

Exercises

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April 11, 2022

Exercise 15.6.4

4. The *New York Times* (January 8, 2003, page A12) reported the following data on death sentencing and race, from a study in Maryland: ²

	Death Sentence	No Death Sentence
Black Victim	14	641
White Victim	62	594

Analyze the data using the tools from this chapter. Interpret the results. Explain why, based only on this information, you can't make causal conclusions. (The authors of the study did use much more information in their full report.)

Using the data in the exercise I want to investigate hypothesis if death sentence and victims skin color are related:

H0: Death Sentence and Victims Colour are independent

H1: Death Sentence and Victims Colour are dependent. Null hypothesis is rejected

To test the hypothesis we need to calculate p-value, which is a measure of the evidence against H0. The smaller the p-value, the stronger the evidence against H0.

There are many ways to test hypothesis above. I will try several of them. Firstly, I will do Pearson's χ^2 test to check independence between the features

```
## U statistic: 32.103709343626
```

```
## p-value 1.5e-08
```

```
## [1] "Dependent: Null hypothesis is rejected"
```

Other way is to check the likelihood ratio test statistic:

```
## LRT statistics: 34.5335058946819
```

```
## p-value: 4.1897680880254e-09
```

```
## [1] "Dependent: Null hypothesis is rejected"
```

Hence both Pearson's statistic and LRT leads to the refutation of unassociation of the victim's skin color and death sentence.

It can be concluded that Victims' Colour of the skin is associated with Death Sentence (reject H0). However, I would like to know how strong or weak dependency is. To investigate this odds ratio needs to be calculated.

```
## odds ratio: 0.209249660308993
```

In cases where victim was white skined the decision of Death Sentence was 5 times as likely

```
## Log odds ratio: -1.56422719298786
```

```
## standard error of estimation of log-odds ratio is: 0.301332321154956
```

```
## Odds ratio confidence interval: 0.1145330518385060.382295063622048
```

```
## with a certainty of 95%,
```

```
## death sentence is sentenced from 3 to 9
```

```
## times more often if the victims skin color was white.
```

This means that, with a certainty of 95%, death sentence is sentenced from 2.5 to 9 times more often if the victims' skin color was white. We can see that the skin colour of the victim is associated to the death sentence, however we can't state that it is a cause of the decision because of the lack of information. There can be other factors contributing to both - maybe the death sentence is given to people killing rich victims. Being white and rich might be more likely than being black and rich, hence the weight is more on the white victim side.

Exercise 15.6.5