# Chi-Square Test

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### "Understanding Statistics in the Behavioral Sciences" R. R. Pagano

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 A chi-squared (χ<sup>2</sup>) test, is any statistical hypothesis test where the sampling distribution of the test statistic is a chi-squared distribution when the null hypothesis is true.

- Without other qualification, 'chi-squared test' often is used as short for Pearson's chi-squared test.
- The chi-squared test is used to determine whether there is a significant <u>difference</u> between the expected frequencies and the observed frequencies in one or more categories.

- In the standard applications of this test, the <u>observations</u> are classified into mutually exclusive classes,
- and there is some theory, or say null hypothesis, which gives the probability that any observation falls into the corresponding class.

• The purpose of the test is to evaluate how likely the observations that are made would be, assuming the null hypothesis is true.

- Chi-squared tests are often constructed from a <u>sum</u> of squared errors, or through the sample variance.
- A chi-squared test can be used to attempt <u>rejection</u> of the null hypothesis that the data are independent.

Test statistics that follow

 a chi-squared distribution
 arise from an assumption of
 independent normally distributed data,
 which is valid in many cases
 due to the central limit theorem.

• Pearson's chi-squared test  $\chi^2$  is a statistical test applied to sets of categorical data to evaluate how likely it is that any observed difference between the sets arose by chance.

- It is the most widely used of many chi-squared tests (e.g., Yates, likelihood ratio, portmanteau test in time series, etc.)
- statistical procedures whose results are evaluated by reference to the chi-squared distribution.
   Its properties were first investigated by Karl Pearson in 1900.
- In contexts where it is important to improve a distinction between the test statistic and its distribution, names similar to Pearson χ-squared test or statistic are used.

- It tests a null hypothesis stating that the frequency distribution of certain events observed in a sample is consistent with a particular theoretical distribution.
- The events considered must be mutually exclusive and have total probability 1.

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- A common case for this is where the events each cover an outcome of a categorical variable.
- A simple example is the hypothesis that an ordinary six sided die is fair (i.e, all six outcomes are equally likely to occur.)

- Pearson's chi-squared test is used to assess three types of comparison:
  - goodness of fit,
  - homogeneity, and
  - independence.

• A test of goodness of fit establishes whether an observed frequency distribution differs from a theoretical distribution.

 A test of homogeneity compares the distribution of counts for two or more groups using the same categorical variable (e.g. choice of activity—college, military, employment, travel—of graduates of a high school reported a year after graduation, sorted by graduation year, to see if number of graduates choosing a given activity has changed from class to class, or from decade to decade).<sup>1</sup>

#### <sup>1</sup>DEFINITION NOT FOUND.

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• A test of independence assesses whether observations consisting of measures on two variables, expressed in a contingency table, are independent of each other (e.g. polling responses from people of different nationalities to see if one's nationality is related to the response).

## Suppose that n observations in a random sample from a population are classified into k mutually exclusive classes with respective observed numbers x<sub>i</sub> (for i = 1, 2, ..., k),

• a <u>null hypothesis</u> gives the <u>probability</u>  $p_i$ that an observation falls into the *i*-th class. So we have the expected numbers  $m_i = npi$  for all *i*, where

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} p_i = 1$$
$$\sum_{i=1}^{k} m_i = n \sum_{i=1}^{k} p_i = \sum_{i=1}^{k} x_i$$

# Pearson's Chi-Square test (c)

$$X^{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{(x_{i} - m_{i})^{2}}{m_{i}} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{x_{i}^{2}}{m_{i}} - n$$
$$X^{2} - X'^{2} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{x_{i}^{2}}{m_{i}} - \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{x_{i}^{2}}{m'_{i}}$$

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- Suppose there is a city of 1,000,000 residents with four neighborhoods: A, B, C, and D.
- a random sample of 650 residents of the city is taken and their occupation is recorded as "white collar", "blue collar", or "no collar".
- the null hypothesis is that each person's neighborhood of residence is independent of the person's occupational classification.

	Α	В	С	D	total
White collar	90	60	104	95	349
Blue collar	30	50	51	20	151
No collar	30	40	45	35	150
Total	150	150	200	150	650

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- Let us take the sample living in neighborhood A, 150, to estimate what proportion of the whole 1,000,000 live in neighborhood A.
- Similarly we take 349/650 to estimate what proportion of the 1,000,000 are white-collar workers.
- By the assumption of independence under the hypothesis we should "expect" the number of white-collar workers in neighborhood A to be

$$150\times\frac{349}{650}\approx80.54$$

• Then in that "cell" of the table, we have

$$rac{( ext{observed} - ext{expected})^2}{ ext{expected}} = rac{(90 - 80.54)^2}{80.54} pprox 1.11$$

- The sum of these quantities over all of the cells is the test statistic; in this case,  $\approx 24.6$
- Under the null hypothesis, this sum has approximately a chi-squared distribution whose number of degrees of freedom are

(number of rows 
$$-1$$
)(number of columns  $-1$ )  $=$   $(3 - 1)(4 - 1) = 6$ 

- If the test statistic is improbably large according to that chi-squared distribution, then one rejects the null hypothesis of independence.
- A related issue is a test of homogeneity.
- Suppose that

instead of giving every resident of each of the four neighborhoods an equal chance of inclusion in the sample,

we decide in advance how many residents of each neighborhood to include.

 Then each resident has the same chance of being chosen as do all residents of the same neighborhood, but residents of different neighborhoods would have different probabilities of being chosen if the four sample sizes are not proportional to the populations of the four neighborhoods.

- In such a case, we would be testing "homogeneity" rather than "independence".
- The question is whether the proportions of blue-collar, white-collar, and no-collar workers in the four neighborhoods are the same.
- However, the test is done in the same way.