

# Test for Significance: Chi-square test

⇒ Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is a statistical test which tells us the probability of obtaining the observed result by chance if the null hypothesis is true. It does not tell us whether the null hypothesis is ~~true~~ actually true.

⇒ The null hypothesis is that the data fits the ratios we suggest, and this is what is tested.

⇒ We must have a null hypothesis before we can do any meaningful test. Our null hypothesis is that the results (63:37) do fit a 3:1.

⇒ Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) = Sum  $\left[ \frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2}{\text{Expected}} \right]$

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

-  $\chi^2$  is calculated from the original data, never from percentages, frequencies or proportions.

## $\chi^2$ (Chi-square) Calculations

Null hypothesis (Predicted ratio)	observed
--------------------------------------	----------

3:1

Expected observed

Expected

63 Red

$100 \times \frac{3}{4} = 75$

37 white

$100 \times \frac{1}{4} = 25$

- observed - expected = 63 - 75 = -12	87 - 25 = 12
- (observed - expected) <sup>2</sup> = (-12) <sup>2</sup> = 144	(12) <sup>2</sup> = 144
- $\frac{(\text{observed} - \text{expected})^2}{\text{expected}} = \frac{144}{75} = 1.92$	$\frac{144}{25} = 5.76$

-  $\chi^2 = 1.92 + 5.76 = 7.68$

- degree of freedom = 2 - 1 = 1 d.f.

- from table of probability (P)(d.f-1) 0.01 > P > 0.005.

The expected numbers are calculated by multiplying the total by the predicted frequency (e.g.  $100 \times \frac{1}{4}$  white). The deviation or difference, between the observed and expected number is squared to remove negative numbers and divided by the expected value to undo the squaring and standardize the numbers.

This is repeated for each class (red & white classes in this example) and the values are added (summed) to give the overall value of  $\chi^2$ .

The value of  $\chi^2$  increases when the deviations from expected are large, so large values of  $\chi^2$  lead us to reject the null hypothesis.  $\therefore$

- The data doesn't fit if  $\chi^2$  is large.
- A perfect fit gives a  $\chi^2$  of zero.

- Degree of freedom are one less than the number of classes. They ~~tell us~~ <sup>provide</sup> something about the number of independent numbers that have, and this relates to the usefulness of our data.
- In this example, there are two classes, red and white. All the plants that are not red must be white. When the red ones are counted, the number of white ones is fixed. Therefore, there is only one degree of freedom.
- If there had been red, pink and white flowers - three classes - there would be two degrees of freedom, when two classes had been counted, the third would be fixed.

### using $\chi^2$ probability table

- first see the level of significance of our result.
- See the probability table and follow the line for 1 degree of freedom (top line) to find the nearest values of  $\chi^2$  above & below <sup>our</sup> value.
- We see that the value of 6.634 is exceeded with a probability of 0.01 (that is 1% or  $\frac{1}{100}$ ) and 7.87944 is exceeded with a probability of 0.005 (i.e. 0.5% =  $\frac{1}{200}$ ).