

# Coursework 8: STAT 570

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1. Consider  $n$  experiments with  $Z_{ij}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N_i$ , the binary outcomes within cluster (experiment)  $i$  with  $Y_i = \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} Z_{ij}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

(a) By writing

$$\text{var}(Y_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} \text{var}(Z_{ij}) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_i} \sum_{j \neq k} \text{cov}(Z_{ij}, Z_{ik}), \quad (1)$$

show that

$$\text{var}(Y_i) = N_i p_i (1 - p_i) \times \left[ 1 + (N_i - 1) \tau_i^2 \right], \quad (2)$$

where  $p_i = \mathbb{E}[Z_{ij}]$  and  $\tau_i^2$  is the correlation of outcomes within cluster  $i$ .

**Solution:** Using the variance for a Bernoulli random variable and the definition of the correlation coefficient, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Z_{ij}) &= p_i (1 - p_i) \\ \text{cov}(Z_{ij}, Z_{ik}) &= \tau_i^2 p_i (1 - p_i) \text{ for } j \neq k. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Since  $Z_{ij}$  are identically distributed for different  $j$ , we can rewrite Equation 1 as

$$\text{var}(Y_i) = N_i \text{var}(Z_{i1}) + N_i (N_i - 1) \text{cov}(Z_{i1}, Z_{i2}). \quad (4)$$

Applying Equation 3 to Equation 4, we have the result

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Y_i) &= N_i p_i (1 - p_i) + N_i (N_i - 1) \tau_i^2 p_i (1 - p_i) \\ &= N_i p_i (1 - p_i) \times \left[ 1 + (N_i - 1) \tau_i^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

(b) Consider the model

$$Y_i \mid q_i \sim \text{Binomial}(N_i, q_i) \quad (5)$$

$$q_i \sim \text{Beta}(a_i, b_i), \quad (6)$$

where we can parameterize as  $a_i = d p_i$ ,  $b_i = d (1 - p_i)$ , so that

$$\mathbb{E}[q_i] = p_i = \frac{a_i}{d} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{var}(q_i) = \frac{p_i (1 - p_i)}{d + 1}. \quad (8)$$

Obtain the marginal moments and show that the variance is of the form in Equation 2, and identify  $\tau_i^2$ .

**Solution:** We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}(Y_i = y) &= \int_0^1 \mathbb{P}(Y_i | q_i) p(q_i) dq_i \\
&= \int_0^1 \binom{N_i}{y} q_i^y (1 - q_i)^{N_i - y} \left( \frac{\Gamma(a_i + b_i)}{\Gamma(a_i) \Gamma(b_i)} q_i^{a_i - 1} (1 - q_i)^{b_i - 1} \right) dq_i \\
&= \binom{N_i}{y} \frac{\Gamma(a_i + b_i)}{\Gamma(a_i) \Gamma(b_i)} \int_0^1 q_i^{a_i + y - 1} (1 - q_i)^{b_i + N_i - y - 1} dq_i \\
&= \binom{N_i}{y} \left( \frac{\Gamma(a_i + b_i)}{\Gamma(a_i) \Gamma(b_i)} \right) \left( \frac{\Gamma(y + a_i) \Gamma(N_i - y + b_i)}{\Gamma(N_i + a_i + b_i)} \right), \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

so  $Y_i \sim \text{BetaBinomial}(N_i, a_i, b_i)$ .

Using Equation 9, the expectation of  $Y_i$  is

$$\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = \sum_{y=0}^{N_i} y \mathbb{P}(Y_i = y) = \sum_{y=1}^{N_i} y \mathbb{P}(Y_i = y). \tag{10}$$

Note that when  $N_i = 1$ , Equation 10 trivially becomes  $a_i / (a_i + b_i)$ . In general, we can show that  $\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = N_i \frac{a_i}{a_i + b_i}$ . With the  $N_i = 1$  base case established, we now have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[Y_i] &= \sum_{y=1}^{N_i} y \mathbb{P}(Y_i = y) \\
&= \sum_{y=1}^{N_i} y \binom{N_i}{y} \left( \frac{\Gamma(a_i + b_i)}{\Gamma(a_i) \Gamma(b_i)} \right) \left( \frac{\Gamma(y + a_i) \Gamma(N_i - y + b_i)}{\Gamma(N_i + a_i + b_i)} \right) \\
&= \frac{N_i}{N_i - 1 + a_i + b_i} \sum_{y=1}^{N_i} (y - 1 + a_i) \text{BetaBinomial}_{N_i - 1, a_i, b_i}(y - 1) \\
&= \frac{N_i}{N_i - 1 + a_i + b_i} \left( \frac{(N_i - 1) a_i}{a_i + b_i} + a_i \right) = N_i \frac{a_i}{a_i + b_i} \tag{11}
\end{aligned}$$

as expected. Substituting, we have that

$$\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = N_i \frac{dp_i}{dp_i + d(1 - p_i)} = N_i p_i. \tag{12}$$

Using a similar strategy as in Equation 11, we have that

$$\mathbb{E}[Y_i(Y_i - 1)] = \mathbb{E}[Y_i^2] - \mathbb{E}[Y_i]. \tag{13}$$