Exact testing for model/data fit for log-linear models

"Part Two"
"Algebraic & Geometric Methods in Statistics"

Sonja Petrović
Created for Math/Stat 561

Feb 27, 2026.

Agenda

- Chapter 9 from our textbook: Fisher's exact test
- Part of chapter 8, as we may need the cone of sufficient statistics.

Goals

- LAST LECTURE:
  - Understand hypotheses testing for model/data fit
- THIS LECTURE: we will work towards
  - What is a p-value for a goodness-of-fit test?
  - Asymptotic vs. exact tests
  - Fisher's test and example
- To ponder:
  - General goodness of fit test for log-linear models
  - Open problems and relation to projects!

Recap

Exact test (Fisher)

In an **exact** goodness-of-fit test, one uses the exact distribution of the statistic...

Recap

Exact test (Fisher)

In an **exact** goodness-of-fit test, one uses the exact distribution of the statistic... ... which is **what**?

```
         gender
range    M  F Nb
  <=135K 8  1  4
  > 135K 2  9  2
```

```
            gender
range       M  F Nb
  <=135K    9  0  4
  > 135K    1 10  2
              gender
range         M  F Nb
  <=135K      9  1  3
  > 135K      1  9  3
```

Conclusion? Evidence in the data? Significance?

Definition [p-value]

Refer to Chapter 5. Discuss in lecture / board.

- Read the beginning of Chapter 9. Section 9.1: Conditional inference.
    - We are *conditioning* on the row and column sums of the table.
    - These are sufficient statistics for the independence model.
    - This is a *general strategy*...

The general exact test for contingency tables [board lecture]

- Proposition 9.1.1. [stated without proof, but it's not difficult. . .]

- p.192 "A similar strategy is based on the likelihood ratio test, where we use the G statistic, instead of the X2 statistic."

- Look back to the example from Lecture 10:

Interpret: what are all the possible tables? What is the probability of any given table?

	M	F	T/Nb	totals
≤ 135K	?	?	?	**13**
> 135K	?	?	?	**13**
totals	**10**	**10**	**6**	**26**

Here's a cheat sheet:

Before we proceed with the Fisher test, we first introduce some notations. We represent the cells by the letters *a, b, c* and *d*, call the totals across rows and columns *marginal totals*, and represent the grand total by *n*. So the table now looks like this:

	Men	Women	Row Total
Studying	*a*	*b*	*a + b*
Non-studying	*c*	*d*	*c + d*
Column Total	*a + c*	*b + d*	*a + b + c + d (=n)*

Fisher showed that conditional on the margins of the table, *a* is distributed as a hypergeometric distribution with *a+c* draws from a population with *a+b* successes and *c+d* failures. The probability of obtaining such set of values is given by:

$$p = \frac{\binom{a+b}{a}\binom{c+d}{c}}{\binom{n}{a+c}} = \frac{\binom{a+b}{b}\binom{c+d}{d}}{\binom{n}{b+d}} = \frac{(a+b)!\,(c+d)!\,(a+c)!\,(b+d)!}{a!\,\,b!\,\,c!\,\,d!\,\,n!}$$

where $\binom{n}{k}$ is the binomial coefficient and the symbol ! indicates the factorial operator. This can be seen as follows. If the marginal totals (i.e. $a + b$, $c + d$, $a + c$, and $b + d$) are known, only a single degree of freedom is left: the value e.g. of a suffices to deduce the other values. Now, $p = p(a)$ is the probability that a elements are positive in a random selection (without replacement) of $a + c$ elements from a larger set containing n elements in total out of which $a + b$ are positive, which is precisely the definition of the hypergeometric distribution.

Figure 1: From Wikipedia :)

Recap: definition of exact conditional tests

In an **exact** goodness-of-fit test, one uses the exact distribution of a GoF statistic... for example the X^2 statistic defined in lecture 10. The reference distribution is the *exact* distribution of that statistic on the set of tables with given fixed sufficient statistics (margins).

```
        gender
range    M  F Nb
  <=135K 8  1  4
  > 135K 2  9  2
```

```
          gender
range      M  F Nb
  <=135K   9  0  4
  > 135K   1 10  2
            gender
range      M  F Nb
  <=135K   9  1  3
  > 135K   1  9  3
```

Conclusion? Evidence in the data? Significance?

Definition [p-value]

Define the *p*-value for the GoF statistic.

- Read the beginning of Chapter 9. Section 9.1: Conditional inference.
  - We are *conditioning* on the row and column sums of the table.
  - These are sufficient statistics for the independence model.
  - This is a *general strategy*. . .

Interpret: what are all the possible tables? What is the probability of any given table?

	M	F	T/Nb	totals
≤ 135K	?	?	?	**13**
> 135K	?	?	?	**13**
totals	**10**	**10**	**6**	**26**

The general exact test for contingency tables [board lecture]

- Definition 9.1.3. - fiber
- p194: Problem 9.1.6. - understand the problem definition

Models with a design matrix

- $X_1, \ldots, X_k$ discrete random variables, $X_i \in \{1, \ldots, d_i\}$
- $u =$ a k-way contingency table $u \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^{d_1 \times \cdots \times d_k}$ [Draw a table!] Flatten u to vector.

Log-linear model

Sufficient statistics $=$ marginals of u: $P_\theta(U = u) = \exp\{\langle Au, \theta \rangle - \psi(\theta)\}$.

Example $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$

$$
\left[
\begin{array}{cccc|cccc|c|cccc}
1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\
\hline
1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\
0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1
\end{array}
\right]_{(d_1+d_2) \times d_1 d_2}
\cdot
\begin{bmatrix} u_{11} \\ \vdots \\ u_{d_1 d_2} \end{bmatrix}
=
\begin{bmatrix} u_{1+} & \cdots & u_{+d_2} \end{bmatrix}.
$$

Resources & License

- Quick summary notes about *p*-values that I wrote for Stat 514.
- Read about hypothesis tests for context of the model fitting tests in these lecture notes.
- This lesson from Penn State online offers a one-page summary of Fisher's exact test for 2×2 tables, as it was developed by Sir Fisher!
- Believe it or not, there is a great 2×2 example on Wikipedia, a page which actually contains a really good explanation for this one example.

This document is created for Math/Stat 561, Spring 2023.