_1			
$X_1 = 0$	n_{11}	n_{12}	$n_{1.}$
$X_1 = 1$	n_{21}	n_{22}	$n_{2.}$
Col totals	$n_{.1}$	$n_{.2}$	n



Goodness-of-Fit Tests – for nominal data

DATA:

- A nominal variable with two or more levels
- Theoretical, typical, expected, or neutral values for the proportions for this variable are needed for comparison
- G-test and chi-square test may not be appropriate if there are cells with low counts (more than 5 observations for each cell)

HYPOTHESIS:

- H_0 : The proportions for the levels for the nominal variable are not different from the expected proportions
- H_1 (2-sided): The proportions for the levels for the nominal variable are different from the expected proportions

Exact binomial test

$$P(x = X; n, p) = \frac{n!}{(n - X)! X!} p^X (1 - p)^{n - X}$$

Exact multinomial test

$$P(x_1 = X_1, \dots, x_k = X_k; n, p_1, \dots, p_k) = n! \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{\pi_i^{x_i}}{x_i!}$$

$$p - value = \sum_{y: P(x=y) \leq P(x=X)} P(y)$$

Pearson χ^2 test

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \sim \chi^2(n - p(df))$$

G test

$$G = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n O_i \ln \left(\frac{O_i}{E_i} \right) \sim \chi^2(n - p(df))$$

p is a number of parameters to be fitted + 1



Association Tests – for nominal data

DATA:

- Two nominal variables with two or more levels each.
- Experimental units aren't paired.
- There are no structural zeros in the contingency table. (Example: Gender vs. Pregnancy)
- G-test and chi-square test may not be appropriate if there are cells with low counts ($n > 5$)

HYPOTHESIS:

- H_0 : There is no association between the two variables (they are independent).
- H_1 (2-sided): There is an association between the two variables

Fischer Exact test for 2 x 2 table

$$p = \frac{(n_{11} + n_{12})(n_{11} + n_{21})(n_{12} + n_{22})(n_{21} + n_{22})}{n_{11}! n_{12}! n_{21}! n_{22}!} \quad p - value = \sum_{y: P(y) \leq p} P(y)$$

Pearson χ^2 independence test

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} \sim \chi^2((r-1)(c-1))$$

G independence test

$$G = 2 \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c O_{ij} \ln \left(\frac{O_{ij}}{E_{ij}} \right) \sim \chi^2((r-1)(c-1))$$

Expected values depends on marginal probabilities

$$E_{ij} = N p_{i.} p_{.j}$$

Tests for Paired Nominal Data

DATA:

- Two nominal variables with two or more levels each, and each with the same levels.
- Observations are paired or matched between the two variables.
- McNemar and McNemar–Bowker tests may not be appropriate if discordant cells have low counts.

HYPOTHESIS:

- H0: The contingency table is symmetric. That is, the probability of cell $[i, j]$ is equal to the probability of cell $[j, i]$.
- H1 (two-sided): The contingency table is not symmetric
- In practice: A become more popular than B

For multiple times or groups, Cochran's Q test can be used.

McNemar's symmetry test

$$X^2 = \frac{(n_{12} - n_{21})^2}{n_{12} + n_{21}} \sim \chi^2(1)$$

Exact symmetry test is also available

McNemar–Bowker' symmetry test

$$X^2 = \sum_{i < j} \frac{(n_{ij} - n_{ji})^2}{n_{ij} + n_{ji}} \sim \chi^2 \left(\frac{n(n-1)}{2} - R(\text{off-diagonal nonzero cells}) \right)$$

There are a few alternatives:

1. Exact symmetry test
2. Stuart-Maxwell
3. ...



Difference between tests of symmetry & association for not paired data

<i>Tea</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	Row totals
<i>Coffee</i>			
<i>Yes</i>	37	17	54
<i>No</i>	9	25	34
Col totals	46	42	88

Pearson χ^2 independence test

HYPOTHESIS:

- H0: There is no association between the two variables (they are independent)

P-value: p-value = 0.0002878

Conclusion: Drinking coffee is positively associated with drinking tea

Intuition: if $n_{11}+n_{22}$ is significantly bigger than $n_{12}+n_{21}$ - positive association (otherwise negative)

McNemar's symmetry test

HYPOTHESIS:

- H0: The contingency table is symmetric. That is, the probability of cell $[i, j]$ is equal to the probability of cell $[j, i]$.

P-value: p-value = 0.1698

Conclusion: Coffee is as popular as Tea

Intuition: If n_{12} is significantly higher than n_{21} – Coffee is more popular than Tea

Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel Test for 3-Dimensional Tables

DATA:

- Three nominal variables with two or more levels each.
- Data can be stratified as $n \times n$ tables with the third time or grouping variable

HYPOTHESIS:

- H_0 : There is no association between the two inner variables ($OR=1$).
- H_1 : There is an association between the two inner variables ($OR \neq 1$).

“There was a significant association between variable A and variable B [across groups/times].”

$$OR = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^K \frac{n_{11,i} n_{22,i}}{n_i}}{\sum_{i=1}^K \frac{n_{12,i} n_{21,i}}{n_i}} \quad OR = \frac{P(Y = 1|X = 1) / P(Y = 0|X = 1)}{P(Y = 1|X = 0) / P(Y = 0|X = 0)}$$

K – number of groups/repeats

Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel Test

$$\xi_{CMH} = \frac{\left[\sum_{i=1}^K \left(n_{11,i} - \frac{n_{1.,i} n_{.1,i}}{n_i} \right) \right]^2}{\sum_{i=1}^K \frac{n_{1.,i} n_{2.,i} n_{.1,i} n_{.2,i}}{n_i^2 (n_i - 1)}} \sim \chi^2(1)$$

The CMH test supposes that the effect of the treatment is homogeneous in all groups/times.

Tests for homogenous association:

1. Breslow-Day test
2. Wolff test



Cochran's Q Test for Paired Nominal Data

DATA:

- The response variable is a dichotomous nominal variable.
- The responses are paired by experimental unit.
- The responses are measured across two or more times or factors.
- The data follow an unreplicated complete block design, with each experimental unit treated as the block.

HYPOTHESIS:

- H0: The marginal probability of a [positive] response is unchanged across the times or factors. That is, a positive response is equally likely across times or factors.
- H1: Positive responses are not equally likely across times or factors.

There was a significant difference in the proportion of positive responses across times or factors.

Cochran's Q Test

$$T = K(K - 1) \frac{\sum_{j=1}^K \left(n_{.j} - \frac{N}{K} \right)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^b n_{i.} (K - n_{i.})} \sim \chi^2(K - 1)$$

K – number of times or factors

b – number of experimental units

$n_{.j}$ - column total for jth factor or time

$n_{i.}$ - row total for ith experimental units

	F/TP 1	...	F/TP K	
EU 1	1/0	1/0	1/0	$n_{1.}$
EU 2	1/0	1/0	1/0	$n_{2.}$
...	1/0	1/0	1/0	...
EU b	1/0	1/0	1/0	$n_{b.}$
	$n_{.1}$...	$n_{.K}$	N

For 2 factors – equivalent for McNemar test



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