PASS Sample Size Software NCSS.com

Chapter 197

Superiority by a Margin Tests for the Odds Ratio of Two Proportions

Introduction

This module provides power analysis and sample size calculation for superiority by a margin tests of the odds ratio in two-sample designs in which the outcome is binary. Users may choose between two popular test statistics commonly used for running the hypothesis test.

The power calculations assume that independent, random samples are drawn from two populations.

Example

A superiority by a margin test example will set the stage for the discussion of the terminology that follows. Suppose that the current treatment for a disease works 70% of the time. A promising new treatment has been developed to the point where it can be tested. The researchers wish to show that the new treatment is better than the current treatment by at least some amount. In other words, does a clinically significant higher number of treated subjects respond to the new treatment?

Clinicians want to demonstrate the new treatment is superior to the current treatment. They must determine, however, how much more effective the new treatment must be to be adopted. Should it be adopted if 71% respond? 72%? 75%? 80%? There is a percentage above 70% at which the difference between the two treatments is no longer considered ignorable. After thoughtful discussion with several clinicians, it was decided that if the odds ratio of new treatment to reference is at least 1.1, the new treatment would be adopted. This ratio is called the *margin of superiority*. The margin of superiority in this example is 1.1.

The developers must design an experiment to test the hypothesis that the odds ratio of the new treatment to the reference is at least 1.1. The statistical hypothesis to be tested is

$$H_0: O_1/O_2 \le 1.1$$
 versus $H_1: O_1/O_2 > 1.1$

Notice that when the null hypothesis is rejected, the conclusion is that the odds ratio is at least 1.1. Note that even though the response rate of the current treatment is 0.70, the hypothesis test is about an odds ratio of 1.1. Also notice that a rejection of the null hypothesis results in the conclusion of interest.

Technical Details

The details of sample size calculation for the two-sample design for binary outcomes are presented in the chapter "Tests for Two Proportions," and they will not be duplicated here. Instead, this chapter only discusses those changes necessary for superiority by a margin tests.

This procedure has the capability for calculating power based on large sample (normal approximation) results and based on the enumeration of all possible values in the binomial distribution.

Suppose you have two populations from which dichotomous (binary) responses will be recorded. Assume without loss of generality that the higher proportions are better. The probability (or risk) of cure in population 1 (the treatment group) is p_1 and in population 2 (the reference group) is p_2 . Random samples of n_1 and n_2 individuals are obtained from these two populations. The data from these samples can be displayed in a 2-by-2 contingency table as follows

Group	Success	Failure	Total
Treatment	x_{11}	x_{12}	n_1
Control	x_{21}	x_{22}	n_2
Totals	m_1	m_2	N

The binomial proportions, p_1 and p_2 , are estimated from these data using the formulae

$$\hat{p}_1 = \frac{a}{m} = \frac{x_{11}}{n_1}$$
 and $\hat{p}_2 = \frac{b}{n} = \frac{x_{21}}{n_2}$

Define $O_i=p_i/(1-p_i)$. Let $p_{1.0}$ represent the group 1 proportion tested by the null hypothesis, H_0 . The power of a test is computed at a specific value of the proportion which we will call $p_{1.1}$. Let ψ_0 represent the smallest odds ratio (margin of superiority) between the two proportions that still results in the conclusion that the new treatment is superior to the current treatment. For a superiority by a margin test, $\psi_0>1$ The set of statistical hypotheses that are tested is

$$H_0: O_1/O_2 \le \psi_0$$
 versus $H_1: O_1/O_2 > \psi_0$

which can be rearranged to give

$$H_0: O_1 \leq O_2 \psi_0$$
 versus $H_1: O_1 > O_2 \psi_0$

There are three common methods of specifying the margin of superiority. The most direct is to simply give values for p_2 and $p_{1.0}$. However, it is often more meaningful to give p_2 and then specify $p_{1.0}$ implicitly by specifying the difference, ratio, or odds ratio. Mathematically, the definitions of these parameterizations are

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Computation</u>	<u>Hypotheses</u>
Difference	$\delta_0 = p_{1.0} - p_2$	H_0 : $p_1-p_2 \leq \delta_0$ versus H_1 : $p_1-p_2 > \delta_0$
Ratio	$\phi_0 = p_{1.0}/p_2$	H_0 : $p_1/p_2 \le \phi_0$ versus H_1 : $p_1/p_2 > \phi_0$
Odds Ratio	$\psi_0 = O_{1.0}/O_2$	$H_0: O_1/O_2 \le \psi_0$ versus $H_1: O_1/O_2 > \psi_0$

Odds Ratio

The odds ratio, $\psi = O_1/O_2 = (p_1/(1-p_1))/(p_2/(1-p_2))$, gives the relative change in the odds of the response. Testing superiority by a margin uses the formulation

$$H_0: O_1/O_2 \le \psi_0$$
 versus $H_1: O_1/O_2 > \psi_0$

or equivalently

$$H_0: \psi \leq \psi_0$$
 versus $H_1: \psi > \psi_0$.

For superiority by a margin tests with higher proportions better, $\psi_0 > 1$. For superiority by a margin tests with higher proportions worse, $\psi_0 < 1$.

A Note on Setting the Significance Level, Alpha

Setting the significance level has always been somewhat arbitrary. For planning purposes, the standard has become to set alpha to 0.05 for two-sided tests. Almost universally, when someone states that a result is statistically significant, they mean statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Although 0.05 may be the standard for two-sided tests, it is not always the standard for one-sided tests, such as superiority by a margin tests. Statisticians often recommend that the alpha level for one-sided tests be set at 0.025 since this is the amount put in each tail of a two-sided test.

Power Calculation

The power for a test statistic that is based on the normal approximation can be computed exactly using two binomial distributions. The following steps are taken to compute the power of these tests.

- 1. Find the critical value using the standard normal distribution. The critical value, $z_{critical}$, is that value of z that leaves exactly the target value of alpha in the appropriate tail of the normal distribution.
- 2. Compute the value of the test statistic, z_t , for every combination of x_{11} and x_{21} . Note that x_{11} ranges from 0 to n_1 , and x_{21} ranges from 0 to n_2 . A small value (around 0.0001) can be added to the zero-cell counts to avoid numerical problems that occur when the cell value is zero.
- 3. If $z_t > z_{critical}$, the combination is in the rejection region. Call all combinations of x_{11} and x_{21} that lead to a rejection the set A.
- 4. Compute the power for given values of $p_{1,1}$ and p_2 as

$$1-\beta = \sum_{A} \binom{n_1}{x_{11}} p_{1.1}^{x_{11}} q_{1.1}^{n_1-x_{11}} \binom{n_2}{x_{21}} p_2^{x_{21}} q_2^{n_2-x_{21}}.$$

5. Compute the actual value of alpha achieved by the design by substituting $p_{1.0}$ for $p_{1.1}$ to obtain

$$\alpha^* = \sum_{A} \binom{n_1}{\chi_{11}} p_{1.0}^{\chi_{11}} q_{1.0}^{n_1 - \chi_{11}} \binom{n_2}{\chi_{21}} p_2^{\chi_{21}} q_2^{n_2 - \chi_{21}}.$$

Asymptotic Approximations

When the values of n_1 and n_2 are large (say over 200), these formulas often take a long time to evaluate. In this case, a large sample approximation can be used. The large sample approximation is made by replacing the values of \hat{p}_1 and \hat{p}_2 in the z statistic with the corresponding values of $p_{1.1}$ and p_2 , and then computing the results based on the normal distribution.

Test Statistics

Two test statistics have been proposed for testing whether the odds ratio is different from a specified value. The main difference between the test statistics is in the formula used to compute the standard error used in the denominator. These tests are both likelihood score tests.

In power calculations, the values of \hat{p}_1 and \hat{p}_2 are not known. The corresponding values of $p_{1.1}$ and p_2 may be reasonable substitutes.

Following is a list of the test statistics available in **PASS**. The availability of several test statistics begs the question of which test statistic one should use. The answer is simple: one should use the test statistic that will be used to analyze the data. You may choose a method because it is a standard in your industry, because it seems to have better statistical properties, or because your statistical package calculates it. Whatever your reasons for selecting a certain test statistic, you should use the same test statistic when doing the analysis after the data have been collected.

Miettinen and Nurminen's Likelihood Score Test

Miettinen and Nurminen (1985) proposed a test statistic for testing whether the odds ratio is equal to a specified value, ψ_0 . Because the approach they used with the difference and ratio does not easily extend to the odds ratio, they used a score statistic approach for the odds ratio. The regular MLE's are \hat{p}_1 and \hat{p}_2 . The constrained MLE's are \tilde{p}_1 and \tilde{p}_2 . These estimates are constrained so that $\tilde{\psi}=\psi_0$. A correction factor of N/(N-1) is applied to make the variance estimate less biased. The significance level of the test statistic is based on the asymptotic normality of the score statistic.

The formula for computing the test statistic is

$$z_{MNO} = \frac{\frac{(\hat{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_1)}{\tilde{p}_1 \tilde{q}_1} - \frac{(\hat{p}_2 - \tilde{p}_2)}{\tilde{p}_2 \tilde{q}_2}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n_1 \tilde{p}_1 \tilde{q}_1} + \frac{1}{n_2 \tilde{p}_2 \tilde{q}_2}\right) \left(\frac{N}{N-1}\right)}}$$

where

$$\tilde{p}_1 = \frac{\tilde{p}_2 \psi_0}{1 + \tilde{p}_2 (\psi_0 - 1)}$$

$$\tilde{p}_2 = \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}$$

Superiority by a Margin Tests for the Odds Ratio of Two Proportions

$$A=n_2(\psi_0-1),$$

$$B = n_1 \psi_0 + n_2 - m_1 (\psi_0 - 1),$$

$$C = -m_1$$

Farrington and Manning's Likelihood Score Test

Farrington and Manning (1990) indicate that the Miettinen and Nurminen statistic may be modified by removing the factor N/(N-1).

The formula for computing this test statistic is

$$z_{FMO} = \frac{\frac{(\hat{p}_1 - \tilde{p}_1)}{\tilde{p}_1 \tilde{q}_1} - \frac{(\hat{p}_2 - \tilde{p}_2)}{\tilde{p}_2 \tilde{q}_2}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n_1 \tilde{p}_1 \tilde{q}_1} + \frac{1}{n_2 \tilde{p}_2 \tilde{q}_2}\right)}}$$

where the estimates \tilde{p}_1 and \tilde{p}_2 are computed as in the corresponding test of Miettinen and Nurminen (1985) given above.

Example 1 – Finding Power

A study is being designed to establish the superiority of a new treatment compared to the current treatment. Historically, the current treatment has enjoyed a 62.5% cure rate. The new treatment is hoped to perform better than the current treatment. Thus, the new treatment will be adopted if it is more effective than the current treatment by a clinically significant amount. The researchers will recommend adoption of the odds ratio of the new treatment to the old treatment is at least 1.5.

The researchers plan to use the Farrington and Manning likelihood score test statistic to analyze the data that will be (or has been) obtained. They want to study the power of the Farrington and Manning test at group sample sizes ranging from 50 to 500 when the actual odds ratio is 2.0. The significance level will be 0.05.

Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 1** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

Solve For	Power
Power Calculation Method	Normal Approximation
Higher Proportions Are	Better (H1: OR > OR0)
Test Type	Likelihood Score (Farr. & Mann.)
Alpha	0.05
Group Allocation	Equal (N1 = N2)
Sample Size Per Group	50 to 500 by 50
OR0 (Superiority Odds Ratio)	1.5
OR1 (Actual Odds Ratio)	2.0
P2 (Group 2 Proportion)	0.625

Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output.

Numeric Reports

Numeric Results

Solve For: Power

Groups: 1 = Treatment, 2 = Reference

Test Statistic: Farrington & Manning Likelihood Score Test Hypotheses: H0: OR ≤ OR0 vs. H1: OR > OR0

	_			1	Proportions	i	Odds R	atio	
		Sample S	ize	Superiority	Actual	Reference	Superiority	Actual	
Power*	N1	N2	N	P1.0	P1.1	P2	OR0	OR1	Alpha
0.16278	50	50	100	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.23613	100	100	200	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.30292	150	150	300	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.36502	200	200	400	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.42291	250	250	500	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
.47676	300	300	600	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.52669	350	350	700	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.57279	400	400	800	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.61522	450	450	900	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05
0.65413	500	500	1000	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05

^{*} Power was computed using the normal approximation method.

Power The probability of rejecting a false null hypothesis when the alternative hypothesis is true.

N1 and N2 The number of items sampled from each population.

N The total sample size. N = N1 + N2.

P1 The proportion for group 1, which is the treatment or experimental group.

P1.0 The smallest group 1 proportion that still yields a superiority conclusion. P1.0 = P1|H0. P1.1 The proportion for group 1 used for the alternative hypothesis, H1. P1.1 = P1|H1. P2 The proportion for group 2, which is the standard, reference, or control group.

OR0 The superiority odds ratio, [P1/(1-P1)]/[P2/(1-P2)], assuming H0. OR1 The superiority odds ratio, [P1/(1-P1)]/[P2/(1-P2)], assuming H1.

Alpha The probability of rejecting a true null hypothesis.

Summary Statements

A parallel two-group design will be used to test whether the Group 1 (treatment) proportion (P1) is superior to the Group 2 (reference) proportion (P2) by a margin, with a superiority odds ratio of 1.5 (H0: OR \leq 1.5 versus H1: OR > 1.5). The comparison will be made using a one-sided, two-sample Score test (Farrington & Manning) with a Type I error rate (α) of 0.05. The reference group proportion is assumed to be 0.625. To detect an odds ratio (O1 / O2) of 2 (or P1 of 0.7692) with sample sizes of 50 for the treatment group and 50 for the reference group, the power is 0.16278.

Dropout-Inflated Sample Size

	s	ample S	ize	I	pout-Inf Enrollme Sample S	ent	1	Expected Number of Dropout	of
Dropout Rate	N1	N2	N	N1'	N2'	N'	D1	D2	D
20%	50	50	100	63	63	126	13	13	26
20%	100	100	200	125	125	250	25	25	50
20%	150	150	300	188	188	376	38	38	76
20%	200	200	400	250	250	500	50	50	100
20%	250	250	500	313	313	626	63	63	126
20%	300	300	600	375	375	750	75	75	150
20%	350	350	700	438	438	876	88	88	176
20%	400	400	800	500	500	1000	100	100	200
20%	450	450	900	563	563	1126	113	113	226
20%	500	500	1000	625	625	1250	125	125	250
Dropout Rate N1, N2, and N	The evaluable	n no respo sample si d out of th	onse data will zes at which p	be collected bower is com	(i.e., will b puted (as	e treated as "	missing"). At e user). If N1	obreviated and N2 s	as DR. ubjects
N1', N2', and N' D1, D2, and D	The number of subjects, bas formulas N1	subjects sed on the = N1 / (1 pages 52-	assumed dro - DR) and N2 53, or Chow, S	pout rate. N ² = N2 / (1 - E S.C., Shao, J	I' and N2' DR), with N ., Wang, F	are calculated I1' and N2' alv I., and Lokhny	l by inflating vays rounded gina, Y. (20	N1 and Nad up. (See	2 using th Julious,

Dropout Summary Statements

Anticipating a 20% dropout rate, 63 subjects should be enrolled in Group 1, and 63 in Group 2, to obtain final group sample sizes of 50 and 50, respectively.

References

Chow, S.C., Shao, J., and Wang, H. 2008. Sample Size Calculations in Clinical Research, Second Edition. Chapman & Hall/CRC. Boca Raton, Florida.

Farrington, C. P. and Manning, G. 1990. 'Test Statistics and Sample Size Formulae for Comparative Binomial Trials with Null Hypothesis of Non-Zero Risk Difference or Non-Unity Relative Risk.' Statistics in Medicine, Vol. 9, pages 1447-1454.

Fleiss, J. L., Levin, B., Paik, M.C. 2003. Statistical Methods for Rates and Proportions. Third Edition. John Wiley & Sons. New York.

Gart, John J. and Nam, Jun-mo. 1988. 'Approximate Interval Estimation of the Ratio in Binomial Parameters: A Review and Corrections for Skewness.' Biometrics, Volume 44, Issue 2, 323-338.

Gart, John J. and Nam, Jun-mo. 1990. 'Approximate Interval Estimation of the Difference in Binomial Parameters: Correction for Skewness and Extension to Multiple Tables.' Biometrics, Volume 46, Issue 3, 637-643.

Julious, S. A. and Campbell, M. J. 2012. 'Tutorial in biostatistics: sample sizes for parallel group clinical trials with binary data.' Statistics in Medicine, 31:2904-2936.

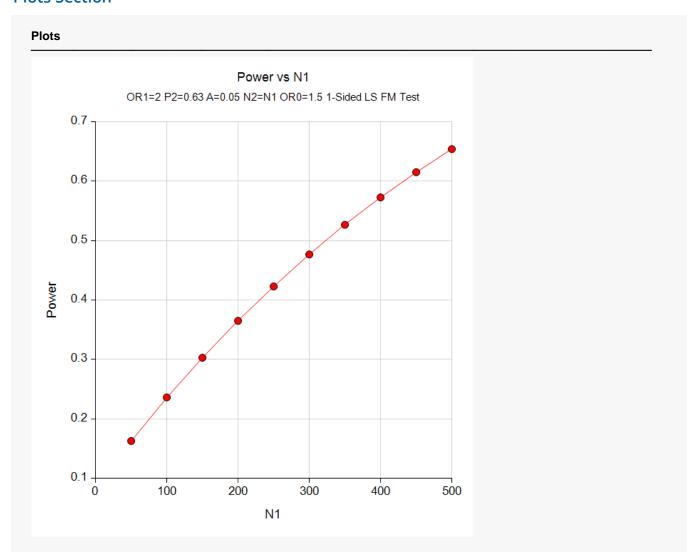
Lachin, John M. 2000. Biostatistical Methods. John Wiley & Sons. New York.

Machin, D., Campbell, M., Fayers, P., and Pinol, A. 1997. Sample Size Tables for Clinical Studies, 2nd Edition. Blackwell Science. Malden, Mass.

Miettinen, O.S. and Nurminen, M. 1985. 'Comparative analysis of two rates.' Statistics in Medicine 4: 213-226.

This report shows the values of each of the parameters, one scenario per row.

Plots Section



The values from the table are displayed in the above chart. These charts give us a quick look at the sample size that will be required for various sample sizes.

Example 2 - Finding the Sample Size

Continuing with the scenario given in Example 1, the researchers want to determine the sample size necessary to achieve a power of 0.80.

Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 2** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

Solve For	Sample Size
Power Calculation Method	Normal Approximation
Higher Proportions Are	Better (H1: OR > OR0)
Test Type	Likelihood Score (Farr. & Mann.)
Power	0.80
Alpha	0.05
Group Allocation	Equal (N1 = N2)
OR0 (Superiority Odds Ratio)	1.5
OR1 (Actual Odds Ratio)	2.0
P2 (Group 2 Proportion)	0.625

Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output.

Solve Fo Groups: Test Stat Hypothes	1 = Tre istic: Farring	eatment, gton & Ma		rence kelihood S : OR > OR						
Pov	uor.		Sample S	izo.		Proportions	s	Odds R	atio	
Target	Actual*	N1	N2	N	Superiority P1.0	Actual P1.1	Reference P2	Superiority OR0	Actual OR1	Alpha
0.8	0.80002	745	745	1490	0.7143	0.7692	0.625	1.5	2	0.05

The required sample size is 1035 per group.

Example 3 – Comparing the Power of the Two Test Statistics

Continuing with Example 2, the researchers want to determine which of the two possible test statistics to adopt by using the comparative reports and charts that **PASS** produces. They decide to compare the powers from binomial enumeration and actual alphas for various sample sizes between 1000 and 1200.

Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 3** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

Solve For	Power
Power Calculation Method	Binomial Enumeration
Maximum N1 or N2 for Binomial Enumera	tion 5000
Zero Count Adjustment Method	Add to zero cells only
Zero Count Adjustment Value	0.0001
Higher Proportions Are	Better (H1: OR > OR0)
Test Type	Likelihood Score (Farr. & Mann.)
Alpha	0.05
Group Allocation	Equal (N1 = N2)
Sample Size Per Group	600 700 800
OR0 (Superiority Odds Ratio)	1.5
OR1 (Actual Odds Ratio)	2.0
P2 (Group 2 Proportion)	0.625
Reports Tab	
Show Comparative Reports	Checked
Occurred to District	
Comparative Plots Tab	

Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output.

Power Comparison of Two Different Tests

Hypotheses: H0: OR ≤ OR0 vs. H1: OR > OR0

Sa	mple Siz	70					Po	wer
N1	N2	N	P2	OR0	OR1	Target Alpha	F.M. Score	M.N. Score
600	600	1200	0.625	1.5	2	0.05	0.7297	0.7297
700	700	1400	0.625	1.5	2	0.05	0.7862	0.7862
800	800	1600	0.625	1.5	2	0.05	0.8322	0.8313

Note: Power was computed using binomial enumeration of all possible outcomes.

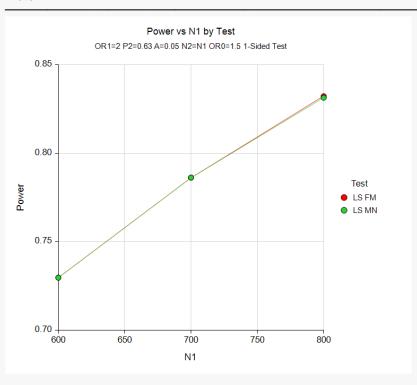
Actual Alpha Comparison of Two Different Tests

Hypotheses: H0: OR ≤ OR0 vs. H1: OR > OR0

Sa	mple Siz	70					Alpha	
N1	N2	N	P2	OR0	OR1	Target	F.M. Score	M.N. Score
600 700 800	600 700 800	1200 1400 1600	0.625 0.625 0.625	1.5 1.5 1.5	2 2 2	0.05 0.05 0.05	0.0503 0.0502 0.0502	0.0503 0.0502 0.0501

Note: Actual alpha was computed using binomial enumeration of all possible outcomes.

Plots



The power is almost exactly the same for both tests, which is not surprising given the large sample size.

Example 4 - Comparing Power Calculation Methods

Continuing with Example 3, let's see how the results compare if we were to use approximate power calculations instead of power calculations based on binomial enumeration.

Setup

If the procedure window is not already open, use the PASS Home window to open it. The parameters for this example are listed below and are stored in the **Example 4** settings file. To load these settings to the procedure window, click **Open Example Settings File** in the Help Center or File menu.

Solve For	Power
Power Calculation Method	Normal Approximation
Higher Proportions Are	Better (H1: OR > OR0)
Test Type	Likelihood Score (Farr. & Mann.)
Alpha	0.05
Group Allocation	Equal (N1 = N2)
Sample Size Per Group	600 700 800
OR0 (Superiority Odds Ratio)	1.5
OR1 (Actual Odds Ratio)	2.0
P2 (Group 2 Proportion)	0.625
Reports Tab	

Output

Click the Calculate button to perform the calculations and generate the following output.

	Statistic: heses:		n & Manniı GOR0 vs.		ood Score To > OR0	est			
Sa	mple Siz	ze				Nor Approxi		Bino Enume	
N1	N2	N	P2	OR0	OR1	Power	Alpha	Power	Alpha
600	600	1200	0.625	1.5	2	0.72209	0.05	0.72971	0.05
700	700	1400	0.625	1.5	2	0.77821	0.05	0.78622	0.05
800	800	1600	0.625	1.5	2	0.82407	0.05	0.83218	0.05

Notice that the approximate power values are close to the binomial enumeration values for all sample sizes.

Example 5 - Validation

We could not find a validation example for a superiority by a margin test for the odds ratio of two proportions. The calculations are basically the same as those for a superiority by a margin test of the ratio of two proportions, which has been validated using Blackwelder (1993). We refer you to Example 5 of Chapter 196, "Superiority by a Margin Tests for the Ratio of Two Proportions," for a validation example.