Permutation Analysis

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Who came up with permutation?

- Hint: it's a statistical tool
- R. A. Fisher

 Proposed as validation for Student's t-test in 1935 in Fisher's The Design of Experiments

Basic Principle

- 1. Under the null, all data comes from the same distribution
- 2. We calculate our statistic, such as mean difference
- 3. We then shuffle the data with respect to group and recalculate the statistic (mean difference)
- 4. Repeat step 3 multiple times
- 5. Find out where our statistic lies in comparison to the null distribution

Real Example

 Case-Control data, and we want to find out if there is a mean difference

		case		control
	1	-0.49274	10	1.471227
	2	-0.30228	11	0.612679
	3	0.093007	12	-0.47886
	4	0.715722	13	0.746045
	5	1.272872	14	0.871994
	6	-1.37599	15	0.985237
	7	-0.14798	16	-0.44421
	8	-1.22195	17	0.246393
Mean difference .541	9	1.2812	18	0.68246
	Mean	-0.01979		0.52144

Permutation One

	case		control
9	1.2812	11	0.612679
3	0.093007	18	0.68246
17	0.246393	14	0.871994
15	0.985237	4	0.715722
16	-0.44421	6	-1.37599
1	-0.49274	2	-0.30228
7	-0.14798	5	1.272872
10	1.471227	12	-0.47886
13	0.746045	8	-1.22195
ean	0.415354		0.086295

Mean difference = .329

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Simulation example

- I simulated 70 data points from a single distribution—35 cases and 35 controls
- Mean difference of -.21
- I then permuted randomly assigning case or control status
- Empirical significance=#hits/#permutations

Distribution of mean differences from permutations



Distribution of mean differences from permutations



Empirical Significance

- #hits is any permuted dataset that had a mean difference >.21 or <-.21
- #permutations is the trials permuted datasets we generate
- Result(#hits/#permutations) = 2024/5000 = .4048
- T test results = .3672

General principles of permutation

- Disrupt the relationship being tested
 - Mean difference between group: switch groups
 - Test for linkage in siblings: randomly reassign the ibd sharing
 - If matched control then within pair permute
 - Shaun will describe tests for association

General advantages

- Does not rely on distributional assumptions
- Corrects for hidden selection
- Corrects for hidden correlation

How would we do QTL permutation in Mx?

- 1. We analyze our real data and record χ^2
- 2. For sibpairs we shuffle the ibd probabilities for each sibpair
- 3. We reanalyze the data and record the new χ^2
- 4. We generate a distribution of χ^2 for the permuted sets
- 5. Place our statistic on the distribution
- 6. Repeat for all locations in genome

Some caveats

- Computational time can be a challenge
- Determining what to maintain and what to permute
- Variable pedigrees also pose some difficulties
- Need sufficient data for combinations
- Unnecessary when no bias, but no cost to doing it

Some Exercises

- What would we permute to determine if the MZ correlation is equal to the DZ correlation in a univariate analysis?
- What would we permute to determine if QTL dominance is significant in linkage analysis