Discussion of Chi Square Goodness of Fit Test from:

MEASURING & MONITORING Plant Populations

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To test statistically which of these three years is different, we can compare each of the pairs of means using two-sided t tests. However, we must modify the P value used for the ANOVA for each t test performed, by dividing the P value used for the overall ANOVA by the number of t tests to be performed. In this case, our overall P value is 0.05. If we want to compare all three mean values (mean 1 with mean 2, mean 2 with mean 3, and mean 1 with mean 3), we divide the overall *P* value by 3. Our new threshold *P* value for each of these tests is thus 0.05/3 = 0.0167.

When we do these pairwise *t* tests we come up with the following statistics:

Years Compared	DF	t-value	Р	
1989 vs. 1991	58	1.8771	0.0655	
1989 vs. 1993	58	2.6234	0.0111	
1991 vs. 1993	58	0.7340	0.4659	

Only the *P* value of 0.0111 for the years 1989 vs. 1993 is less than our threshold of 0.0167. We therefore conclude that there has been a significant change between those two years (but not between any of the other pairs of years). This procedure is called the Bonferroni t test and works reasonably well when the number of comparisons are few (Glantz 1992). As the number of comparisons increases above 8 to 10, however, the value of t required to conclude a difference exists becomes much larger than it needs to be, and the method becomes overly conservative (Glantz 1992). Other multiple comparison tests are less conservative and preferable in these cases. Three such tests are the Student-Neuman-Keuls test, the Scheffe test, and the Tukey test, some or all of which are performed by many microcomputer statistical packages. There is debate over which of these is the preferable test; see Zar (1996:218) for a discussion of this. Another such test, the Duncan multiple-range test, is not conservative enough and should be avoided (Day and Quinn 1989).

3. Testing the difference between two proportions (independent samples): the chi-square test

The chi-square test is used to analyze frequency data when individual quadrats are the sampling units and point cover data when individual points are the sampling units. (Even though cover is expressed as a percentage, cover data are appropriately analyzed by calculating mean values, except when individual points are the sampling units.) If the frequency data are collected on more than one species, each species is usually analyzed separately. Another alternative is to lump species into functional groups, such as annual graminoids, and analyze each of the groups.

a. 2 x 2 contingency table to compare two years

To estimate the frequency of a plant species in two separate years, we've taken two independent random samples of 400 quadrats each. In each of these quadrats the species is either present or absent. For analysis we put these data into a 2×2 contingency table, as follows:

	1990	1994	Totals
Present	123 (0.31)	157 (0.39)	280 (0.35)
Absent	277 (0.69)	243 (0.61)	520 (0.65)
Totals	400 (1.00)	400 (1.00)	800 (1.00)

The numbers in parentheses are frequencies of occurrence in 1990 and 1994, and, in the last column, for both years combined. The chi-square test is conducted on actual numbers

of quadrats, *not* percentages. The chi-square test is not appropriately applied to percentage data.

Just as for the *t* test and ANOVA, we must formulate a null hypothesis. Our null hypothesis states that the true proportion of the target plant species (the proportion we would get if we placed all of the quadrats of our particular size that could be placed in the sampled area) is the same in both years. This is equivalent to saying there has been no change in the proportion of the key species from 1990 to 1994.

Before we can calculate the chi-square statistic we must determine the values that would be expected in the event there was no difference between years. The total frequencies in the right hand column are used for this purpose. Thus, in both 1990 and 1994, 0.35 x 400 quadrats, or 140 quadrats, would be expected to contain the species, and in both 1990 and 1994, 0.65 x 400 quadrats, or 260 quadrats, would be expected to not contain the species. The following table shows these expected values:

	1990	1994	Totals	
Present	140	140	280	
Absent	260	260	520	
Totals	400	400	800	

Now we can compute the chi square statistic as follows:

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

Where: χ^2 is the chi square statistic.

- Σ = summation symbol.
- O = Number observed.
- E = Number expected.

Applying this formula to our example we get:

$$\chi^{2} = \frac{(123-140)^{2}}{140} + \frac{(277-260)^{2}}{260} + \frac{(157-140)^{2}}{140} + \frac{(243-260)^{2}}{260}$$

= 2.06 + 1.11 + 2.06 + 1.11 = 6.34

We then compare the chi-square value of 6.34 to a table of critical values of the chi-square statistic (see table in Appendix 5) to see if our chi-square value is sufficiently large to be significant.⁴ The *P* value we have selected for our threshold before sampling began is 0.10. Now we need to determine the number of degrees of freedom. For a contingency table, the number of degrees of freedom, *v*, is given by:

v = (r - 1)(c - 1)

Where: r = number of rows in the contingency table.

c = number of columns in the contingency table.

⁴ If we've sampled more than 5% of the population we should apply the finite population correction factor to the chi-square test. This increases the chi-square statistic and gives us greater power to detect change. See Section F of this chapter for instructions on how to do this.

For a 2 x 2 table v = (2-1)(2-1) = 1. Therefore, we enter the table at degrees of freedom = 1, and the *P* threshold of 0.10. The critical chi-square value from the table is 2.706. Since our value of 6.34 is larger than the critical value, we reject the null hypothesis of no difference in frequency of the plant species and conclude there has been an increase in its frequency. We would also report our calculated *P* value, which we could interpolate from the chi-square table, but could obtain more easily through a statistics program. For this example, the *P* value is 0.012.

Statistics texts differ on whether to use the chi-square statistic as calculated above in the special case of a 2 x 2 contingency table. Some authors (e.g., Zar 1996) state this value overestimates the chi-square statistic and recommend that the Yates correction for continuity be applied to the formula as follows:

$$\chi^{2} = \sum \frac{(|O - E| - \frac{1}{2})^{2}}{E}$$

Other authors (e.g., Steel and Torrie 1980; Sokal and Rohlf 1981) point out that the Yates correction is overly conservative and recommend against its use. Salzer (unpub. data) has shown through repeated sampling of simulated frequency data sets that the Yates correction is not needed. Munro and Page (1993) point out that the Yates correction is required only when the expected frequency of one of the cells in the table is less than 5. With the proper selection of quadrat size (see Chapters 7 and 8) this should rarely occur in plant frequency monitoring studies. Accordingly, we recommend calculating χ^2 without the Yates correction.

Statistical packages for personal computers calculate the chi-square statistic and give exact P values. For 2 x 2 tables, however, you should be aware of whether the program applies the Yates correction factor. Some programs, such as SYSTAT, give both the uncorrected and corrected chi-square values. Other programs such as STATMOST give only the corrected chi-square value. Because you want the uncorrected chi-square value, this presents a problem for 2 x 2 tables; no program applies the correction to larger tables.

b. Larger contingency tables for more than two years

When you have more than two years of data to compare, you can increase the size of the contingency table accordingly. For three years of data, you would use a 2 x 3 table; for four years, a 2 x 4 table; and so on. The chi-square statistic is computed according to the directions given above for a 2 x 2 table. Also, when using a table of critical values you need to calculate the degrees of freedom according to the directions given above. Because there will never be more than two rows (present and absent), the number of degrees of freedom will always be 1 fewer than the number of years. Thus, for a 2 x 3 table there, are 2 degrees of freedom; for a 2 x 4 table, there are 3 degrees of freedom; and so on.

It is important to realize that, just as for an ANOVA, a significant result in a chi-square table larger than 2 x 2 is an indication only that the frequency in at least one year is significantly different than expected. Which year(s) are different cannot be determined without further testing. This can be done by subdividing the larger contingency table into smaller 2 x 2 tables. Because this involves making multiple comparisons on the same set of data, however, the Bonferroni adjustment to the P value must be made before running these tests (directions on the use of the Bonferroni adjustment are given under Section D.2, above).

c. Contingency tables for analysis of point cover data

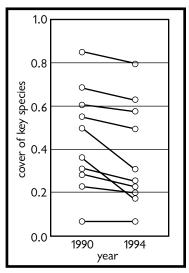
If you've collected cover data using a point intercept method and if the sampling units are the individual points (as opposed to transects or point frames), the data can be arrayed into a contingency table and analyzed using the chi-square statistic. The procedure is the same as for the frequency data described above (except you may wish to change "present" and "absent" to "hits" and "misses"). Just as for frequency data, analysis is done on a species-byspecies basis or on functional groups of species. Total plant cover or any other type of cover (e.g., litter or bare ground) can also be analyzed this way.

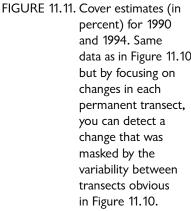
E. Permanent Quadrats, Transects, and Points: the Use of Paired-Sample Significance Tests

1. Independent vs. paired samples

Thus far we've discussed significance tests for independent samples. Independent samples are ones in which different sets of sampling units are selected randomly (or systematically with random starts) in each year of measurement. Now we'll consider the case in which sampling units are randomly selected only in the first year of measurement. The sampling units are then permanently marked, and the same (or at least approximately the same) sampling units are measured in the subsequent monitoring year.

Because the two samples are no longer independent (the second





sample is dependent upon the first), the use of the independent-sample significance tests discussed previously is not appropriate. Instead, a pairedsample significance test is used.

2. Paired t test: use it when you can

The appropriate significance test for two paired samples is the paired t test (unless the samples are proportions, in which case McNemar's test, discussed below, is the test to use). There is often a great advantage to testing change using a paired t test rather than an independent-sample ttest. This is because the paired t test is often much more powerful in

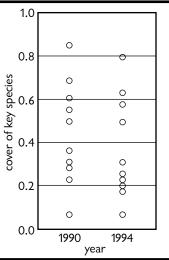


FIGURE 11.10. Cover estimates (in percent) for 1990 and 1994. Data from 10 permanent transects of 50 points each.

¹⁰ detecting change. To see why this is so, let's examine Figures 11.10 and 11.11 (adapted from Glantz 1992).

The data depicted in Figure 11.10 are cover estimates (in percent) for 10 transects in 1990 and 1994. The estimates were derived by placing 50 points at systematic intervals along a line (transect), recording whether the target plant species was present or absent, and reporting a total cover for the species on the transect. For

100.0	10.828 13.816 16.266 18.467 20.515	22.458 24.322 26.124 27.877 29.588	31.264 32.909 34.528 36.123 37.697	39.252 40.790 42.312 45.315 45.315	46.797 48.268 49.728 51.179 52.620	54.052 55.476 56.892 58.301 59.703	61.098 62.487 63.870 65.247 66.619	67.985 69.346 70.703 72.055 73.402	74.745 76.084 77.419 78.750 80.077	81.400 82.720 84.037 85.351 86.661
0,005	7.879 10.597 12.838 14.860 16.750	18.548 20.278 21.955 23.589 25.188	26.757 28.500 29.819 31.319 32.801	34.267 35.718 37.156 38.582 39.997	41.401 42.796 44.181 45.559 46.928	48.240 49.645 50.993 52.336 53.672	55.003 56.328 57.048 58.964 60.275	61.581 62.883 64.181 65.476 66.766	68,053 69,336 70,616 71,893 73,166	74.437 75.704 76.969 78.231 79.490
0.01	6.635 9.210 11.345 13.277 15.086	16.812 18.475 20.090 21.666 23.209	24.725 26.217 27.688 29.141 30.578	32.000 33.409 34.805 36.191 37.566	38.932 40.289 41.638 42.9638 44.314	45,642 46,963 48,278 49,588 49,588 50,892	52.191 53.486 54.776 56.061 57.342	58.619 59.833 61.162 62.428 63.691	64,950 66,206 67,459 68,710 69,957	71.201 72.443 73.683 74.919 76.154
0.025	5.024 7.378 9.348 11.143 12.833	14.449 16.013 17.535 19.023 20.483	21.920 23.337 24.736 26.119 27.488	28.845 30.191 31.526 32.852 34.170	35.479 36.781 38.076 39.364 40.646	41.923 43.195 44.461 45.722 46.979	48,232 49,480 50,725 51,966 53,203	54.437 55.668 56.896 58.120 59.342	60.561 61.777 62.990 64.201 65.410	66.617 67.821 69.023 70.222 71.420
0.05	3.841 5.991 7.815 9.488 11.070	12.592 14.067 15.507 16.919 18.307	19.675 21.026 22.362 23.685 24.996	26.296 27.587 28.869 30.144 31.410	32.671 35.924 35.172 36.415 37.652	38.885 40.113 41.337 42.557 43.773	њњ, 985 њб, 194 њ7, 400 њ8, 602 њ9, 802	50.998 52.192 53.384 54.572 55.758	56.942 58.124 59.304 60.481 61.656	62.830 64.001 65.171 66.339 67.505
0.10	2.706 4.605 6.251 7.779 9.236	10.645 12.017 13.362 14.684 15.987	17.275 18.549 19.812 21.064 22.307	23.542 24.769 25.989 27.204 28.412	29.615 30.813 32.007 33.196 34.382	35.563 36.741 37.916 39.087 40.256	41.422 42.585 43.745 44.905 46.059	47.212 48.363 49.513 50.660 51.805	52.949 54.090 55.230 56.369 57.505	58.641 59.774 60.907 62.038 63.167
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0.95	0.0004 0.103 0.352 0.711 1.145	1.635 2.167 2.733 3.325 3.940	4.575 5.226 5.892 6.571 7.261	7.962 8.672 9.390 10.117 10.851	11.541 12.338 13.091 13.848 14.611	15.379 16.151 16.928 17.708 18.493	19.281 20.072 20.867 21.664 22.465	23.269 24.075 24.884 25.695 26.509	27.326 28.144 28.965 29.787 30.612	31.439 32.268 33.098 33.930 34.764
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Square	0.000 0.020 0.115 0.297 0.554	0.872 1.239 1.646 2.088 2.558	3.053 3.571 4.107 4.660 5.229	5.812 6.408 7.015 7.633 8.260	8.897 9.542 10.196 10.856 11.524	12.198 12.879 13.565 14.256 14.955	15.655 16.362 17.074 17.789 18.509	19.233 19.960 20.691 21.426 22.164	22.906 23.650 24.398 25.148 25.901	26.657 27.416 28.177 28.941 28.941 29.707
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MEASURING AND MONITORING PLANT POPULATIONS

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APPENDIX 5. Tables of Critical Values for the t and Chi-square Distributions 335

Critical Values of the Chi-Square Distribution (cont.)

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0.0		150.6 151.8 153.0 154.3 155.5	156.7 157.9 159.1 160.3 161.5	162.7 163.9 165.2 167.6	168.8 170.0 171.2 173.6	174.8 176.0 177.2 178.4 179.6	180.7 181.9 185.1 184.3 185.5	186.7 187.9 189.1 190.3 191.5	192.7 193.8 195.0 196.2
0.05		552 552 891 070	2247 2524 2754 2754 2758 2758 2758 2758 2758 2758 2758 2758	122 294 637 808	647167 641467 641467	81 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 8 1 2 8 1 2 8 1 8 1	634 957 118 278	438 597 913 070	2226 538 693 847
0	•		147 148 148 150	153. 154. 155. 157.	158. 160. 161. 162.	164 165 167 168	170. 171. 172. 174.	176. 177 178. 179. 181.	182. 183. 184. 185. 186.
10		971 154 4597 620	780 940 093 257 414	571 727 882 037 191	344 496 808 800 950	100 250 546 644	841 987 133 278 423	567 711 854 996	280 421 561 701 840
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025		700 838 975 111 247	382 517 651 784 917	049 180 311 441 571	700 829 957 084	3338 464 7164 839	962 086 331 453	575 696 816 936	175 294 412 530 648
0		131 131 132 134	136 137 138 139 140	14543	1491449	153 154 155 156	158 160 161 162 163	164 165 165 167 167	170 171 172 173
. 05		.458 .574 .689 .804 .918	031 144 257 369	591 701 811 921 030	.138 .3546 .461	. 674 . 779 . 885 . 989 . 094	198 302 405 508 610	712 814 915 016	216 316 415 514 613
0		125 126 127 128 128	131 132 133 134 135	136 137 138 138 159 141	65432 14444 15111	147 148 149 150 152	153 154 155 155	1538 1630 1631 1631	164 165 166 167
.10	.	589 679 769 858	035 123 211 298 385	472 558 543 729 813	898 982 066 149	315 398 480 562	724 805 9685 9665	125 204 283 561 561	7.518 8.595 9.673 0.750 1.827
0		119 120 122 123	125 126 127 127 128	134	135		3 146 6 147 8 148 0 149 2 151	4 152 6 153 8 154 9 1554 0 156	4 1 1 2 8 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 8 3 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 8 3 1 2 3 8 3 1 2 3 8 3 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 2 3 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
1.25	.	236 236 284 284	5.424 6.471 7.517 8.563 9.608	0.654 1.699 2.744 3.784	5.878 6.923 7.967 9.011 0.055	1.098 2.142 5.185 5.271 5.271	6.313 8.356 9.440 0.482	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	6 731 8 813 9 854
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		000000		20102 20102 20102	58 10 74 10 90 10 24 10	41 11 58 11 76 11 13 13		52 11 52 12 17 12 12 12 12	38 12 61 12 83 12 06 12 29 12
06 0		13.26 14.17 15.999 15.999	87.82 88.73 89.64 90.55 91.47	92.38 93.29 94.21 95.12 96.04	96.95 97.87 98.79 99.70 00.62	01.54 02.45 04.25 04.25	07.05 07.05 08.80 09.81	110.73	15.33 16.26 18.10
nt.) 5		20088938 5057 7008 707 70	001070 00270	20112	1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 1 1	98 10 93 10 83 10 83 10 78 10	74 I 71 I 67 I 62 I 62 I	54 I 1 56 1 1 56 1 1 57 1 1 57 1 1 57 1 1 56 1 1 56 1 1 57 1 1 1 1	58 1 1 58 1 58 1 58 1
ос) 6.9		78.8] 79.65 80.51 81.41	85.21 84.11 85.90	887 889 91 2 91 2 91 2 91 2 91 2 91 2 91 2 91	93 0 93 0 94 8 95 7	96 5 97 4 99 2 99 2 00 1	01.0 01.9 02.8 03.7 04.6	005 5 006 4 009 1	10.0 10.9 11.8 12.7 13.6
ribution 0.975		273 273 273 273 273 273 273 273 273 273	00 60 61 61	177450 177400	88 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	46 20 46 1	22 1 98 1 53 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	101 830 48 18 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	009 1 91 1 54 1 37 1
istrib 0.9	•	75.0 75.9 776.8 77.6	79.4 80.2 81.1 82.8 82.8	85.5 85.5 85.5 87.3	888 888 9 9 9 9 7 9 7 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 9 1 1 9 1 1 9 1	92,49 94,13 95,00 95,90	96.56 98.55 99.45 00.34	01.02	105.6 107.3 109.1
De De		22	58 58 58	82 81 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	229	77 624 524 3275 180	033 887 741 451 1	307 1 163 1 021 1 878 1 736 1	1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
Squal 0_9	•	7210	75.0 75.0 76.7 76.7 78.7 78.7 78.7	75 80 81 82 82 82 82	8888 890 800 800 800 800 800 800 800 800	588 59 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	9 6 6 9 7 9 0 9 6 6 9 7 9 9 6 6 9 7 9	95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 95 9	100.5
Chi-S	•	140 965 785 428 428	251 251 225 250 250	377 204 862 692	522 353 0185 852	686 521 356 029	866 3845 2845 2845	063 904 588 431	275 119 964 809 655
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MEASURING AND MONITORING PLANT POPULATIONS