

# Lecture 5

Proportion data: chi-square tests

# Chi-square tests = proportion tests

- Sometimes data are presented as proportions:

- **One-sample proportion**

- Proportion of women and men in the UK

(**NOTE**: only one 'independent' proportion here: if women are 52%, men must be 48% - they must add up to 100%)

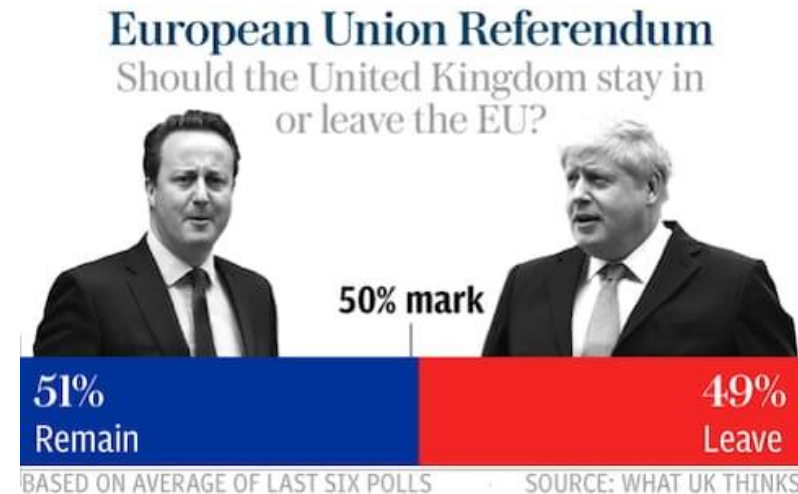
- Proportion of children vs. adults in a village

- **Two independent proportions**

- Proportion of Labour supporters in London vs. Glasgow

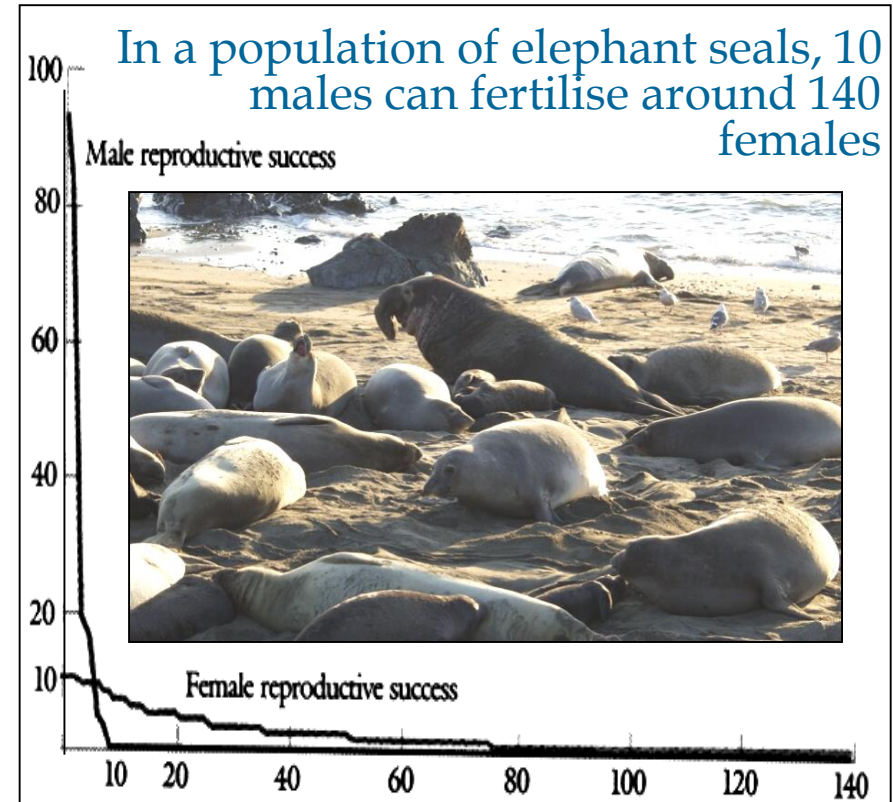
- (**NOTE**: here, proportions do not need to add up to 100%)

- To analyse proportions, we use *proportion tests* (aka *chi-square tests*)



# Proportion test, one sample

- Example: sex ratios at birth
- Sex ratios are intriguing
  - In sexual species, a single male is able to fertilise many (if not all) females in a population
  - In many species, most males never mate!
  - But sex ratios remain  $\sim 1$ ; why so many useless males?



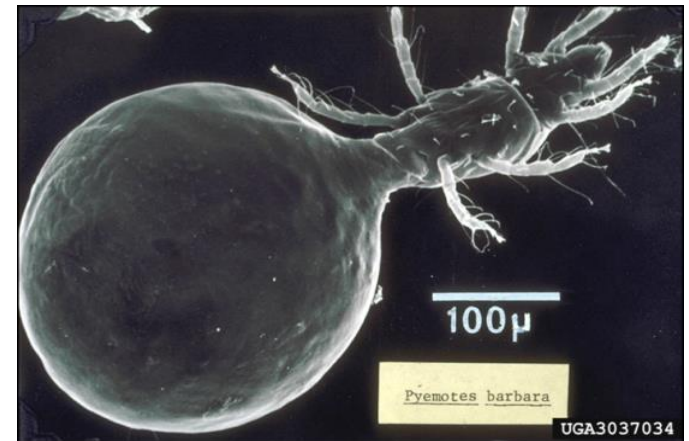
# Why are sex ratios generally balanced?

- If there are 100 offspring in a population, only 1 male (the father of all) and 100 females:
  - average female fitness= 1 offspring per female
  - average male fitness=100 offspring per male
  - > average male fitness is 100 times higher
- Selection favours the fittest, i.e. the rarest sex
  - when males are rare, male offspring is favoured
  - when females are rare, female offspring is favoured
  - -> population remains close to a balanced 1:1 sex ratio
- This is an example of *frequency-dependent selection*



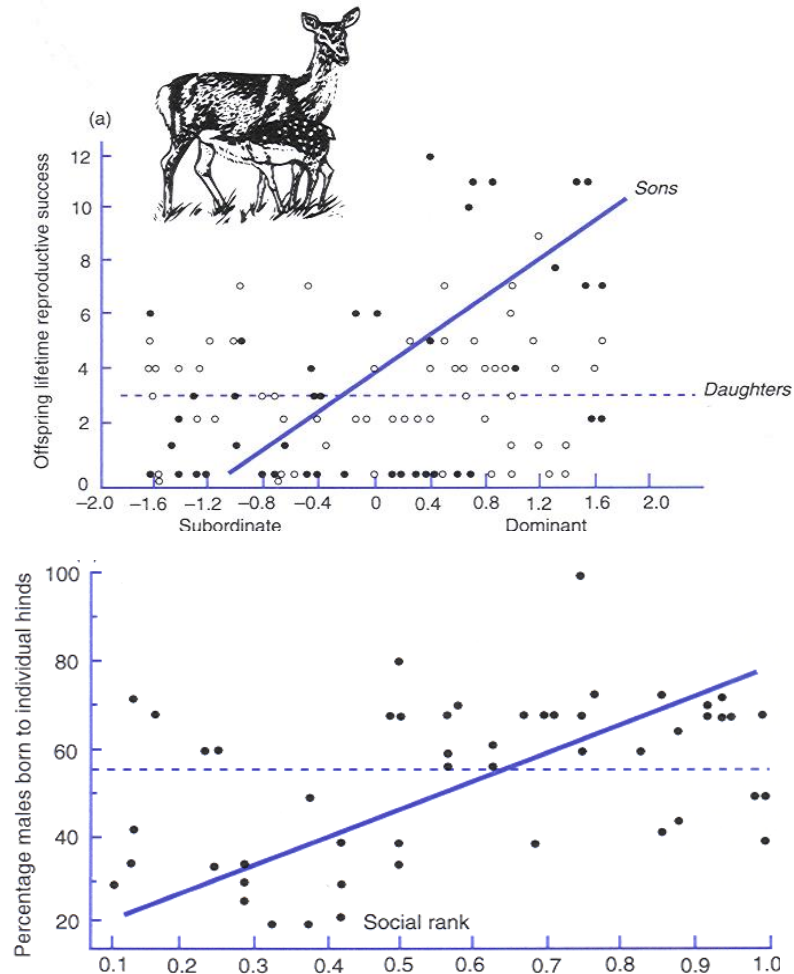
# Deviations from balanced sex ratio

- If your offspring does not compete with others, sex ratio may change
- Example: viviparous mites
  - brothers inseminate sisters inside mother
  - observed sex ratio:  $\sim 1$  male: 22 females



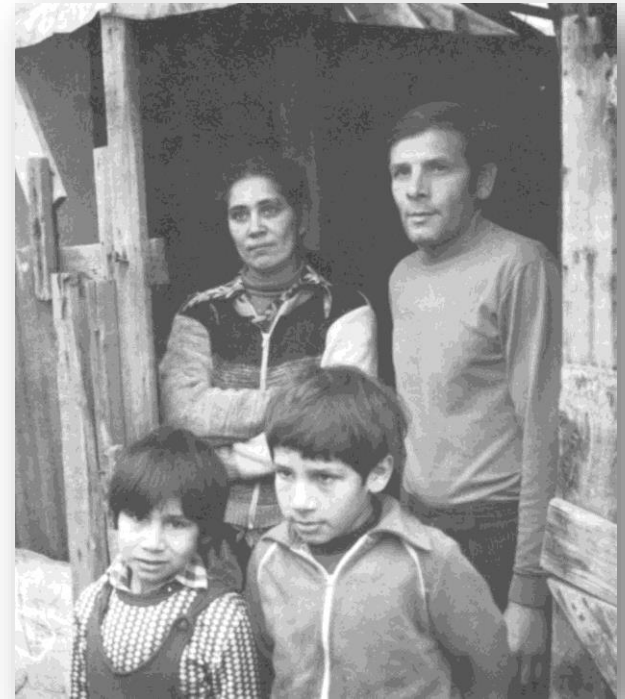
# Sex ratio vs. social status

- Offspring fitness also depends on social status
- In polygynous species (most mammals) only a few high-quality males reproduce (competition for harems is tough)
- In red deer:
  - dominant females have more sons (more likely to be future harem leaders) than daughters
  - subordinate females have more daughters (they can still be in a harem and reproduce) than sons
- But total sex ratio (dominant + subordinate) remains close to 1:1



# Sex ratios in humans

- As a rule, sex ratio at birth is  $\sim 1$  in humans
  - slightly male-biased at  $\sim 1.05$ , to compensate for higher male infant mortality
- But Berenczi and Dunbar (1997) identified a female-biased ratio at birth among Hungarian gypsies
  - rural and urban gypsies are poorer than neighbour Hungarians
  - daughters often marry richer Hungarians; sons very unlikely to marry out
  - Roma prefer baby girls to baby boys
- their prediction: sex ratio *at birth* should be biased towards females
- (note: sex ratio at birth is unaffected by infanticide etc.)



- But let's re-examine the evidence presented in the study
- In Hungarian gypsies, is sex ratio at birth significantly different from  $p=0.5$ ?

Table 2. *Sex ratios at birth for each population*

	number of sons per 100 daughters			
	rural populations		urban populations	
	Gypsy	Hungarian	Gypsy	Hungarian
A. all children				
sample size	254	216	239	224
males/100 females	89.3	111.8	89.7	113.3
B. first-born children only				
sample size	87	85	77	102
males/100 females	81.3	157.6	94.3	131.8

note: in this lecture,  $p$  is proportion;  $P$  is significance level  
 (careful:  $R$  output does not make the distinction!)



# One-sample proportion test



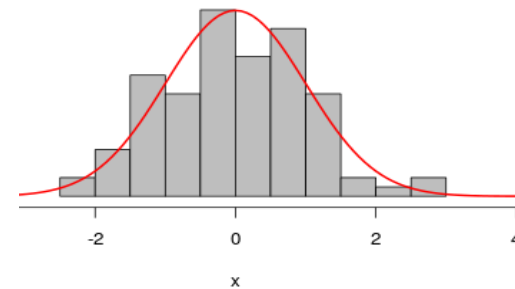
- =tests the **likelihood of a proportion p deviating from a test proportion**
- often, **test proportion** is 50%
- Test is based on an approximation to the binary distribution that estimates likelihood of x positives out of n attempts
  - e.g. coin tossing: binary distribution estimates probability of x heads, each one with  $p(\text{head})=0.5$ , in n tosses
  - expected mean:  $np$  ( $=10*0.5=5$ , i.e. you expect 5 heads in 10 tosses); variance:  $np(1-p)$
- **Test statistic:  $u = \frac{x - np}{\sqrt{np(1-p)}}$** 
  - u statistic similar to t
  - u distribution approaches normal with large n
  - (alternative  $u^2$ , which has a chi-square distribution that also approaches normal with large n)

Syntax:

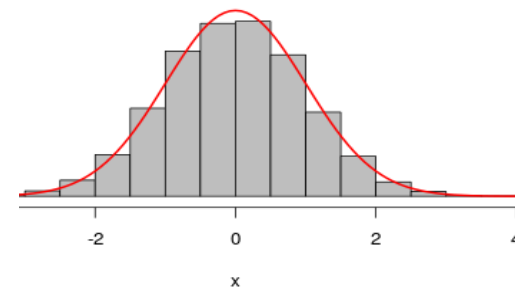
elicit  $p = 0.5$

**> prop.test(x=positives, n=total, p=proportion tested)**  
(default:  $p=0.5$ )

100 Draws



10000 Draws



# Gypsy sex ratios

- So are there fewer gypsy boys than girls at birth?

## 1) Rural gypsies, *all babies*:

- sex ratio=89.3%=0.893, n=254  
 => 120 boys, 134 girls, (120/134=0.893)
  - Proportion of boys =  $120/254 = 0.47$
  - Test proportion: 0.5 (i.e equal proportions)
- **Question: is  $p=0.47$  different from 0.5?**

> prop.test(120, 254, 0.5)

1-sample proportions test with continuity correction

data: 120 out of 254, null probability 0.5

X-squared = 0.6654, df = 1, p-value = 0.4147

alternative hypothesis: true p is not equal to 0.5

95 percent confidence interval:

0.4099875 0.5357417

sample estimates:

p

0.4724409

Table 2. *Sex ratios at birth for each population*

		number of sons per 100 daughters			
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males/100 females	89.3	111.8		89.7	113.3
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sample size	87	85		77	102
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Null hypothesis: proportion=0.5

- **P=0.41**
- proportion  $p=0.5$  included in 95% CI
- =>no significant deviation from  $p=0.5$  and balanced 1:1 sex ratio
- ***no evidence of fewer boys than girls in rural Roma***

Note: calculating boys (b) and girls (g)

- Table shows:
  - Sample size  $n = b + g$
  - (males/females)  $\times 100 = b/g \times 100$  (i.e. shown as percentage)
- If  $n=254$  and male/female = 89.3, then
  - $b + g = 254$
  - $b/g = 0.893$

i.e.

- $g = n/(1 + \text{sex ratio})$

## Exercise:

Run the same test with urban gypsies, all children ( $n=239$ , ratio=0.897)

Does the sex ratio at birth differ from  $p=0.5$ ?

```
prop.test(113,239)  
p= 0.47 >>> p>0.05  
no significant difference
```

# First-borns only

- But decision to have a second baby or abort may depend on sex of previous offspring
  - if 1<sup>st</sup> child is boy, Roma parents are more likely to try again (until child is female; if girl, they are more likely to stop)
- Solution: analyse only *1<sup>st</sup>-born* rural babies:
  - Sex ratio=0.813, n=87 => boys=39, girls=48
  - $p(\text{boys})=39/87=0.448$

```
> prop.test(39, 87, 0.5)
```

1-sample proportions test with continuity correction

data: 39 out of 87, null probability 0.5

X-squared = 0.7356, df = 1, p-value = 0.3911

alternative hypothesis: true p is not equal to 0.5

95 percent confidence interval:

0.3427920 0.5583697

sample estimates:

p

0.4482759

Table 2. *Sex ratios at birth for each population*

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- P=0.39
- 95% CI includes test value  $p=0.5$
- No evidence of fewer boys in rural Gypsy 1<sup>st</sup>-borns either
- One-sample proportion tests show no evidence that rural gypsies have female-biased sex ratio***

## Exercise:

Run the same test with urban gypsies, first-born children only ( $n=77$ , ratio=0.943)

Does the sex ratio at birth differ from  $p=0.5$ ?

Prop.test(37,77)  
P= 0.48 >>>  $p>0.05$   
No significant  
difference

# Two independent proportions

- But proportion of boys in rural gypsies vs. Hungarians could still differ *from each other*
  - i.e. we can compare the two independent proportions of boys in rural Gypsies vs. Hungarians
- We use *two-sample proportion tests* in this case
  - Based on *u*-statistic (=difference between proportion divided by pooled variance) and chi-square distribution

Table 2. Sex ratios at birth for each population

		number of sons per 100 daughters			
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Syntax:

```
> prop.test(c(x1, x2), c(n1, n2))
```

- *xi*= positive cases (=boys) in group 1 and group 2
- *ni*=total cases (=boys+girls) in group 1 and group 2

# All babies

```
> prop.test(c(120,114), c(254,216))
```

2-sample test for equality of proportions with continuity correction

data: c(120, 114) out of c(254, 216)

X-squared = 1.2171, df = 1, p-value = 0.2699

alternative hypothesis: two.sided

95 percent confidence interval:

-0.15018442 0.03951076

sample estimates:

prop 1 prop 2

0.4724409 0.5277778

*For all babies*

Rural gypsies: 254 total, 120 boys;  $p(\text{boys})=0.47$

Rural Hungarians: ratio 1.118, 216 total -> 114 boys, 102 girls;  $p(\text{boys})=0.527$

Result:

$P>0.26$

95% CI includes zero (no difference)

***Conclusion: no significant difference in sex ratios between rural populations***



## Exercise:

urban

Run the same test two independent proportions test on ~~rural~~ children

Does the sex ratio at birth differ between Gypsies and Hungarians?

# First births only

- But now take only first births:
  - Rural gypsies: 39 boys, 48 girls, n=87
  - Rural Hungarians: 52 boys, 33 girls, n=85

```
> prop.test(c(39,52), c(87,85))
```

2-sample test for equality of proportions  
with continuity correction

data: c(39, 52) out of c(87, 85)  
X-squared = 3.9795, df = 1, p-value = 0.04606  
alternative hypothesis: two.sided  
95 percent confidence interval:  
-0.322272741 -0.004704946  
sample estimates:  
prop 1 prop 2  
0.4482759 0.6117647

Table 2. *Sex ratios at birth for each population*

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- Finally a significant difference!
  - $P < 0.05$  (just about)
  - 95% CI excludes zero
  - difference between  $p(\text{boys}) = 0.448$  (Gypsies) and  $p(\text{boys}) = 0.61$  (Hungarians) is significant
- Conclusion: ***rural gypsies show lower proportion of first-born boys than rural Hungarians***

## Exercise:

Run the same test two independent proportions test on urban children, first-born only

Does the sex ratio at birth differ between Gypsies and Hungarians?

```
prop.test(c(37,58),c(77,102))
```

# Conclusions

- The only test that shows a difference between sex ratios in Roma and Hungarians is a two-independent sample comparing rural, first-born children
- But in that test, the ‘abnormal’ population is rural Hungarians, with a very high number of boys among first-borns!
  - They have 57.6% more boys than girls!!!
  - (but is this ratio significant?)
- Very biased conclusion!
  - Based on testing until result is the one you want
  - we’ll see how to fix this later

Table 2. *Sex ratios at birth for each population*

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A. all children					
sample size	254	216		239	224
males/100 females	89.3	111.8		89.7	113.3
B. first-born children only					
sample size	80	85		77	102
males/100 females	81.3	157.6		94.3	131.8

possible cheating, thus correction for multiple testing >>  
limit the amount of testing (ANOVA)

# Other cases: more than two independent proportions

- If you want to compare more than two independent proportions
  - e.g. to compare four populations, i.e. proportion of boys among rural gypsies, rural Hungarian, urban gypsies, urban Hungarians ***all at the same time***)
- Just extend *prop.test* to four populations

```
> prop.test(c(x1, x2, x3, x4), c(n1, n2, n3, n4))
```

pos

total

All values

- Function *chisq.test* is like *prop.test*, but you enter it in matrix form

Syntax:

pos

neg

```
> chisq.test(matrix(c(x1, x2, x3, x4, n1, n2, n3, n4), m))
```

Important! Here n = negatives (in our case, girls), not total!!!

(m is the number of groups; in the example above, m=4)

## Exercise:

- 1) Run prop.test on the four proportions: rural gypsies, rural Hungarian, urban gypsies, urban Hungarians
- 2) Run a chi-square test on the same four proportions

## Other cases: one sample, n proportions

- You may want to test whether a die (instead of a coin) is loaded
  - now there are six proportions ( $1/6$  for each side) that add up to 100%
  - tested proportion is now  $p=1/6=0.17$
- This test can be done with function `chisq.test`

```
> chisq.test(matrix(c(x1, x2, x3, x4, x5, x6), nrow=1))
```

`byrow=T`

```
Chisel.test(matrix(c(x1,x2,x3,x4,x4),byrow=T, nrow=1))
```

- `x1` = number of times you got a 1 rolling the die, etc.
- `nrow= 1` (meaning all 6 values are from the same dice)

# Binomial test

- The binomial test is equivalent to a *prop.test*, except that it is based on the binomial distribution itself
- Some prefer *binom.test* because it estimates an exact P value
  - contrary to *prop.test* that calculates P value from a normal approximation to the binomial

```
> prop.test(120, 254, 0.5)
```

1-sample proportions test with continuity correction

data: 120 out of 254, null probability 0.5

X-squared = 0.6654, df = 1, p-value = 0.4147

alternative hypothesis: true p is not equal to 0.5

95 percent confidence interval:

0.4099875 0.5357417

sample estimates: p

0.4724409

```
> binom.test(120,254)
```

Exact binomial test

data: 120 and 254

number of successes = 120, number of trials = 254, p-value = 0.4147

alternative hypothesis: true probability of success is not equal to 0.5

95 percent confidence interval:

0.4097151 0.5358173

sample estimates: probability of success

0.4724409



# Fischer exact test

- Fisher exact test also calculates exact  $P$  value
- Now you enter the **positive x** cases (e.g. boys) and the **negative cases** (e.g girls), **instead of total n**
- Test is based on odds-ratios not proportions
  - 95% CI looks different
  - if odds ratio (of boys to girls) is different from 1, proportions differ

## Syntax:

```
>fisher.test(matrix(c(pos1, pos2,..., neg1,  
neg2,...), m)) + byrow=T
```

$m$ = number of compared groups

Using data from urban gypsies vs. Hungarians

```
> fisher.test(matrix(c(39, 52, 48, 33), 2))  
Fisher.test(matrix(c(x1,x2,x3,x4),byrow=T,2))  
Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data  
  
data: matrix(c(39, 52, 48, 33), 2)  
p-value = 0.03396  
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not  
equal to 1  
95 percent confidence interval:  
0.2684001 0.9885450  
sample estimates:  
odds ratio  
0.5176459
```

# Generalisation

- Chi-square or Fisher exact tests can be generalised for any number of samples and proportions *at the same time*
- For example, does choice of degree (Archaeology, Biology, Engineering) at UCL affect the final grade (1<sup>st</sup>, 2.1, 2.2, 3<sup>rd</sup> class degree)?
  - results per degree (number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2.1, 2.2, 3<sup>rd</sup> for each degree, which add up to 1)
  - number of degrees *nrow* (in this case, *nrow*=3)
- Syntax:  

```
>chisq.test(matrix(c(n1st,arc, n2.1,arc, n2.2,arc, n3rd,arc, n1st,bio, n2.1,bio, n2.2,bio, n3rd,bio,  
n1st,eng, n2.1,eng, n2.2,eng, n3rd,eng), nrow=3, byrow=T))
```
- *chisq.test* compares observed values (e.g. proportion of Biologists with 2.1) vs. predicted values (e.g. proportion of Biologists times proportion of 2.1 degrees);
- again, advantage of Fisher test is to calculate exact *P* value