# Analysis of Qualitative data 

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## Qualitative data

- = not numerical
- = values taken = usually names (also nominal)
- e.g. genotypes

- Values can be numbers but not numerical
- e.g. group number = numerical label but not unit of measurement
- Qualitative variable with intrinsic order in their categories = ordinal
- Particular case: qualitative variable with 2 categories: binary or dichotomous
- e.g. alive/dead or presence/absence


## Fisher's exact and Chi ${ }^{2}$

## Example: cats and dogs.xlsx

- Cats and dogs trained to line dance
- 2 different rewards: food or affection

- Question: Is there a difference between the rewards?
- Is there a significant relationship between the 2 variables?
- does the reward significantly affect the likelihood of dancing?
- To answer this type of question:
- Contingency table
- Fisher's exact or Chi ${ }^{2}$ tests

|  | Food | Affection |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | $?$ | $?$ |
| No dance | $?$ | $?$ |

But first: how many animals do we need?

## Exercise: Power calculation

- Preliminary results from a pilot study: $\mathbf{2 5 \%}$ line-danced after having received affection as a reward vs. 70\% after having received food.
- How many cats do we need?


## Exercise: Power calculation

## Output:

If the values from the pilot study are good predictors and if we use a sample of $\mathbf{n}=\mathbf{2 3}$ for each group, we will achieve a power of $\mathbf{8 3 \%}$.


## Chi-square and Fisher's tests

- Chi ${ }^{2}$ test very easy to calculate by hand but Fisher's very hard
- Many software will not perform a Fisher's test on tables $>2 \times 2$
- Fisher's test more accurate than $\mathrm{Chi}^{2}$ test on small samples
- Chi ${ }^{2}$ test more accurate than Fisher's test on large samples
- Chi ${ }^{2}$ test assumptions:
- $2 \times 2$ table: no expected count $<5$
- Bigger tables: all expected > 1 and no more than $20 \%$ < 5


## Chi-square test

- In a chi-square test, the observed frequencies for two or more groups are compared with expected frequencies by chance.

$$
\chi^{2}=\sum \frac{(O-E)^{2}}{E}
$$

- O = Observed frequencies
- E = Expected frequencies
- Example with 'cats and dogs'


## How are the expected frequencies calculated?

Example: expected frequency of cats line dancing after having received food as a reward.

## Direct counts approach:

Expected frequency $=($ row total $) *($ column total $) /$ grand total $=32 * 32 / 68=15.1$

Probability approach: The Multiplicative Rule
Probability of line dancing: 32/68
Probability of receiving food: 32/68
Expected frequency:(32/68)*(32/68)=0.22: 22\% of $68=15.1$

Observed frequencies

|  | Food | Affection | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | $\mathbf{2 6}$ | 6 | 32 |
| No dance | 6 | 30 | 36 |
| Total | 32 | 36 | 68 |

Expected frequencies

|  | Food | Affection |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | 15.1 | 16.9 |
| No dance | 16.9 | 19.1 |



## Chi ${ }^{2}$ test

$$
\chi^{2}=\sum \frac{(O-E)^{2}}{E}
$$

Observed frequencies

|  | Food | Affection |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | 26 | 6 |
| No dance | 6 | 30 |

Expected frequencies

|  | Food | Affection |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | 15.1 | 16.9 |
| No dance | 16.9 | 19.1 |

Chi $^{2}=(26-15.1)^{2} / 15.1+(6-16.9)^{2} / 16.9+(6-16.9)^{2} / 16.9+(30-19.1)^{2} / 19.1=28.4$

Is 28.4 big enough for the test to be significant?

# Is 28.4 big enough for the test to be significant? 

The old fashion way

> Degree of freedom: df $\mathrm{df}=($ row -1$)($ col -1$)=1$


## Critical value

|  | Food | Affection |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Dance | 26 | 6 |
| No dance | 6 | 30 |


|  | Tail probability $p$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| df | . 25 | . 20 | . 15 | :10 | 05 | . 025 | . 02 | . 01 | . 005 |
| 1 | 1.32 | 1.64 | 2.07 | 2.71 | 3.84 | 5.02 | 5.41 | 6.63 | 7.88 |
| 2 | 2.77, | 3.22 | 3.79 | 4.61 | 5.99 | 7.38 | 7.82 | 9.21 | 10.60 |
| 3 | 4.11 | 4.64 | 5.32 | 6.25 | 7.81 | 9.35 | 9.84 | 11.34 | 12.84 |
| 4 | 5.39 | 5.99 | 6.74 | 7.78 | 9.49 | 11.14 | 11.67 | 13.28 | 14.86 |
| 5 | 6.63 | 7.29 | 8.12 | 9.24 | 11.07 | 12.83 | 13.39 | 15.09 | 16.75 |
| 6 | 7.84 | 8.56 | 9.45 | 10.64 | 12.59 | 14.45 | 15.03 | 16.81 | 18.55 |
| 7 | 9.04 | 9.80 | 10.75 | 12.02 | 14.07 | 16.01 | 16.62 | 18.48 | 20.28 |
| 8 | 10.22 | 11.03 | 12.03 | 13.36 | 15.51 | 17.53 | 18.17 | 20.09 | 21.95 |
| 9 | 11.39 | 12.24 | 13.29 | 14.68 | 16.92 | 19.02 | 19.68 | 21.67 | 23.59 |
| 10 | 12.55 | 13.44 | 14.53 | 15.99 | 18.31 | 20.48 | 21.16 | 23.21 | 25.19 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |  | 5 |

## Fisher's exact and Chi ${ }^{2}$ tests with Prism 8



## Fisher's exact and Chi² tests Results



## Odds Ratio = 21.7

If you are a dancing cat, you are almost 22 times more likely to have received food than affection as a reward ( $p<0.0001$ ).

## Fisher's exact and Chi ${ }^{2}$ tests with Prism 8 Beyond significance

- Two super important things to keep in mind:
* Qualitative data can be presented as percentages but the tests should always be run on actual counts. * Power!
* A p-value should always be interpreted in the context of the experiment.
* Power!




## Let's do it with the dogs

## Results for cats and dogs




## Fisher's exact test: results




- In our example:
cats are more likely to line dance if they are given food as reward than affection ( $p<0.0001$ ) whereas dogs don't mind ( $p>0.99$ ).



## Exercise: Cane toads

|  | Infected | Uninfected |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Rockhampton | 12 | 8 |
| Bowen | 4 | 16 |
| Mackay | 15 | 5 |



- A researcher decided to check the hypothesis that the proportion of cane toads with intestinal parasites was the same in 3 different areas of Queensland.

From Statistics Explained by Steve McKillup

- Question: Is the proportion of cane toads infected by intestinal parasites the same in 3 different areas of Queensland?


## Exercise: Cane toads



|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Table Analyzed | Cane toad |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Chi-square | $12.95,2$ |  |  |
| Chi-square, df | 0.0015 |  |  |
| P value | सz |  |  |
| P value summary | NA |  |  |
| One- or two-tailed | Yes |  |  |
| Statistically significant? (alpha<0.05) |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Data analyzed | 2 |  |  |
| Number of rows |  |  |  |
| Number of columns |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |



- Uninfected
- Infected


## Answer:

The proportion of cane toads infected by intestinal parasites varies significantly between the 3 different areas of Queensland ( $p=0.0015$ ), the animals being more likely to be parasitized in Rockhampton and Mackay than in Bowen.

## Exercise: Cane toads



 $\square$ Uninfected

- Infected


## New question:

Is the proportion of infected cane toads different in Bowen than in the other $\mathbf{2}$ areas?

## Exercise: Cane toads

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| P value and statistical significance |  |
| Test | Fisher's exact test |
|  |  |
| P value | 0.0225 |


|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| P value and statistical significance |  |
| Test | Fisher's exact test |
|  |  |
| P value | 0.0012 |




Is the proportion of infected cane toads different in Bowen than in the other 2 areas? Yes, it is.

